



Government of India
Ministry of Civil Aviation
Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau

Preliminary Report: Accident involving M/s Mahalaxmi Aviation Pvt Ltd.'s BELL 407 helicopter, VT-MPU at Mahad Helipad on 03 May 2024

1. General Information

1.	Aircraft	Type	BELL 407
		Nationality	Indian
		Registration	VT- MPU
2.	Owner and Operator	M/s Mahalaxmi Aviation Pvt Ltd	
3.	Pilot	CHPL Holder	
	Extent of Injuries	NIL	
4.	Passenger	01 (Company's operation staff)	
	Extent of Injuries	NIL	
6.	Date & Time of Accident	03 May 2024, 0937 IST	
7.	Place of Accident	Mahad Helipad	
8.	Co-ordinates of Accident Site	Lat : 18° 05' 14.69" N, Long: 73° 24' 55.78" E	
9.	Last point of Departure	KP Annex Helipad, Pune	
10.	Intended landing place	Mahad Helipad	
11.	Type of Operation	Ferry flight	
12.	Phase of operation	Landing	

2. Aircraft Information

The Helicopter VT-MPU was manufactured in 2002. The helicopter was holding a valid Certificate of Registration and Certificate of Airworthiness at the time of accident. The helicopter is owned and operated by M/s Mahalaxmi Aviation Private Limited. The helicopter's authorized Maximum All-Up-weight is 2381 Kg. The 300hrs/3 Months lubrication of tail rotor pitch change mechanism was carried out on 05 April 2024. The aircraft was equipped with one Rolls-Royce (Model- RR 250-C47B) engines. Total airframe hours was 4521:10 hrs.

3. Crew information

The crew was holding a valid license and was current to operate this flight.

Pilot-In- Command	
License	CHPL
Date of Issue	28/08/2014

Valid up to	27/08/2024
Date of Class I Med. Exam.	23/03/2024
Class I Medical Valid up to	04/10/2024
Date of issue FRTOL License	28/08/2014
FRTOL License Valid up to	27/08/2024
Endorsements as PIC	Chetak, BELL 407
Total flying experience	6950 Hours

4. Aerodrome Information

Mahad Helipad is situated at Chichkar ground, Mahad, in Raigad District in Maharashtra. It is a temporary helipad managed and controlled by the local Government authorities, Mahad, Maharashtra.

- a. Size of Helipad (in meters) : Total Plot 60 M X 120 M.
- b. Latitude & Longitude : 18° 05' 14.69" N & 73° 24' 55.78" E
- c. Terrain : Hard
- d. Safety services provided : To be arranged by local Authorities.

5. Weather Information

Weather information provided to the Pilot (Obtained from IMD for Pune) was as given below:

METAR VAPO 022230Z 29003KT 6000 SKC 22/07 Q1010 NOSIG=

TAFFT VAPO 021700Z 0218/0400 29010KT 6000 NSC

TEMPO 0312/0314 30015G25KT=

6. Brief description of accident flight

On 03 May 2024, M/s Mahalaxmi Aviation Pvt Ltd.'s Bell 407 helicopter VT-MPU, was planned to operate 05 sector. In the morning, the first sector was Islampur to K P Annex, Pune. Helicopter took off at 0740 hrs IST and arrived K P Annex, Pune at 0835 hrs IST. The flight was uneventful and nil snag was reported. The second sector of the day was a ferry flight or positioning flight from K P Annex Helipad to Mahad Helipad. There were two persons on board, one Pilot and one operation staff. The helicopter took -off from K P Annex, Pune at 0905 hrs IST.

The flight was uneventful till the helicopter approaches Mahad helipad. While landing, helicopter descended in a right side slant forward motion. As soon the helicopter came closer to the ground, the dust kicked up and surrounded the helicopter. Subsequently, the helicopter hit the ground and toppled to the right side. Consequently, helicopter main rotor blade came in contact with the ground and got damaged. The helicopter came to rest on its starboard side fuselage.

As the starboard door of the helicopter was blocked by ground, hence, the company operation staff, first came out of the helicopter from port side door. Subsequently, the pilot also came out of the helicopter from the port side door. Nil injury was reported, whereas the helicopter sustained substantial damages.

Figures depicting the Final approach at Mahad helipad, helicopter surrounded by dust and final resting position is appended below:



Figure 2: Just before touch down

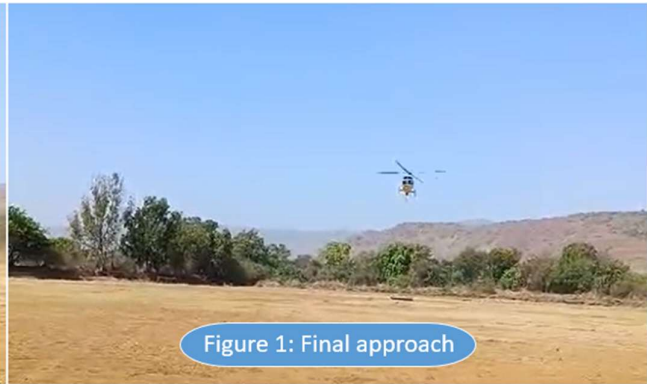


Figure 1: Final approach



Figure 3: Final resting position (RH view)



Figure 4: Final resting position (LH view)

7. Progress of the Investigation

- a) The initial phase of accident site investigation and evidence collection have been carried out.
- b) The helicopter wreckage has been thoroughly examined.
- c) During helicopter wreckage examination, few helicopter and engine components have been identified for further detailed examination. The identified helicopter and engine components have been collected from the helicopter wreckage for laboratory examination and analysis.
- d) Fuel, engine oil and Hydraulic samples have also been collected for laboratory examination.
- e) The helicopter wreckage has been shifted to company's hanger at oxford helipad, Pune for safe custody.
- f) Helicopter records have been collected from the operator.
- g) Initial interviews/discussion with witnesses and stakeholders have been carried out.
- h) Scrutiny of evidences is in progress.
- i) Discussion with OEM is in progress for components laboratory examination and analysis.