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## Apache Attack Helicopters Arrive in India, Set for Deployment in Jodhpur

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The Indian Army has received the first batch of AH-64E Apache attack helicopters from the United States, marking a significant step forward in its modernization efforts. According to Army officials, the helicopters have landed in India and are scheduled for deployment at an Army Aviation base in Jodhpur.

This delivery includes three of the six helicopters ordered as part of a deal signed in February 2020, valued at approximately ₹5,691 crore. The contract, aimed at bolstering India's combat capabilities, had experienced delays but has now progressed with the arrival of the first batch.

The Apaches, often described as “tanks in the air,” are equipped with advanced weapon systems including Hellfire missiles, a 30mm chain gun, and cutting-edge surveillance and targeting technology. These features enable the aircraft to carry out precision strikes and operate in challenging terrain and conditions, including nighttime missions.

“This is a milestone moment for the Indian Army,” officials said. “The Apaches will provide a major boost to offensive capabilities, especially in areas requiring rapid and mobile firepower.”

The helicopters will be stationed with the newly raised 451 Army Aviation Squadron in Jodhpur, Rajasthan. The remaining three Apaches are expected to be delivered by the end of the year.

India's Army Aviation Corps has been expanding its fleet in recent years. In addition to the Apache helicopters, the indigenous HAL Prachand (Light Combat Helicopter) has also been inducted, forming a dual-strike capability for the force.

The arrival of the Apaches highlights India's continued defense partnership with the United States, particularly in the area of high-tech military hardware. Training and logistical support are expected to follow the delivery, ensuring the helicopters are fully operational within weeks.

With their deployment in Jodhpur, the Apaches will enhance India's preparedness along its western border, further strengthening deterrence and rapid response mechanisms.