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Defence news

India's Defence Sector - Key Developments:

AMCA Engine Competition Heats Up: India is at a critical juncture in its Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) program. The nation is preparing to select a global partner for developing engines for its ambitious fifth-generation stealth fighter. The competition has intensified between France's Safran and Britain's Rolls-Royce, both offering extensive technology transfer packages. This decision, expected by the end of 2025, will significantly impact India's defence capabilities and technological sovereignty. The AMCA Mk-1 will initially use imported GE F414 engines, while the AMCA Mk-2 will incorporate the more powerful, indigenously co-developed engines.

S-400 Maintenance Facility in India: The Ministry of Defence has identified an Indian firm to establish a Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) facility for the S-400 air defence system (officially named 'Sudarshan Chakra' in Indian service). This crucial move, fast-tracked after the S-400's effectiveness in "Operation Sindoor" (India's retaliation for a terror attack in Pahalgam in May), will reduce dependence on foreign support and enhance operational readiness. Russia's Almaz-Antey, the S-400 manufacturer, will collaborate with the Indian firm. India currently has three S-400 systems, with two more expected by 2027.

Javelin ATGM Procurement: India is moving swiftly to procure Javelin Anti-Tank Guided Missiles (ATGMs) from the United States through an emergency off-the-shelf purchase. This urgent acquisition aims to bolster India's

anti-tank warfare capabilities amidst heightened security concerns along its northern borders with China and Pakistan.

Indigenous Tracked Self-Propelled Howitzer: Kalyani Strategic Systems Limited (KSSL), a subsidiary of Bharat Forge, has embarked on a groundbreaking initiative to develop a 155mm/52-calibre tracked self-propelled howitzer (SPH) based on the indigenously developed Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (ATAGS). This move signifies a major advancement in India's defence manufacturing and its pursuit of self-reliance.

Keel Laying for Third Fleet Support Ship (Indian Navy): The 'Keel Laying' ceremony for the third of five Fleet Support Ships (FSS) for the Indian Navy was held on July 9, 2025, at M/s L&T Shipyard, Kattupalli. These ships, displacing over 40,000 tons, will significantly bolster the India Navy's 'Blue Water' capabilities by enabling prolonged and sustained operations at sea and supporting Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations.

Tejas Mk-1A Progress: Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) plans to roll out the first units of the Tejas Mk-1A, an upgraded variant of India's indigenous fighter jet, by mid-2025 from its Nashik and Bengaluru facilities. The Mk-1A features over 40 enhancements, including AESA radar, electronic warfare systems, and advanced avionics.

Submarine Acquisition Delay: The contract for three additional Scorpene-class submarines remains stalled, with government clearance still pending despite the completion of cost negotiations. This delay is concerning given the





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Indian Navy's growing challenges in the underwater domain, and it impacts Mazagon Dockyard Limited's (MDL) workforce.

Unmanned Force Plan (Indian Air Force): As per an "Unmanned Force Plan" published in July 2025, the Indian Air Force plans to acquire 30–50 units of small, medium, or large category Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) within the next three to five years for "specific combat roles," aiming to create a future-proof unmanned aircraft fleet.

Military Exercises:

Exercise KHAAN QUEST (Mongolia): An Indian Army contingent arrived in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, for the multinational military exercise KHAAN QUEST, scheduled from June 14 to 28, 2025. This exercise focuses on enhancing peacekeeping capabilities and interoperability in a multinational environment.

Exercise Shakti (France): The 8th edition of the joint military exercise 'Shakti' between India and France commenced in June 2025 at Camp Larzac, France. This bilateral training aims to enhance operational coordination, focusing on joint operations in a sub-conventional environment.

International Defence News:

South Korea, Japan, U.S. Joint Aerial Drill: Top military officers from South Korea, the U.S., and Japan held a trilateral aerial drill in international waters off South Korea's southern Jeju island. This demonstration of strength, involving America's nuclear-capable B-52H bomber, is aimed at deterring and responding to North Korea's advancing nuclear and missile

programs. This comes as Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov is set to travel to North Korea amid growing military cooperation between the two countries.

Russia Intercepts Ukrainian Drones: Russia's defence ministry reported that its air defence systems intercepted 155 Ukrainian drones from late Thursday into Friday morning (July 11, 2025), mostly over the Kursk region bordering Ukraine.

NATO's Stance on Ukraine: NATO continues to condemn Russia's "brutal and unprovoked war of aggression" against Ukraine in the strongest possible terms. The Alliance reaffirms its unwavering solidarity with Ukraine, providing unprecedented levels of political and practical support to uphold Ukraine's right to self-defence. NATO reiterates that "Ukraine's future is in NATO" and condemns countries (like North Korea, Iran, and China) that are facilitating Russia's war efforts.

MCQS

1. Which two global partners are in close competition to develop engines for India's AMCA fifth-generation stealth fighter?

- a) General Electric and Safran
- b) Rolls-Royce and General Electric
- c) Safran and Rolls-Royce
- d) Almaz-Antey and General Electric

Answer: c) Safran and Rolls-Royce

The text states, "The competition has intensified between France's Safran and Britain's Rolls-Royce, both offering extensive technology transfer packages."

2. What is the official name given to the S-400 air defence system in Indian service?





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- a) Trishul
- b) Akash
- c) Sudarshan Chakra
- d) Nag

Answer: c) Sudarshan Chakra

The text specifies, "The Ministry of Defence has identified an Indian firm to establish a Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) facility for the S-400 air defence system (officially named 'Sudarshan Chakra' in Indian service)."

3. From which country is India procuring Javelin Anti-Tank Guided Missiles (ATGMs) through an emergency off-the-shelf purchase?

- a) Russia
- b) France
- c) United States
- d) Israel

Answer: c) United States

The text states, "India is moving swiftly to procure Javelin Anti-Tank Guided Missiles (ATGMs) from the United States through an emergency off-the-shelf purchase."

4. What type of howitzer is Kalyani Strategic Systems Limited (KSSL) developing based on the indigenously developed ATAGS?

- a) Towed field howitzer
- b) Mountain howitzer
- c) Tracked self-propelled howitzer
- d) Naval gun system

Answer: c) Tracked self-propelled howitzer

The text says, "Kalyani Strategic Systems Limited (KSSL)... has embarked on a groundbreaking initiative to develop a 155mm/52-calibre tracked self-propelled howitzer (SPH) based on the indigenously developed Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (ATAGS)."

5. What is the main objective of the Indian Air Force's "Unmanned Force Plan" published in July 2025?

- a) To replace all manned fighter jets with UAVs.
- b) To acquire 30–50 UAVs for specific combat roles within the next three to five years to create a future-proof unmanned aircraft fleet.
- c) To develop only indigenous UAVs without foreign collaboration.
- d) To primarily use UAVs for humanitarian aid and disaster relief operations.

Answer: b) To acquire 30–50 UAVs for specific combat roles within the next three to five years to create a future-proof unmanned aircraft fleet.

The text states, "As per an "Unmanned Force Plan" published in July 2025, the Indian Air Force plans to acquire 30–50 units of small, medium, or large category Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) within the next three to five years for "specific combat roles," aiming to create a future-proof unmanned aircraft fleet."

