

INS Hansa

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INS Hansa Latest News

Recently, the Indian Navy commissioned its second MH-60R helicopter squadron, INAS 335, also known as the 'Ospreys', at INS Hansa, Vasco da Gama, Goa.

About INS Hansa

- **INS Hansa** is an **Indian Naval Air Station** located near **Dabolim, Goa**.
- It is the **largest naval airbase in India** and houses some of the **Indian Navy's premier air squadrons**.
- The base includes a **civil enclave**, which functions as **Dabolim Airport**, handling **domestic and international flights round-the-clock**.
- The station was originally commissioned on **5 September 1961 at Suler near Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu**, and was initially **co-located with the Indian Air Force's Suler Air Force Station**.
- Following the **liberation of Goa**, the Navy took over **Dabolim airfield in April 1962**, and **INS Hansa was relocated to Dabolim in June 1964**.

- **INS Hansa** has earlier witnessed key capability additions, including the commissioning of the **second P-8I maritime patrol aircraft squadron in 2022**, strengthening **shore-based fixed-wing naval operations**.
- The Navy is also progressing the acquisition of **15 MQ-9B Sea Guardian remotely piloted aircraft**, which will enable **persistent maritime surveillance** and enhanced **Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA)**.
- Although formally commissioned at **Goa**, the **MH-60R helicopters have already demonstrated operational effectiveness** in **Operation Sindoor**, **TROPEX-25**, and the **Tri-Services Exercise 2025**.

About MH-60R Seahawk Helicopter

- **INAS 335** is the **second Indian Naval Air Squadron** to operate the **MH-60R Seahawk helicopters**, following the commissioning of the **first squadron at Kochi, Kerala, in March 2024**.
- The **MH-60R** is an **all-weather, day-and-night capable, multi-role helicopter** designed to operate from **ships and shore bases**.
- It is optimised for **Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW)**, enabling detection, tracking, and engagement of **enemy submarines**.
- The helicopter performs **Anti-Surface Warfare (ASuW)** roles against **enemy surface vessels**.
- It is equipped for **Search and Rescue (SAR)** and **Medical Evacuation (MEDEVAC)** missions during peacetime and combat operations.
- The platform supports **Vertical Replenishment (VERTREP)**, improving logistics sustainment of naval task forces at sea.
- The induction of **INAS 335** substantially augments **integral naval aviation capability on the western seaboard**, a region of **high strategic and commercial importance**.

Source: **TH**

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