

Daily Current Affairs

23 October 2026

First Training Squadron Arrives In Maldives

- Ships of the Indian Navy's First Training Squadron (1TS) – INS Tir, INS Sujata and Indian Coast Guard Ship Sarathi – arrived off Malé, Maldives, on 21 Oct 2026 as part of the Squadron's Long Range Training Deployment.
- The Squadron received a warm welcome from the Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF), reflecting the strong maritime partnership and close regional ties between the two nations.
- Discussions focused on sustained engagement and multifaceted maritime collaboration between the Indian Navy and MNDF.
- The Senior Officer 1TS also called on Shri G Balasubramaniam, High Commissioner of India to the Maldives. As part of the training exchanges, trainees of 1TS visited the Girifushi Training Centre.
- Cross-deck visits, sports fixtures, social interactions and outreach activities are also planned during the visit to foster camaraderie and mutual understanding between the two forces.
- The ongoing visit reaffirms enhanced interoperability between the Indian Navy and MNDF, and underscores the growing maritime cooperation between the two nations, in line with the vision of **MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions)**.



Defence Secretary Inaugurates Hindi Library ‘GYANDEEP’

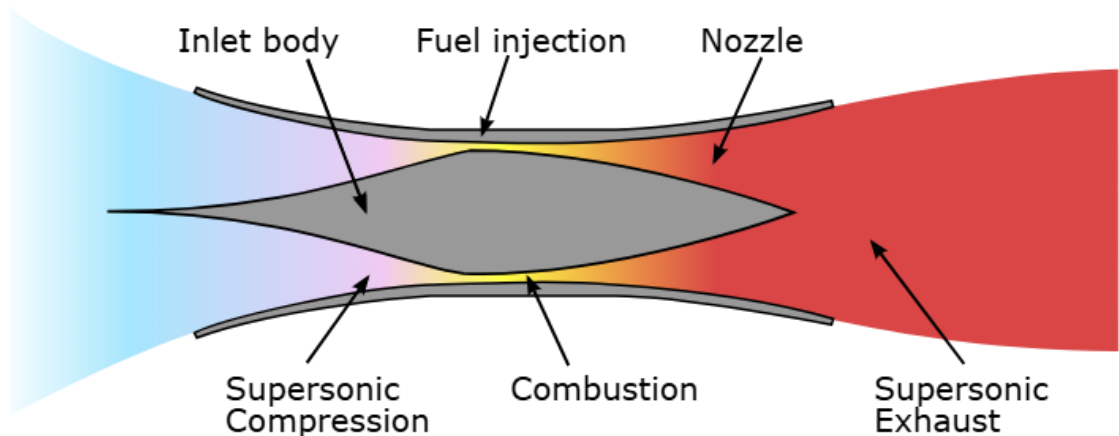
- Defence Secretary Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh inaugurated the newly established Hindi library, ‘GYANDEEP’, in Sena Bhawan, New Delhi on October 22, 2026 as part of Special Campaign 6, being conducted by the Ministry of Defence from October 02 - 31, 2026.
- The initiative aims to promote Hindi books and literature, encourage the use of Hindi in official work, and strengthen the culture of working in Hindi in pursuit of excellence in the implementation of Rajbhasha.
- As part of the campaign, approximately 35,000 square feet of space has been freed up in South Block through cleaning and disposal of old records and surrendered to the Project Yuga Yugeen Bharat Museum (YYBM).
- 1,361 e-files have been closed, and 1,746 physical files have been weeded out. The disposal of e-waste and other obsolete items has generated revenue amounting to ₹4.22 lakh.
- On the occasion, the Defence Secretary also felicitated eight Swachhta Veers in recognition of their special contributions during the ongoing campaign.



Ministry of Defence Floats Tender For 500 Scramjet Propulsion Systems

- MoD has issued a tender for the procurement of 500 scramjet propulsion systems intended for India's hypersonic missile program. The tender is listed under Tender Information IA: 011-23018861 and signals a significant step towards strengthening indigenous hypersonic strike capabilities.
- The requirement reflects growing emphasis on advanced air-breathing propulsion technology capable of powering missiles at hypersonic speeds. Scramjet engines are regarded as a critical enabling technology for next-generation hypersonic cruise missiles, allowing sustained flight at speeds exceeding Mach 5.
- The proposed acquisition is expected to support ongoing efforts to expand the country's hypersonic weapons ecosystem and improve long-range precision-strike capabilities.
- The move also aligns with broader defence modernisation initiatives aimed at enhancing strategic deterrence and operational effectiveness.
- Scramjet propulsion differs from conventional rocket systems by using atmospheric oxygen during high-speed flight, reducing the need to carry oxidisers and enabling more efficient sustained hypersonic operation. This technology is considered one of the most complex and strategically important areas of missile development.

- The tender follows recent advances in indigenous hypersonic propulsion research, including successful long-duration scramjet combustor testing conducted by the DRDO. Such achievements have demonstrated progress in key technologies required for future hypersonic missile deployment.



Indian Navy Carries Out Trials of Rafale Marine

- Trials of the **Rafale Marine fighter aircraft** are being carried out in Goa by the Indian Navy. The trials are for the modifications to the aircraft required for carrying out operations from the Indian aircraft carrier **INS Vikrant**.
- The Indian Navy has signed a contract for **26 Rafale Marines**, which are scheduled to be delivered by the end of 2028 or early 2029.
- The **Rafale-Marine (Rafale-M)** is a fighter jet designed to operate from aircraft carriers at sea. It is built by **Dassault Aviation** of France and is already being used by the French Navy.
- On April 28, 2025, India signed a significant defence agreement with France to procure **26 Rafale-Marine fighter jets**, valued at approximately **Rs 63,000 crore**. This includes 22 single-seat jets and 4 twin-seat jets.
- This deal marks India's first acquisition of the naval variant of the Rafale, making it the first international operator of this model. The deal also covers pilot training, flight simulators, weapons, essential equipment, and long-term maintenance support.
- In addition, it includes extra gear for the Rafale jets already being used by the Indian Air Force. In line with the Government's thrust on **Aatmanirbhar Bharat**, the agreement includes **Transfer of Technology** for integration of indigenous weapons in India.

- The Indian Navy currently operates two aircraft carriers, **INS Vikrant** and **INS Vikramaditya**. The recent agreement for the procurement of 26 Rafale-M aircraft from France will enhance the Navy's fleet, with these jets capable of operating from both carriers.
- The **Rafale-M jets** will be used for missions like air defence, maritime strike, reconnaissance, and shore strikes.
- The aircraft will help the Navy target enemy fighter jets, ensuring the air defence capability of the fleet and allowing the Navy to exercise control over the seas while staying outside enemy weapon ranges.



COAS Flight Safety Trophy

- Chief of Army Staff General Dhiraj Seth presented the prestigious COAS Flight Safety Trophy to two Army Aviation Squadrons during the Army Commanders' Conference 2026.
- Award Winners:
- Single-Engine Category: 665 Army Aviation Squadron (R&O)
- Twin-Engine Category: 209 Army Aviation Squadron (UH)
- The awards recognise exceptional standards of flight safety, operational discipline and professionalism, highlighting the Indian Army's commitment to safe and effective aviation operations.
- Congratulations to the pilots, technical teams and ground personnel behind this achievement!



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Which of the following ships was part of the Indian Navy's First Training Squadron (1TS) that arrived in the Maldives on 21 October 2026?

- A. INS Chennai
- B. INS Tir
- C. INS Vikrant
- D. INS Kolkata

Answer: B. INS Tir

2. What is the full form of MAHASAGAR, the vision associated with India's maritime cooperation with regional partners?

- A. Maritime Advancement for Security and Global Regional Relations
- B. Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions
- C. Maritime Alliance for Strategic Growth and Regional Relations
- D. Mutual Alliance for Global Security and Regional Development

Answer: B. Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions

3. What is the name of the newly inaugurated Hindi library at Sena Bhawan, New Delhi?

- A. GYANDEEP
- B. BHARATI
- C. GYAN BHARAT
- D. RAJBHASHA

Answer: A. GYANDEEP

4. Approximately how much office space was cleared in South Block under the Ministry of Defence's Special Campaign 6?

- A. 15,000 square feet
- B. 25,000 square feet
- C. 35,000 square feet
- D. 50,000 square feet

Answer: C. 35,000 square feet

5. The Ministry of Defence's proposed tender for 500 scramjet propulsion systems is associated with which programme?

- A. Ballistic missile defence programme
- B. Hypersonic missile programme
- C. Anti-submarine warfare programme
- D. Space launch vehicle programme

Answer: B. Hypersonic missile programme

6. What is the approximate speed threshold generally used to define hypersonic flight?

- A. Above Mach 2
- B. Above Mach 3
- C. Above Mach 5
- D. Above Mach 10

Answer: C. Above Mach 5

7. Which French company manufactures the Rafale Marine fighter aircraft?

- A. Airbus Defence and Space
- B. Dassault Aviation
- C. Thales Group
- D. Safran Aircraft Engines

Answer: B. Dassault Aviation

8. How many Rafale Marine fighter aircraft did India agree to procure from France under the agreement signed on 28 April 2025?

- A. 18
- B. 24
- C. 26
- D. 36

Answer: C. 26

9. Which Army Aviation Squadron won the COAS Flight Safety Trophy in the twin-engine category, according to the supplied current-affairs material?

- A. 665 Army Aviation Squadron (R&O)
- B. 209 Army Aviation Squadron (UH)
- C. 1st Army Aviation Squadron
- D. 201 Army Aviation Squadron

Answer: B. 209 Army Aviation Squadron (UH)

10. Project 75 Is Related To the Manufacturing Of

- A. Tank
- B. Socrpean Submarine
- C. Sniper Rifle
- D. Fighter Jet

ANSWER: B

11. HELINA Missile Has A Maximum Range Of

- A.** 7 kilometres
- B.** 8 kilometres
- C.** 9 kilometres
- D.** 10 kilometres

ANSWER: A

12. Amman Is The Capital Of

- A. Oman
- B. Qatar
- C. UAE
- D. Jordan

ANSWER: D

13. Training Command of IAF is located at

- A. New Delhi
- B. Bangalore
- C. Gurugram
- D. Lucknow

ANSWER: B

14. ISRO Was Established On

- A. 15 August 1969
- B. 1 September 1965
- C. 1 October 1975
- D. 18 December 1985

ANSWER: A

15. INS Visakhapatnam (D66) Manufactured By

- A. GRSE
- B. MDL
- C. CSL
- D. Boeing

ANSWER: B

16. Rashtriya Rifles Motto Is

- A. Courage and Valor
- B. Always Brave
- C. Service Before Self
- D. Lethal

ANSWER: A

17. Parakram Diwas Celebrated On

- A. December 1
- B. October 8
- C. January 23
- D. March 10

ANSWER: C

18. Amogha Is A

- A. Anti-tank guided missile
- B. Surface-to-surface tactical ballistic missile

- C. Quick reaction surface-to-air missile
- D. Multiple rocket launcher

ANSWER: A

19. Operation Green Hunt Launched In

- A. 2010
- B. 1972
- C. 2014
- D. 1974

ANSWER: A

20. Mein Kampf Book Written By

- A. Mahatma Gandhi
- B. Adolf Hitler
- C. A.P.J Abdul Kalam
- D. Jawaharlal Nehru

ANSWER: B