



Defence Professionals News & Analysis

January 07, 2026 | Day 007

Defense Business and Industry

Rolls-Royce proposes new engine design for AMCA, ensuring upgrade potential.



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British engine manufacturer Rolls-Royce has proposed a new jet engine core design for India's Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) program, promising a scalable architecture for future upgrades. Targeting a thrust class of 73kN dry and 120kN wet, the engine aims to provide the AMCA Mk2 variant with enhanced capabilities, potentially reaching up to 95kN and 152kN thrust in future iterations. While Rolls-Royce's offer aligns with India's long-term goal of self-reliance in military jet engine technology, reports indicate that French company Safran may have been chosen as the preferred partner due to its full technology transfer and local manufacturing proposals. The situation highlights the ongoing competition for India's indigenous fighter engine development, which is crucial for enhancing military capabilities.

Tata Advanced Systems partners with Army to enhance Pinaka MLRS capabilities.



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Tata Advanced Systems (TASL) formalized a landmark public-private partnership with the Indian Army on January 6, 2026, receiving a supply order during a New Delhi ceremony to support the overhaul and upgradation of first-generation Pinaka Multiple Launch Rocket Systems (MLRS) and Battery Command Posts at the 510 Advance Base Workshop (ABW). In the initial pilot phase, TASL and 510 ABW will jointly refurbish select units, leveraging TASL's expertise, certified spares, and coordination with DRDO—its partner since 1989—achieving nearly 80% indigenous content to boost reliability and battlefield performance. Key developments include prior contracts in 2006, 2016,

and 2020 for regiments now over 15 years in service. From an Indian strategic perspective, this enhances artillery firepower along borders, reduces foreign dependency, and aligns with Aatmanirbhar Bharat, signaling robust sustainment models amid regional tensions.

Greece's interest in India's WhAP 88 armored platform sparks Turkish media outrage.



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Greek Army's evaluation of India's Tata WhAP 8x8 wheeled armoured platform, initiated following a high-level meeting in Athens on December 12, 2025, has provoked outrage in Turkish media, which sensationalistically portrayed the interest as a declaration of war against Turkey. This development forms part of Greece's modernization drive to replace outdated M113A1 and BMP-1 vehicles with advanced 8x8 platforms offering STANAG Level 4 protection, twin water-jet amphibious propulsion, high mobility across diverse terrains, and modular armaments like 30mm cannons or anti-tank missiles. From an Indian perspective, the WhAP—successfully trialled by the Indian Army in Ladakh, deserts, mountains, and coasts—signals New Delhi's rising stature in global defence exports, particularly to NATO allies, as Greece diversifies suppliers beyond Western vendors amid regional tensions. Analysts dismiss Turkish claims as hyperbolic domestic posturing, underscoring how procurement choices fuel politicized narratives rather than genuine escalations.

Indian startup Carbine Systems unveils H.A.R.A., a private laser weapon for defense applications.



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India's aerospace and defense startup Carbine Systems has achieved a significant milestone by successfully conducting indoor tests of its first directed-energy weapon prototype, H.A.R.A. Mk 1. This 10 kW-class high-energy laser, designed for engagements up to 12 km, marks a pivotal development in India's private

defense sector, traditionally dominated by state-run programs. Founded by brothers Girish and Kedar Joshi in 2023, Carbine Systems highlights the importance of internal capability, having developed H.A.R.A. without external funding. The successful testing emphasizes the transition from theoretical research to practical application, showcasing India's growing prowess in advanced military technology and positioning the nation as a serious player in the global defense landscape.

Indian Army boosts defense with solar UAV contract from Bengaluru startup.



07-Jan-26

The Indian Army has made a significant leap in indigenous defense capabilities by securing a ₹168 crore contract for the Medium Altitude Persistent Surveillance System (MAPSS), a solar-powered UAV developed by Bengaluru-based NewSpace Research & Technologies under the Ministry of Defence's iDEX initiative. This marks the first inclusion of solar-powered UAVs in the Indian armed forces, enhancing long-endurance border surveillance across diverse terrains. The MAPSS will play a crucial role in intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, and electronic intelligence missions, while its low acoustic and thermal signatures increase stealth. This acquisition signals a growing emphasis on unmanned warfare and the role of Indian startups in defense modernization, aligning with the broader Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative and showcasing India's commitment to advanced, sustainable military operations.

Indian Army and HDFC Bank extend MoU for personnel welfare until 2029.



07-Jan-26

The Indian Army and HDFC Bank have extended their Memorandum of Understanding until 2029, aimed at delivering banking services and enhanced Personal Accident Insurance for Army personnel. This agreement includes a compensation package of one crore rupees for accidental death or disability, applicable to both serving members, including Agniveers, and retired personnel. Additional benefits under the MoU comprise child education coverage of five lakh rupees and a similar amount for girl child marriage expenses. This partnership underscores a commitment to the welfare of Army personnel, ensuring financial security and support for their families, thus reinforcing the government's dedication to the armed forces.

Indian Army Launches DIME for Improved Logistics Management Efficiency



07-Jan-26

The Indian Army has introduced the Depot Integration Management Edition (DIME), an advanced digital platform aimed at enhancing logistics management with near real-time visibility from unit level to Army Headquarters. Developed in collaboration with BISAG-N, DIME replaces outdated systems and automates workflows, promising to reduce paperwork by approximately 70% and logistics cycle time by nearly one-third. This platform equips commanders with consolidated dashboards, automated alerts, and predictive analytics to streamline inventory management and responsiveness to operational demands. The initiative underscores the Army's commitment to leveraging indigenous technology for a more efficient, transparent, and resilient logistics framework, thus improving overall operational readiness across diverse theatres.

Indian Army plans indigenous suicide drones for deep strikes in enemy territory.



07-Jan-26

The Indian Army is set to enhance its operational capabilities with a focus on indigenous loitering munitions designed to strike deep into enemy territory, particularly in challenging environments with heavy jamming. An initial contract valued at ₹2,000 crore will be tendered soon, aiming to foster a self-reliant defense ecosystem, with major Indian companies such as Tata Advanced Systems and Adani Defence expected to compete for the order. This initiative aligns with Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi's vision of integrating drone technology across units, encapsulated in the 'Eagle on every Arm' concept. The expedited procurement process will significantly reduce timelines for trials and orders, marking a strategic shift towards rapid acquisition of vital defense technologies.

Bangladesh shows potential interest in Pakistan's JF-17 fighter jets amid evolving defense ties.



07-Jan-26

Bangladesh has expressed "potential interest" in procuring JF-17 Thunder fighter jets from Pakistan during a recent meeting between the leaders of both nations' air forces in Islamabad. While Pakistan claims the JF-17 has demonstrated its capabilities, its effectiveness remains uncertain. The discussions also

emphasized enhancing operational cooperation, including training and maintenance support for Bangladesh's aging aircraft fleet. This outreach signifies a warming of relations between Bangladesh and Pakistan, following political changes in Bangladesh, marking a strategic pivot in defense partnerships in the region. The implications of this interest could affect the regional balance of power, particularly concerning India's defense strategies.

Indian Army to form 15-20 Shaktibaan regiments for enhanced drone warfare capabilities.



07-Jan-26

In a decisive move to enhance its drone warfare capabilities, the Indian Army is set to establish 15-20 Shaktibaan regiments, equipped with advanced swarm drones, loitering munitions, and long-range UAVs capable of striking targets from 5 to 500 kilometers. This initiative, spearheaded by Army Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi, aims to address capability gaps and significantly boost operational effectiveness. The first regiments will procure 850 loitering munitions through a fast-track process, with Indian firms expected to play a crucial role in this Rs 2,000 crore project. Additionally, modernization efforts include the creation of Ashmi platoons in infantry battalions and a new Special Force, Bharav, enhancing India's strategic readiness in contemporary warfare scenarios.

India explores SaM146 engine from France for Sukhoi SJ-100's commercial viability and self-reliance.



07-Jan-26

India is reportedly pursuing a strategic partnership with France to secure the SaM146 engine for the locally manufactured Sukhoi SJ-100-95B Superjet, addressing concerns over the long-term efficiency of existing propulsion options. This collaboration could see technology transfer from Safran for critical components while enabling India to take on assembly and manufacturing roles domestically, enhancing its self-reliance in aerospace. The shift aligns with India's broader ambition for commercial viability in its civil aviation sector, as legacy engines like the SaM146 face diminishing relevance amid rising operational costs. Ultimately, this initiative reflects India's commitment to establishing a robust aerospace industry while ensuring competitive alternatives against global players.

HAL should develop 116 kN EPE variant to enhance future Indian fighters' capabilities.



07-Jan-26

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has successfully secured an agreement for the indigenous manufacture of the 98 kN F414 engine, prompting calls for the development of the higher-thrust F414 Enhanced Performance Engine (EPE), rated at approximately 116 kN. Experts argue that this initiative could enhance the Indian Air Force's operational capabilities, particularly in high-altitude conditions, and provide a strategic advantage by improving payload capacities and range. Co-developing the EPE variant would also allow Indian engineers to gain critical design and testing competencies, thereby advancing India's aerospace technology landscape. This shift from mere manufacturing to a capability-driven partnership could significantly bolster India's position in military aviation propulsion.

Politics

JNU Condemns Anti-National Slogans Against PM Modi, Promises Action



07-Jan-26

A protest at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) led to controversy after slogans against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah were reportedly raised following the Supreme Court's denial of bail to Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam in a 2020 riots conspiracy case. JNU condemned the slogans as anti-national and stated that any unlawful conduct would not be tolerated, promising disciplinary action against the involved students. This incident has ignited political reactions, with BJP leaders criticizing the protest and linking it to an Urban Naxal mindset, suggesting that opposition parties like Congress are complicit in such activities. The event raises broader concerns regarding the balance between freedom of expression and maintaining public order and respect for judicial decisions in India.

Rajnath Singh honors Lt Gen SK Sinha's legacy as an inspiration for the government.



07-Jan-26

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh paid tribute to late Lt Gen SK Sinha during a memorial lecture commemorating his birth centenary, highlighting his

dedication to the nation and significant contributions to military and diplomatic efforts. Singh emphasized Sinha's role in key historical events, including his leadership during the Second World War and his critical involvement in Kashmir during the 1947 conflict. Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan described Sinha as a "Soldier-Statesman," urging current armed forces personnel to embody his values of discipline, moral clarity, and intellectual growth. The event underscored the importance of integrating modern military education and ethical conduct within the Indian armed forces amidst evolving complexities in warfare, shaping the future of India's defense strategy.

Geopolitics and Security Alliances

Israel strikes Lebanon ahead of crucial disarmament meeting on Hezbollah.



07-Jan-26

Israel's air force has conducted strikes in southern and eastern Lebanon, targeting infrastructure associated with Hezbollah and Hamas ahead of a significant disarmament meeting scheduled for Thursday. The strikes included a substantial attack on a commercial building in Sidon, though it was uninhabited, resulting in at least one injury. This military action follows a recent history of escalated tensions, beginning with the latest conflict initiated by Hezbollah's support for Hamas in October 2023. The Lebanese government has initiated a disarmament process for Hezbollah by 2025, indicating a crucial shift in regional security dynamics and the potential for stabilizing the volatile border regions with Israel.

Iran's army chief warns of preemptive strike over U.S. threats.



07-Jan-26

Iran's army chief, Maj Gen Amir Hatami, has threatened a preemptive military response to what he perceives as aggressive rhetoric from the United States, particularly in light of President Trump's remarks regarding potential U.S. intervention amid ongoing protests in Iran. These protests, now in their 11th day, are fueled by economic discontent exacerbated by international sanctions and government policies leading to soaring inflation and currency devaluation. Hatami emphasized that Iran's military readiness has improved significantly following recent conflicts, asserting that any miscalculation by adversaries would provoke a decisive response. The situation reflects not only Iran's internal

challenges but also the escalating tensions with the U.S. and Israel, which could have broader implications for regional stability and security.

Trump's Greenland ambitions raise concerns over NATO's unity and stability.



07-Jan-26

The recent rhetoric from President Donald Trump regarding Greenland has sparked concerns about potential military action against Denmark, a NATO ally, which could destabilize the alliance. Despite warnings from Danish leaders and European officials that such a move would threaten NATO's unity, Trump has reiterated that acquiring Greenland is a national security priority. While NATO diplomats suggest the U.S. can access Greenland under existing agreements, there is apprehension that merely raising the prospect of military action against an ally undermines NATO's cohesiveness. As global tensions rise, particularly with Russia's actions in Ukraine, European members are eager to maintain U.S. support while seeking diplomatic solutions to this emerging crisis.

Trump cites high tariffs as reason for Modi's dissatisfaction.



07-Jan-26

US President Donald Trump recently indicated that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is dissatisfied due to the high tariffs imposed by the US on Indian purchases of Russian oil, which he noted have reached 50 percent. During remarks at a House GOP Member Retreat, Trump mentioned that India has significantly reduced its Russian oil purchases and expressed a willingness to expedite the delivery of Apache helicopters, citing a five-year wait for the order of 68 units. This situation underscores the complexities of US-India trade relations and the ongoing strategic dialogue as both countries navigate geopolitical challenges and defense procurement.

Military Operations

Indian Navy's First Training Squadron to enhance ties in Southeast Asia.



07-Jan-26

The Indian Navy's First Training Squadron, consisting of INS Tir, INS Shardul, INS Sujata, and Indian Coast Guard ship Sarathi, is set to embark on a long-range training deployment to South East Asia. This initiative highlights

India's commitment to enhancing maritime diplomacy in the region, in line with the Act East Policy, by fostering cooperation with countries like Singapore, Indonesia, and Thailand. The deployment involves personnel from the Indian Army and Air Force, strengthening inter-service collaboration while offering international officer trainees operational and cross-cultural exposure. Planned activities during the visit include training exchanges, joint exercises, and professional interactions aimed at enhancing interoperability and mutual understanding among regional navies, reinforcing India's strategic maritime posture.

Security forces enhance operations in Kathua after terrorist gunfight.



07-Jan-26

Security forces have intensified their operations in the Billawar area of Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district following a gunfight with terrorists. The encounter began during a search operation targeting two to three militants reported to be hiding in the thick forest of Kamadh Nullah. Inspector General of Police, Bhim Sen Tuti, confirmed that despite challenging conditions, the Special Operations Group and CRPF are actively engaged in neutralizing the threat. The region has seen a resurgence in terrorist activity, with a notable increase in encounters leading to casualties among both security personnel and militants, signaling a critical challenge for local law enforcement and national security efforts in maintaining stability in the area.

confront contemporary and future security threats, fostering a new generation of agile and technologically adept military leaders.

Miscellaneous

Aditya-L1 Mission invites proposals for solar observations and research collaboration.



07-Jan-26

India's Aditya-L1 mission, launched on September 2, 2023, and positioned at the Sun-Earth L1 point on January 6, 2024, has entered a pivotal phase with ISRO announcing the first Announcement of Opportunity (AO) cycle on January 5-6, 2026. Indian solar physicists are invited to submit proposals via the ISSDC's ALPPS portal by February 6, 2026, prioritizing VELC and SUIT payloads for observations scheduled April-June 2026, leveraging over 23 TB of publicly available data and peer-reviewed findings. This initiative, reviewed by the Aditya-L1 Time Allocation Committee (ALTAC), bolsters India's strategic autonomy in space-based solar monitoring, enhancing space weather forecasting critical for national satellite assets, power grids, and aviation security amid rising solar activity. By prioritizing domestic PIs while enabling global data access, it positions India as a heliophysics leader, fostering self-reliant scientific innovation and geopolitical leverage in space domain awareness.

ISRO to launch PSLV-C62 with EOS-N1 on January 12, 2026.



07-Jan-26

RO's PSLV-C62 mission, marking India's first orbital launch of 2026, is set for liftoff on January 12 at 10:17 hrs IST from Sriharikota's First Launch Pad, carrying DRDO's hyperspectral EOS-N1 (Anvesha) satellite for strategic border surveillance, camouflaged target detection, and reconnaissance vital to national security amid regional tensions. The PSLV-DL's 64th flight, NSIL's 9th commercial venture post-PSLV-C61's May 2025 failure, will deploy 15-18 co-passengers—including Spanish startup's KID re-entry demonstrator and payloads from India, Mauritius, Luxembourg, UAE, Singapore, Europe, and USA—over 108 minutes to 511 km altitude, boosting NewSpace India's global ride-share edge. Public viewing requires lvg.shar.gov.in registration, underscoring ISRO's transparency while enhancing geospatial intelligence for defense and disaster management.

Mil Personnel & Veterans

Indian Armed Forces' Chiefs of Staff Committee unveils training vision document.



07-Jan-26

The Chiefs of Staff Committee has unveiled a Vision Document on Training Methodology for the Indian Armed Forces, aimed at enhancing capability building and addressing evolving security challenges. This forward-looking framework provides comprehensive guidance across all three Services, facilitating professional military education focused on critical thinking, ethical leadership, and strategic operational skills. Emphasizing joint, multi-domain operations, the document promotes interoperability across land, air, maritime, cyber, and space domains, utilizing modern teaching methods like wargaming and simulations. This initiative significantly strengthens India's readiness to

Secure Nation Expo 2026: Showcasing India's Growing Security Market



07-Jan-26

Secure Nation Expo 2026 is set to take place on April 17-18, 2026, at the Bangalore International Exhibition Centre, showcasing India's rapidly evolving security ecosystem. The event will gather over 10,000 exhibitors from various sectors including commercial security, homeland security, and cybersecurity, reflecting significant international interest in India's security market. Organised by Services International, the expo aims to facilitate valuable business engagements between solution providers, policymakers, and enterprise buyers, addressing increased demand for integrated security solutions driven by investments in smart infrastructure and digital governance. This initiative is poised to enhance collaboration and long-term growth in India's security landscape, reinforcing the nation's commitment to a secure and resilient future.

Surya Kiran Team to perform inaugural air show in Nashik, boosting tourism.



07-Jan-26

The Indian Air Force's Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team is set to perform its first-ever air show in Nashik on January 22 and 23, featuring nine Hawk MK 132 aircraft showcasing various formations. This event aims to bolster local tourism, attracting an estimated 60,000 attendees, and providing economic opportunities for

local hotel-resort owners, farmers, and self-help groups. The Gangapur Dam area has been selected for its visibility, and the initiative mirrors similar successful efforts in Pune. As Nashik strives to establish itself as a prominent tourist destination, this air show marks a significant step in promoting both tourism and the local economy.

PM Modi discusses AI innovations with start-ups ahead of India AI Summit 2026.



07-Jan-26

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi chaired a significant roundtable discussion with 12 Indian AI start-ups at his residence, ahead of the India AI Impact Summit 2026 scheduled for next month. The start-ups, focusing on areas such as multilingual language models, generative AI for e-commerce, and healthcare diagnostics, emphasized India's burgeoning role as a global leader in the AI ecosystem. Modi underscored the importance of ethical and transparent AI development, advocating for models that reflect local culture and languages, while also highlighting India's capacity for innovation and large-scale implementation. The meeting featured notable figures from the tech industry and aimed to position India as a hub for affordable and inclusive AI solutions, reinforcing the nation's commitment to establishing a robust technological framework that can contribute significantly to the global AI landscape.

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