The Month in

October 2026

Sixteen stories from October, each told in full: what happened, the syllabus concept behind it, and the facts worth carrying into the examination hall.

October 2026 was a month of hardware and doctrine. A support ship entered the water at Visakhapatnam, a submarine's fuel-cell module cleared trials, and the Air Force chief said human authority stays at the core of machine decisions. Constitutional questions ran alongside: a President who returned Cabinet advice, a Law Commission asking how Union and States reform laws together, and cities urged to elect their mayors. Abroad, India pressed for terror to be named, while quantum links and a research fund extended the technology story.

THE MONTH AT A GLANCE

3 Oct	India's first free-space quantum key link announced
6 Oct	Fleet Support Ship Surya launched at Visakhapatnam
8 Oct	Air Force Day at Hindan stresses human authority
12 Oct	RDI Fund names 19 second-level fund managers
20 Oct	SCO heads of government meet at Dushanbe
22 Oct	Law Commission debates co-operative federalism
24 Oct	DRDO's AIP module enters Phase-2 trials
26 Oct	DAC clears about ₹2.12 lakh crore of proposals
28 Oct	Cyclone Arnab crosses the Andhra Pradesh coast
30 Oct	GSLV-F18 places NVS-03 in orbit

I DEFENCE & SECURITY

01 8 OCT 2026

Air Force Day at Hindan: Human Authority at the Core

The IAF turned 94 on 8 October, and its Chief used the parade to state a position on autonomous weapons.

The Indian Air Force marked its **94th anniversary** on **8 October 2026** at Air Force Station **Hindan**, Ghaziabad. Air Chief Marshal **AP Singh** reviewed the parade, themed 'Infallible, Impervious and Precise'. Five unit citations went to 24 Squadron, 110 Helicopter Unit, 200 Squadron, 2402 Squadron and the Electronic Warfare Range, a list weighted towards the enabling arms.

The Chief's address carried two doctrinal signals. Artificial intelligence and autonomous systems would be integrated '**while keeping human authority at the core**', a stand on **meaningful human control** over force. On the display ground, **one-way attack unmanned aerial systems**, the official name for loitering munitions, stood beside manned fighters, showing how cheap strike has entered air power.

He measured strength by **operational preparedness**, meaning how fast a force can turn around and act, not by squadron numbers, and cited Operation Sindoor as proof of its swift shift into combat and of strong air defence. Separately, the Government announced on 6 October that Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit would become Chief of the Air Staff.

CONCEPT: FOUNDING VERSUS FIRST FLIGHT

The IAF was raised on 8 October 1932 under the Indian Air Force Act, 1932, as an auxiliary of the Royal Air Force. Its first flight came on 1 April 1933 at Drigh Road, Karachi, on the RAF's own founding date. 'Royal' was added in March 1945 and dropped in January 1950.

REMEMBER

- First flight: four Westland Wapiti biplanes, six officers and nineteen Havai Sepoys.
- First President's Colour: Dr Rajendra Prasad, Palam, 1 April 1954.
- Team Shakti, the all-women drill team, and a vintage Tiger Moth featured in the ceremony.

02 6 OCT 2026

Surya, India's First Home-Built Fleet Support Ship, Launched

At Visakhapatnam on 6 October, a 44,000-tonne replenishment ship entered the water from a newly extended slipway.

On **6 October 2026** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched **FSS-1 'Surya'** at Hindustan Shipyard Limited, Visakhapatnam, laid the keel of **FSS-5** and inaugurated the upgraded **Slipway-4** with a **300-tonne Goliath Crane**. Surya is the first of five ships worth about **₹19,000 crore**, contracted on 25 August 2023, each of about 44,000 tonnes and the first of their kind built in India by an Indian yard.

A fleet support ship performs **replenishment at sea**: fuel, water, ammunition and spares pass between ships under way by hose, jackstay or helicopter. Without one, a task group's reach is set by its thirstiest ship and it must go home or refuel abroad. With one, a

navy can sustain presence, not just surge. Surya also carries workshops, a helicopter deck and self-defence systems, since a tanker is a prime target.

Launch is not commissioning. Fitting out, harbour trials and sea trials follow, so delivery is expected around 2027, with later ships about every ten months. The slipway, extended for ships up to 45,000 DWT, and the crane, which enables block construction, made the launch possible.

CONCEPT: FIVE SHIPBUILDING MILESTONES

Ship milestones run in order: steel-cutting, keel-laying, launch, delivery, commissioning. A launch only puts the hull in the water; machinery, sensors and weapons come afterwards. HSL reached Miniratna Category-I status in 2025, which delegates investment powers, and launched 'Jala Usha', independent India's first ship, in 1948.

REMEMBER

- INS Jyoti, commissioned in 1996, is reported due for decommissioning later this decade.
- The programme is expected to create about 168.8 lakh mandays of employment over eight years.
- The Cabinet Committee on Security cleared the purchase on 16 August 2023.

03 24 OCT 2026

DRDO's Air Independent Propulsion Enters Phase-2 Trials

A fuel-cell energy module meant for Kalvari-class submarines cleared a key stage at Hazira on 24 October.

On **24 October 2026** Setting to Work Phase-2 of the **Air Independent Propulsion (AIP)** energy module was inaugurated at Larsen & Toubro's Hazira complex in Gujarat. DRDO's **Naval Materials Research Laboratory**, Ambernath, developed it; a land-based prototype was tested in March 2021. The module will next be energised, tested to Navy protocols and handed to Mazagon Dock for fitting on a Kalvari-class submarine in **early 2027**.

A diesel-electric submarine must raise a **snorkel** every two to four days to recharge its batteries, exposing itself to radar, infrared sensors and patrol aircraft. AIP lets a conventional boat make power underwater without atmospheric oxygen, so it stays down for weeks; DRDO aims for about **14 days**. Nuclear submarines need no AIP.

India's design is a **phosphoric acid fuel cell**. Its distinctive feature is that hydrogen is made on board from **sodium borohydride and water**, with liquid oxygen carried, instead of being stored in heavy metal hydrides. Because the Kalvari boats were built without AIP, the module goes into a hull section, an 'AIP plug', added during refit.

CONCEPT: FOUR ROUTES TO AIP

AIP comes in four main forms. Fuel cells power the German Type 212 and 214; Stirling engines the Swedish Gotland class; MESMA, a French design offered for the Scorpene, burns ethanol with liquid oxygen to raise steam; closed-cycle diesels run on stored oxygen. Fuel cells are generally regarded as the quietest.

REMEMBER

- Kalvari class is Project 75: six Scorpene-design boats, from INS Kalvari (2017) to INS Vagsheer (2025).
- Project 75(I) is meant to give new conventional submarines AIP from the start.
- The Arihant class forms the nuclear, ballistic-missile arm of the submarine fleet.

04 26 OCT 2026

SWAVLAMBAN 2026 and a ₹2.12 Lakh Crore Clearance

The Navy's innovation seminar and the Defence Acquisition Council both pressed indigenisation on 26 October.

The fifth **SWAVLAMBAN** seminar, run by the Navy with the Defence Innovation Organisation and SIDM, met at the Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi, on **26-27 October 2026** under the theme 'Strength and Power through Innovation and Indigenisation'. The Navy's iDEX record stands at **229 challenges**, over 4,000 proposals and contracts above ₹1,900 crore; the remaining gap is Buyer Nominated Equipment.

The Defence Minister framed **Aatmanirbharta 2.0**: top-end yet cost-effective technology, supply chains treated as a strategic imperative with a time-bound roadmap, rare earths named and buffer stocks assessed in advance, funding for high-risk, high-reward research, and more private-sector and joint civil-military technologies.

That afternoon the **Defence Acquisition Council** accorded Acceptance of Necessity to proposals worth about **₹2.12 lakh crore**, roughly **82 per cent** from Indian industry. The Army list had high-mobility vehicles, a self-propelled tracked gun, a Gun Shot Response System, VSHORADS and kamikaze drones; the Navy an Active Offboard Decoy System; the IAF helicopters and a Mobile X-Band Doppler Weather Radar.

CONCEPT: AON IS NOT A CONTRACT

Acceptance of Necessity is the first, in-principle approval in defence procurement; no contract follows automatically. Navy self-reliance is uneven because hulls are built at home while propulsion, sensors and weapons fitted inside are often Buyer Nominated Equipment chosen from particular, often foreign, makers.

REMEMBER

- First SWAVLAMBAN: 18-19 July 2022; SPRINT aimed to induct at least 75 indigenous technologies.
- An Active Offboard Decoy System draws an incoming anti-ship missile's seeker away from the ship.
- Light Multi Role Helicopters on the list serve both the Army and the Air Force.

05 27 OCT 2026

Garuda Shakti: Special Forces Train in East Java

India and Indonesia opened the 11th edition of their special forces exercise at Banyuwangi on 27 October.

The **11th Exercise Garuda Shakti** runs at **Banyuwangi, East Java**, from **27 October to 6 November 2026**. India fields the **Parachute Regiment (Special Forces)**, Indonesia its own special forces, of which Kopassus took part in 2024. Training is jungle-centred: obstacle crossing, combat marksmanship, mountaineering, air assault and combat hardening, closing with a validation exercise.

Hosting alternates. The 8th edition was at Karawang, West Java, in November 2022; the 9th at Cijantung, Jakarta, in November 2024; the 10th at the Special Forces Training School, Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh, in December 2025. The exercise sits within a **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership** of May 2018, and the two navies have run coordinated patrols (CORPAT) since 2002.

Keep India's special forces apart: the Army's Para (SF), the Navy's **MARCOS** (1987), the IAF's **Garud Commando Force** (2004), the NSG under the Home Ministry (1984) and the tri-service AFSOD (2019). Indonesia spans more than 17,000 islands; Jakarta is the capital, and a new one, Nusantara, is being built in East Kalimantan.

CONCEPT: NAME TRAPS

Garuda is India-France (air forces). Garuda Shield is US-Indonesia. Samudra Shakti is the India-Indonesia navy exercise, from 2018. Harimau Shakti and Udara Shakti are India-Malaysia; Mitra Shakti is India-Sri Lanka; Shakti is India-France. Garuda Shakti alone is the India-Indonesia special forces exercise.

REMEMBER

- Indonesian Republic Day chief guests: Sukarno (1950), 2011, 2018 and Prabowo (2025).
- The Equator crosses Sumatra, Borneo and Sulawesi; Indonesia lies on the Ring of Fire.
- The Lombok Strait and the Wallace Line lie within Indonesia.

II POLITY & GOVERNANCE

06 27 OCT 2026

K.R. Narayanan and the President's Power to Return Advice

A tribute on 27 October recalls the President who twice sent Cabinet recommendations back.

President Droupadi Murmu paid tribute at Rashtrapati Bhavan on **27 October 2026**, the birth anniversary of **K.R. Narayanan**, born at Uzhavoor in Travancore in 1920. He was the ninth Vice-President (1992-97) and tenth President (1997-2002), the first Dalit to hold either office, elected in 1997 with about 95 per cent of the vote against T.N. Seshan. He had studied at the LSE under Harold Laski and joined the IFS in 1949.

His term is remembered for returned advice. On **22 October 1997** he sent back the Gujral Cabinet's recommendation of President's Rule in Uttar Pradesh, and it was dropped. On **25 September 1998** he did the same for Bihar under the Vajpayee Cabinet; rule was imposed on 12 February 1999 and revoked in March without Rajya Sabha approval.

The base is **Article 74(1)**. The 42nd Amendment (1976) made advice binding, and the 44th (1978) let the President return it once. He was also the first sitting President to vote, on 16 February 1998, and spoke of a 'working President' in an interview that August.

CONCEPT: ADVICE AND PRESIDENT'S RULE

Article 74(2) bars courts from inquiring into the advice tendered. Under Article 356(3), a proclamation of President's Rule needs approval of both Houses within two months. S.R. Bommai (1994) made such proclamations open to judicial review and made the floor test the way to settle a majority.

REMEMBER

- Narayanan died on 9 November 2005.
- Vajpayee was appointed Prime Minister on 15 March 1998, with a confidence vote due within ten days.
- Lok Sabha was dissolved on 4 December 1997 and again on 26 April 1999.

07 22 OCT 2026

Law Commission Conference on Co-operative Federalism

On 22 October the 23rd Law Commission asked how the Union and the States can reform laws together.

The 23rd Law Commission held a national conference on 'Co-operative Federalism and Law Reforms' at Vigyan Bhawan on **22 October 2026**, inaugurated by the Vice-President. Its proposals were practical: a **citizen friction test** measuring the time, cost and procedural burden a law imposes, a common law-reform docket, joint studies and review after enactment. First joint issue papers are due in about six months.

The Commission is neither constitutional nor statutory. It is created by an executive notification of the Law Ministry, usually for three years, and advisory. The 23rd, constituted in September 2024 with a term to August 2027, is chaired by Justice (Retd.) Dinesh Maheshwari. The first, in 1834, followed the Charter Act of 1833 and led to the IPC in 1860.

The theme rests on **Article 1**: 'India, that is Bharat, shall be a Union of States', which is not an agreement among States and carries no right to secede. Residuary power lies with Parliament under Article 248; under Article 254 a Union law prevails over a conflicting State law unless the State law has the President's assent.

CONCEPT: BODIES OF CO-OPERATION

The Inter-State Council (Article 263) was set up in 1990. Five Zonal Councils, created under the States Reorganisation Act 1956, are chaired by the Home Minister. The GST Council rests on Article 279A, inserted by the 101st Amendment. The Sarkaria (1983-88) and Punchhi (2007-10) Commissions studied Centre-State relations.

REMEMBER

- The first Law Commission after Independence (1955) was chaired by M.C. Setalvad.
- The 42nd Amendment (1976) moved five subjects to the Concurrent List; S.R. Bommai (1994) held federalism part of the basic structure.
- Jan Vishwas Act 2023: 183 provisions, 42 Central Acts decriminalised.

08 25 OCT 2026

Urban Conclave Presses for Directly Elected Mayors

The National Urban Conclave at Bhubaneswar on 25 October revisited the 74th Amendment.

The second **National Urban Conclave**, held by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, concluded at Bhubaneswar on **25 October 2026**. NITI Aayog's Rajiv Gauba put it plainly: 'We cannot run cities from our state capitals.' A NITI-MoHUA report, *Moving Towards Effective City Governance*, urges **directly elected mayors** with five-year terms, a Mayor-in-Council, timely elections and devolution of all **18 functions**.

Scale explains the urgency. India's population is expected to stabilise at about 165 crore around 2060, with the urban share rising from roughly 50 crore to 85 crore by 2050. The Urban Challenge Fund of ₹1 lakh crore, announced in Budget 2025-26, part-funds growth hubs, creative redevelopment and water and sanitation, the rest coming from markets; ₹5,000 crore is set for each of seven City Economic Regions.

The constitutional base is the **74th Amendment**, in force from 1 June 1993. It added Part IXA (Articles 243P-243ZG) and the Twelfth Schedule. Under Article 243W States *may* devolve the 18 functions, so the States decide how far to go.

CONCEPT: 73RD VERSUS 74TH

The 73rd Amendment inserted Part IX and the Eleventh Schedule (29 subjects) for rural bodies; the 74th inserted Part IXA and the Twelfth Schedule (18 functions) for towns. Urban bodies are Nagar Panchayats, Municipal Councils and Municipal Corporations, with five-year terms and one-third of seats for women.

REMEMBER

- A State Election Commission runs municipal polls; a State Finance Commission reviews municipal finances.
- District Planning Committee: Article 243ZD. Metropolitan Planning Committee: Article 243ZE, for 10 lakh or more.
- Ward Committees are provided for municipalities of 3 lakh and above.

III INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

09 28 OCT 2026

ADMM-Plus at Cebu: Rajnath Singh Meets Japan and the US

India's Defence Minister held bilateral talks on the sidelines of the 13th ADMM-Plus in the Philippines.

The **13th ADMM-Plus**, with the 20th ADMM, was hosted at Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu, by the Philippines as ASEAN chair for 2026. ADMM began in 2006 and ADMM-Plus in 2010; eight 'Plus' countries work through seven Experts' Working Groups. The venue has a history: Magellan was killed at Mactan by Lapulapu in 1521.

On **28 October** Rajnath Singh met Japan's Shinjiro Koizumi on mine countermeasures, possible joint naval shipbuilding and design, **Veer Guardian 26**, the first visit of Japanese Air Self-Defense Force fighters to India, and a Tokyo Defence Industry Forum of about 40 firms. The 4th 2+2 is due in Tokyo. With US Secretary of War Pete Hegseth he reviewed the **10-year Framework** signed at Kuala Lumpur on 31 October 2025 and pressed zero tolerance for states backing terrorists.

INS Sahyadri, a Shivalik-class frigate built at Mazagon Dock (2012), reached Busan on 26 October to exercise with the South Korean destroyer ROKS Munmu the Great (KDX-II class). The visit sits within a Special Strategic Partnership dating from 2015.

CONCEPT: US FOUNDATIONAL AGREEMENTS

Four agreements underpin India-US defence ties: GSOMIA (2002), LEMOA (2016), COMCASA (2018) and BECA (2020). India became a US Major Defence Partner in 2016. With Japan, India has a Special Strategic and Global Partnership (2014) and a logistics agreement of 2020.

REMEMBER

- Japan exercises: JIMEX, Dharma Guardian, Veer Guardian. US: Yudh Abhyas, Vajra Prahar, Cope India, Tiger Triumph.
- Malabar brings India, Japan and the US together with Australia.
- South Korea: the K9 Vajra-T gun is built by L&T with Hanwha.

10 20 OCT 2026

SCO Heads of Government Meet at Dushanbe

At the 25th Council of Heads of Government on 20 October, India put forward three propositions.

The **25th Council of Heads of Government** of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation met at **Dushanbe**, Tajikistan, on **20 October 2026**, with India represented by the Raksha Mantri, who urged members to dismantle 'the entire ecosystem of terrorism'. The SCO has two councils. The Council of Heads of State is the supreme organ, meeting yearly at summit level on major political decisions; the Council of Heads of Government is the second, handling the economic and budgetary agenda.

India made three propositions. First, **no justification, no double standards and no safe havens** for those who finance, support or shelter terrorism. Second, connectivity must respect **sovereignty and territorial integrity**. Third, more institutions do not mean more achievement, so new mechanisms should avoid duplication.

The SCO was established in 2001 out of the Shanghai Five; India and Pakistan joined as full members in 2017. For India it is the main multilateral setting giving structured access to Central Asia, a region it cannot reach by land through friendly territory.

CONCEPT: TWO COUNCILS, THREE EVILS

The SCO's 'three evils' are terrorism, separatism and extremism, and the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure is the permanent body for them. The heads of government's council carries the economic and budgetary work. A question on which council 'met at Dushanbe' tests exactly this distinction.

REMEMBER

- Secretariat: Beijing. RATS: Tashkent.
- Working languages: Russian and Chinese.
- The summit-level Council of Heads of State meets annually.

IV SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

11 30 OCT 2026

GSLV-F18 Places NVS-03 in Orbit to Rebuild NavIC

ISRO's night launch of 30 October added the third satellite of the second-generation NavIC series.

GSLV-F18 lifted off on the night of **30 October 2026** from the Second Launch Pad, Sriharikota, and placed **NVS-03** in a geosynchronous transfer orbit of 170 x 37,023 km. It was the 20th GSLV flight. The rocket stands about 50 m and 420 t: an S139 solid core with four L40H strap-ons, a GL40HT second stage and the **CUS15 cryogenic** third stage burning liquid hydrogen and liquid oxygen.

NVS-03 weighs about 2,250 kg, carries indigenous and procured atomic clocks, and adds L1 to L5 and S-band signals over India and about 1,500 km beyond. It follows NVS-01 (2023, the first indigenous atomic clock) and NVS-02 (January 2025), which failed to reach its orbit. NVS-04 and NVS-05 are planned.

NavIC, formerly IRNSS, is a regional system with a civil Standard Positioning Service and an encrypted Restricted Service. Eleven satellites had been launched before NVS-03; in March 2026 eight were functional, three navigating and five messaging. A standalone fix needs at least four.

CONCEPT: WHY THE CLOCK DECIDES

A navigation satellite broadcasts the time, and the receiver converts timing into distance. A clock error of one nanosecond becomes about 30 cm of position error, which is why atomic clocks decide accuracy. NavIC is regional, covering India and about 1,500 km around it.

REMEMBER

- GSLV-D5 (January 2014) was India's first successful indigenous cryogenic flight.
- NavIC base design: three geostationary and four inclined geosynchronous satellites.
- NVS-02's launch, GSLV-F15, was the 100th from Sriharikota.

12 3 OCT 2026

India's First Free-Space Quantum Key Link Is Demonstrated

A 5.56 km night-time link between BISAG-N and IIT Gandhinagar was announced on 3 October.

QNu Labs, with BISAG-N and IIT Gandhinagar, demonstrated India's first **free-space quantum key distribution (QKD)** link over **5.56 km** on the night of 27-28 September 2026; it was announced on **3 October**. The quantum bit error rate stayed below 5 per cent and the secure key rate was 230 to 260 bits per second. The trial ran at night because sunlight's background photons swamp single-photon detectors.

QKD distributes keys, not data; the data is still encrypted with a conventional cipher such as AES, and 230 bits per second refreshes a 256-bit key about once a second. Security comes from physics: measuring a quantum state disturbs it. The link paired QNu's hardware system Armos with BISAG-N's software **Vedic Kavach**, which uses post-quantum cryptography and works over any network.

Free space matters because fibre loss is exponential and the no-cloning theorem forbids amplifying repeaters, which caps fibre QKD at a few hundred kilometres between trusted nodes. Most of a satellite path is vacuum, with attenuation only over the first 10-20 km, so satellites can enable intercontinental quantum links.

CONCEPT: THE ERROR RATE AS A BURGLAR ALARM

The Quantum Bit Error Rate is the fraction of compared key bits that disagree. Because measuring a quantum state disturbs it, an eavesdropper necessarily raises the QBER, which is the basis of QKD security. For BB84, secure keys can be distilled below roughly 11 per cent.

REMEMBER

- BISAG-N is Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics, an autonomous society under MeitY.
- Free-space hurdles: line of sight, turbulence-driven beam wander and diffraction.
- QNu Labs was founded in 2016; IIT Gandhinagar in 2008.

V ECONOMY

13 12 OCT 2026

RDI Fund Names 19 Fund Managers for a ₹1 Lakh Crore Scheme

The state will back technology through professional managers rather than pick companies itself.

On **12 October 2026** the Research, Development and Innovation Fund (RDIF) announced its first **19 Second Level Fund Managers**. The Empowered Group of Secretaries had approved, on 8 October, 14 Alternative Investment Funds and 5 Focused Research Organisations, with a total RDIF commitment of **₹7,131 crore**. The ₹1 lakh crore scheme was launched by the Prime Minister in November 2025 and sits in the Anusandhan National Research Foundation, under the Department of Science and Technology.

It is a **fund of funds**: the RDIF is the first level, the 19 managers the second, and they invest in Eligible Technology Enterprises. The state is good at setting priorities and poor at picking winners. An AIF is a SEBI-regulated pool that takes equity for returns; a FRO is a mission-driven body for problems academia will not take, since incentives reward papers, and industry will not, since payback is distant.

Managers must mobilise private capital equal to the RDIF contribution, which would roughly double ₹7,131 crore. That sum is about 7 per cent of the corpus, and nothing has yet reached a company.

CONCEPT: TECHNOLOGY READINESS LEVELS

The RDIF accepts technology at TRL 4 and above, meaning laboratory-validated, far earlier than the TRL 7 and above that commercial investors normally require. It therefore takes technology risk, not just scale-up risk. The exam hook is 'Science 4 Technology': patient capital to turn India from technology consumer to developer.

REMEMBER

- Selection chain: first call January 2026, Expert Advisory Committee, ANRF Executive Council, then the EGoS.
- Five additional technologies were also approved for coverage.
- Risks: fund-of-funds fees and an intermediary's pull towards safer, later-stage deals.

VI ENVIRONMENT

14 28 OCT 2026

Cyclone Arnab Crosses the Andhra Pradesh Coast

India's first named cyclone of 2026 made landfall on 28 October, and its name shows how the system works.

Arnab became a cyclonic storm on **26 October 2026**, the first named cyclone of the year in the North Indian Ocean; earlier systems stayed at depression strength. It crossed the Andhra Pradesh and **Yanam** coast on **28 October**, south-west of Yanam, as a very severe cyclonic storm, then weakened over land, bringing heavy rain to Odisha. Bangladesh contributed the name, meaning 'sea' in Bengali; the next is Murasu, from India.

RSMC New Delhi, run by IMD, names storms under the WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones. IMD ranks them by three-minute wind: depression 17-27 knots, deep depression 28-33, cyclonic storm 34-47 (named from here), severe 48-63, very severe 64-89, extremely severe 90-119, super cyclonic storm 120 and above. Storms weaken ashore as they lose the warm sea, meet friction and draw in dry air, though rain can persist.

On 29 October Home Minister Amit Shah spoke to the Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Puducherry, Odisha and Chhattisgarh. NDRF and State forces handled rescue, and inter-ministerial teams assessed damage; the Cabinet Secretary's NCMC had reviewed preparations on 26 October.

CONCEPT: THE DISASTER-MANAGEMENT LADDER

The Disaster Management Act 2005 created the NDMA under the Prime Minister, State authorities under Chief Ministers and District ones under Collectors. The NDRF was raised in 2006 from armed police forces. The Centre funds 75 per cent of the State Disaster Response Fund, 90 per cent for north-eastern and Himalayan States.

REMEMBER

- Yanam, a Puducherry enclave in Andhra Pradesh, was French until 1954 (de facto) and 1962 (de jure).
- Seasons: pre-monsoon April-June (peak May); post-monsoon October-December (peak November).
- Formation needs a warm sea near 26.5 C, low wind shear and a position beyond about 5 degrees from the Equator.

VII SPORT & HISTORY

15 25 OCT 2026

India's Record 114 Medals at the Asian Para Games

Fourth place at Aichi-Nagoya came down to a single gold medal.

India finished the **2026 Asian Para Games** at Aichi-Nagoya, Japan (18-24 October), with a record **114 medals**: 30 gold, 35 silver and 49 bronze, fourth on the table. The Prime Minister called it India's best-ever performance on 25 October. China led with 435 medals, 207 of them gold, ahead of hosts Japan (186) and Uzbekistan (145).

Rank depends on golds first, then silver, then bronze, not on the total. That is why Uzbekistan, with 145 medals, sits above India, and why India's 30 golds placed it above South Korea's roughly 100 medals and 29 golds. India's climb: 14 medals and one gold (15th) at Guangzhou 2010, 72 (15 gold) at Jakarta 2018, 111 (29 gold, fifth) at Hangzhou 2022, and now 114.

Athletics gave 65 medals and 22 golds, including a men's javelin sweep: Sumit gold, Mahendra Gurjar silver and Sandip Sanjay Sargar bronze, the last two setting Games records. Records are kept per sport class, so silver and bronze medallists can hold them.

CONCEPT: RANK VERSUS TALLY

A country can win more medals than another and still rank below it. By standard convention, ranking uses gold first; silver only breaks a tie in golds, and bronze only a tie in both. Examination questions on rank versus tally turn on this single rule.

REMEMBER

- The Games are held under the Asian Paralympic Committee.
- Paralympics: Tokyo 2020 gave India 19 medals; Paris 2024 gave 29.
- TOPS began in 2014; the first Khelo India Para Games were held in December 2023.

16 31 OCT 2026

Rashtriya Ekta Diwas: Patel and the Integration of India

The 151st birth anniversary on 31 October closes the commemoration of Sardar Patel's 150th.

Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, observed since 2014, falls on **31 October**, the 151st birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, and closes the 2024-26 commemoration of his 150th. The programme centred on Ekta Nagar with the Prime Minister, a parade stressing Left-Wing Extremism and tableaux on Vande Mataram. Patel, born at Nadiad in 1875, led the Kheda campaign (1918) as Gandhi's deputy and the Bardoli campaign (1928), which earned him 'Sardar'.

As first Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister from 1947, he ran the States Department with V.P. Menon from 5 July 1947. Seventeen provinces and 560-plus states, the latter about two-fifths of the area, were brought in through the **Instrument of Accession** covering defence, external affairs and communications, Standstill Agreements, then mergers. The 26th Amendment (1971) ended privy purses.

Hard cases: Junagadh held a plebiscite on 20 February 1948; Hyderabad was taken by Operation Polo, 13-17 September 1948; J&K acceded on 26 October 1947 and the airlift followed on 27 October, observed as Infantry Day. In the Constituent Assembly he defended the All-India Services under Article 312.

CONCEPT: MEMORIALS AND HONOURS

The Statue of Unity, 182 m tall at Sadhu Bet on the Narmada, was inaugurated on 31 October 2018; its sculptor was Ram V. Sutar. The Sardar Patel National Unity Award (2019) goes to up to three recipients a year. The SVP National Police Academy is at Hyderabad.

REMEMBER

- Patel died on 15 December 1950; Bharat Ratna, 1991.
- He chaired the Advisory Committee on Fundamental Rights, Minorities and Tribal and Excluded Areas.
- Civil Services Day is observed on 21 April.

TEST YOURSELF *12 questions on the month*

1. The Indian Air Force's first flight, on 1 April 1933, took place at:
   a. Palam c. Drigh Road, Karachi
   b. Hindan d. Ambala

2. A ship launch differs from commissioning because, after launch, the ship:
   a. still needs fitting out, then harbour and sea trials c. must wait for its keel to be laid
   b. is already in service with the Navy d. is handed back to the shipyard

3. India's AIP fuel-cell system makes hydrogen on board from:
   a. Ethanol and liquid oxygen c. Stored liquid hydrogen
   b. Metal hydride cylinders d. Sodium borohydride and water

4. Acceptance of Necessity granted by the Defence Acquisition Council is:
   a. The signing of a contract c. The delivery of equipment
   b. The first, in-principle approval in procurement d. The completion of user trials

5. Which exercise is held between the special forces of India and Indonesia?
   a. Garuda Shakti c. Samudra Shakti
   b. Garuda Shield d. Harimau Shakti

6. The President may return the Council of Ministers' advice once for reconsideration since the:
   a. 42nd Amendment c. 74th Amendment
   b. 73rd Amendment d. 44th Amendment

7. The Law Commission of India is:
   a. A constitutional body with fixed tenure c. A statutory body created by Parliament
   b. A non-statutory body created by executive notification d. A tribunal under Article 323A

8. The Twelfth Schedule lists how many functions for urban local bodies?
   a. 29 c. 18
   b. 11 d. 21

9. Which of these India-US defence agreements was signed in 2018?
   a. LEMOA c. GSOMIA
   b. BECA d. COMCASA

10. The SCO's Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure is based at:
    a. Tashkent c. Dushanbe
    b. Beijing d. Bishkek

11. A navigation-satellite clock error of one nanosecond equals a position error of about:
    a. 3 cm c. 30 cm
    b. 3 m d. 30 m

12. India ranked fourth at the 2026 Asian Para Games, above South Korea, because it:
    a. Won more total medals than Uzbekistan c. Counted silver medals before gold
    b. Won 30 golds to South Korea's 29 d. Won every javelin medal

ANSWERS **1.** (c) Drigh Road, Karachi; the date matched the RAF's founding. **2.** (a) Fitting out and trials follow a launch; Surya is due around 2027. **3.** (d) Hydrogen is generated from sodium borohydride and water. **4.** (b) AoN is the first approval, not a contract. **5.** (a) Garuda Shield is US-Indonesia; Samudra Shakti is naval. **6.** (d) The 42nd made advice binding; the 44th allowed one return. **7.** (b) It is neither constitutional nor statutory. **8.** (c) 18; the Eleventh Schedule's 29 subjects are rural. **9.** (d) COMCASA 2018; LEMOA 2016, BECA 2020, GSOMIA 2002. **10.** (a) RATS is at Tashkent; the Secretariat is at Beijing. **11.** (c) One nanosecond is about 30 cm. **12.** (b) Gold decides rank; the margin was one gold.

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