

Daily Current Affairs

26 October 2026

Indigenous AIP System For Indian Navy's Diesel-electric Submarines Achieves Key Milestone

- A significant milestone towards enhancing Indian Navy's underwater capabilities has been achieved with the inauguration of 'Setting to Work Phase (STW)-2' activity of the Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) system Energy Module developed indigenously by Naval Materials Research Laboratory, DRDO.
- The AIP system boosts the underwater endurance of the diesel-electric submarines by reducing its dependence on atmospheric oxygen. The inauguration ceremony took place at Larsen and Toubro's, AM Naik Heavy Engineering Complex in Hazira, Gujarat on October 24, 2026.
- He also acknowledged the cooperation rendered by the Indian Navy to DRDO throughout the course of this programme, including testing and validating at every stage of the trials.
- He emphasised on working towards next phases of the program towards achieving Navy's induction timelines for AIP system while maintaining the exacting safety culture that hydrogen and fuel cell systems require without compromise.
- In the next phase, the AIP Energy Module will be energised for power production and tested rigorously as per Indian Navy's protocols before handing over to Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited for integration on Kalvari-class Submarine in early 2027.



Swavlamban 2026 to Strengthen Indian Navy's Self-Reliance

- Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Krishna Swaminathan on Sunday emphasised the importance of building a technologically empowered, self-reliant and future-ready Indian Navy, highlighting the role of indigenous solutions and next-generation technologies in strengthening the country's maritime defence capabilities.
- Swaminathan described Swavlamban as the Indian Navy's flagship event for innovation, indigenisation and self-reliance, noting that the initiative has expanded significantly since its launch in July 2022.
- He noted that the event had grown at a remarkable pace in just four editions, from around 800 participants in its first edition to nearly 3,000 in 2025.
- Highlighting the importance of technological innovation in defence preparedness, the Navy chief said that technologies expected to shape future battlefields were already being developed in laboratories, universities and startups across the country.
- He further said that Swavlamban 2026 would take this partnership forward by creating more opportunities for Indian innovators to contribute directly to the Navy's future capabilities and India's broader journey towards self-reliance.
- Swavlamban 2026, themed Ideas to Impact, is scheduled to be held in New Delhi on October 26 and 27. The event aims to advance indigenous innovation and

strengthen India's maritime defence capabilities as part of the broader vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat.



India's 'Sahastra Shakti' Laser Weapon

- India has taken a significant step towards the future of air defence with the successful demonstration of the Defence Research and Development Organisation's indigenous 30-kilowatt Laser Directed Energy Weapon (DEW) MK-II(A), known as Sahastra Shakti.
- Designed to neutralise hostile drones and aerial swarms through concentrated laser energy, the system represents far more than a technological achievement. It highlights India's growing ability to counter rapidly evolving aerial threats while reducing dependence on traditional missile-based interception systems.
- The demonstration underscores the changing character of warfare, where relatively inexpensive unmanned aerial vehicles, loitering munitions and coordinated drone swarms are increasingly challenging conventional air defence networks.
- Against this backdrop, Sahastra Shakti offers India a new layer of protection within its air defence architecture. Unlike conventional weapons that rely on kinetic interceptors, the laser system uses focused energy to engage targets at the speed of light.
- This allows operators to detect, track and destroy hostile drones within seconds, significantly reducing response times against fast-moving or massed aerial threats.

- The DEW MK-II(A), or Sahastra Shakti, incorporates a 30-kilowatt laser generated through six 5-kilowatt sources and is capable of engaging targets at ranges of up to five kilometres.
- The system is designed to neutralise fixed-wing unmanned aerial vehicles, swarm drones, surveillance sensors and antennae through structural thermal damage or by blinding hostile sensors.



On Iran war, Trump Weighs Two Options: 'Make A Deal' Or 'Finish It Off'

- US President Donald Trump is nearing a decision on whether to strike a deal with Iran or unleash another round of military attacks, as Tehran steps up threats against American interests and tensions spread across the Middle East.
- “I have a decision to make: Do I finish it off, which would be very easy to do, or do I make a deal? That’s all,” Trump said in an interview with Fox News’ Sunday Morning Futures. “We don’t play games.”
- Trump has indicated that military action could resume after the November 3 US midterm elections. Washington has also dispatched additional military assets to the region, including a third aircraft carrier group, raising concerns that the standoff could escalate into a wider conflict.
- Washington is scaling back diplomatic and military staffing in parts of the Middle East as threats from Iran and Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi militants intensify.

The developments have added to security concerns across a region already grappling with attacks on commercial shipping and strategic infrastructure.

- Saudi Arabia's Riyadh airport, which has faced repeated Houthi strikes, reopened for commercial flights on Sunday. The US State Department had initially confirmed the departure of diplomats from Saudi Arabia, but an American official told Bloomberg News on Friday that staffing adjustments were being made more widely as Iran stepped up attacks on vessels near the Strait of Hormuz.
- The waterway is a critical artery for global energy shipments, making any sustained disruption a potential threat to oil supplies and international trade.
- Iran, meanwhile, is preparing for the possibility of another US bombing campaign around the midterms and is considering retaliation across the region, including against Israel and the United Arab Emirates, according to a person familiar with Tehran's thinking.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Which DRDO laboratory developed the indigenous Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) system mentioned in the article?

- A) Defence Research and Development Laboratory
- B) Naval Materials Research Laboratory
- C) Armament Research and Development Establishment
- D) Electronics and Radar Development Establishment

Correct Answer: B) Naval Materials Research Laboratory

2. The indigenous AIP Energy Module is planned for integration into which class of Indian Navy submarines?

- A) Arihant-class
- B) Sindhughosh-class
- C) Kalvari-class
- D) Shishumar-class

Correct Answer: C) Kalvari-class

3. What is the theme of Swavlamban 2026?

- A) Innovation for Global Peace
- B) Ideas to Impact
- C) Make in India, Defend India
- D) Technology for Maritime Security

Correct Answer: B) Ideas to Impact

4. Swavlamban 2026 is scheduled to take place on which dates?

- A) 21–22 October 2026
- B) 24–25 October 2026
- C) 26–27 October 2026
- D) 29–30 October 2026

Correct Answer: C) 26–27 October 2026

5. What is the reported power of India's Sahastra Shakti laser-directed energy weapon?

- A) 10 kW
- B) 20 kW
- C) 30 kW
- D) 50 kW

Correct Answer: C) 30 kW

6. What is the reported maximum engagement range of the Sahastra Shakti system?

- A) 2 kilometres
- B) 5 kilometres
- C) 10 kilometres
- D) 15 kilometres

Correct Answer: B) 5 kilometres

7. Which strategic maritime chokepoint is central to concerns about global energy supplies amid US–Iran tensions?

- A) Strait of Malacca
- B) Bab-el-Mandeb Strait
- C) Strait of Gibraltar
- D) Strait of Hormuz

Correct Answer: D) Strait of Hormuz

8. Which country, besides Israel, was mentioned as a possible target of Iranian retaliation?

- A) United Arab Emirates
- B) Egypt
- C) Jordan
- D) Türkiye

Correct Answer: A) United Arab Emirates

9. Commandant of Defence Services Staff College Is

- A. Lt Gen Virendra Vats
- B. Lt Gen Vikram Singh
- C. Rear Admiral Anil Sen
- D. None

ANSWER: A

10. Cabinet Committee on Security Is Headed By

- A. PM
- B. NSA
- C. The President
- D. COAS Indian Army

ANSWER: A

11. Air Marshal Rank of IAF Is Equivalent To Which Rank Of Indian Army?

- A. Brigadier
- B. Lt. Gen
- C. Captain
- D. Major General

ANSWER: B

12. How Many States In India Have A Coastline?

- A. Seven
- B. Eight
- C. Nine
- D. Ten

ANSWER: C

13. OPEC Hq Is In

- A. Budapest, Hungary
- B. New York, USA
- C. Luanda, Angola
- D. Vienna, Austria

ANSWER: D

14. AUKUS Stands For

- A. Azerbaijan, the United Kingdom, & the United States
- B. Australia, the United Kingdom, & the United States
- C. Australia, the United Kingdom, & Uganda
- D. Argentina, the United Kingdom, & the United States

ANSWER: B

15. RIYADH Is The Capital Of

- A. SAUDI ARABIA
- B. SENEGAL
- C. SERBIA
- D. SEYCHELLES

ANSWER: A

16. "2001 Space Odyssey" Book Is Written By

- A. C. Clarke
- B. Abhijit Chavda
- C. Hew Strachan
- D. APJ Abdul Kalam

ANSWER: A

17. Captain Rank of Indian Navy Equivalent to Which rank of IAF?

- A. Flying Officer
- B. Flight Lieutenant

- C. Group Captain
- D. None

ANSWER: C

18. Predator B (MQ-9 Reaper) Is A

- A. Helicopter
- B. Machine Gun
- C. UAV
- D. Fighter Jet

ANSWER: C

19. International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Hq Is At

- A. London, United Kingdom
- B. Vienna, Austria
- C. Paris, France
- D. Geneva, Switzerland

ANSWER: A

20. "If you win, you need not have to explain...If you lose, you should not be there to explain!" Said By__

- A. Winston Churchill
- B. Adolf Hitler
- C. Subhas Chandra Bose
- D. Bhagat Singh

ANSWER: A