



SERVICE DELIVERY BY HELICOPTERS AND ITS POTENTIAL IN THE NORTH EAST

- ***Introduction.***
- ***Potential of Helicopter Services.***
- ***Central Govt Schemes.***
- ***Challenges of Helicopter Flying in the NE States.***
- ***Conclusion.***



➤ ***Growth of Helicopters***

- ✓ ***1953 - First Commercial Flight***
- ✓ ***2011 - 293 Helicopters***
- ✓ ***2021 - 239 Helicopters***
- ✓ ***2023 - 253 Helicopters***



➤ ***India is the third largest Fixed Wing Domestic Market, likely to increase from 750 to 2200 aircraft by 2033.***

➤ ***New Civil Aviation Policy enunciated in 2016 to lend impetus to Helicopter Operations.***

➤ ***No Helicopter FTO/ATO - Whereas 35 FTO & 6 ATOs of Fixed Wing in India.***

➤ ***Paucity of Trained Helicopter Pilots.***

➤ ***Helicopter Accelerator Cell formed in 2021 by MoCA.***

Potential of Helicopter Services



- *VIP & Passengers Transportation*
- *Survey Operations*
- *Cargo Transportation*
- *Infrastructure Building*
- *Search and Rescue Operations*
- *Promoting Tourism*
- *Charter Services*
- *Heli-Pilgrims*
- *Enhancing Healthcare Accessibility:-*
 - ❖ *Emergency Medical Services*
 - ❖ *Specialized Care Access*
 - ❖ *Overcoming Geographical Challenges*
 - ❖ *Reducing Patient Transfers*



Central Govt Schemes

- **MHA 75% Subsidy Scheme** - Upto 2026, likely to be extended.
- **RCS 5.1 (UDAN)** : **Transportation & Development of Heliports.**
 - **Ticket cost reduced by 25% making it affordable to the passengers.**
 - **VGF increased to make it financially viable to the operators.**
 - **No flying due to bad weather - No Revenue : Cause of concern.**



MHA: Deployment NE



ARUNACHAL PRADESH
Authorised - 03
Deployed - 03
(MI 17-02 & Bell 412-01)
Total Hours -1200/Year } MI-17
 - 960/Year }
 - 1290/Year- Bell-412

NAGALAND
Authorised - 02
Deployed - 01 : Bell 412
Total Hours -1200/Year

MANIPUR
Authorised - 01
Deployed - 01 : Bell 412
Total Hours -750/Year

MIZORAM
Authorised - 02
Deployed - 01 : Bell 412
Total Hours -1200/Year

SIKKIM
Authorised - 01
Deployed - Nil
Total Hours - 1200/Year

MHA
Authorised - 01
Deployed - 01 : EC135
Total Hours -480/Year

MEGHALAYA
Authorised - 01
Deployed - 01 : Dauphin
Total Hours -1000/Year

TRIPURA
Authorised - 01
Deployed - 01 : Dauphin
Total Hours -480/Year

Challenges of Helicopters Flying in North Eastern States

➤ Geographical Constraints

- *Hilly Terrain*
- *Dense Forests*
- *Unpredictable Weather*

➤ Infrastructure Limitations

- *Lack of Helipads*
- *Maintenance Facilities*

➤ *High Operational Costs*

➤ *Regulatory Challenges*

➤ *Safety Concerns - Weather, Terrain, Diversionary Airfields, Lack of Air Traffic Facilities & Radar Coverage*

➤ *Need for skilled pilots (Hill Flying) and maintenance crews*



Conclusion

- *Huge potential for the growth & deployment of Helicopters in North East.*
- *Challenges must be addressed to realise the potential to include regulatory bottlenecks, high operational cost, lack of infrastructure and skilled manpower.*
- *Right policies and investment can play a vital role in improving connectivity & Healthcare, enhancing tourism, provide rapid emergency services, creating job opportunities and boosting the economy.*





Thank You