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National

Ran Samwad 2026 Concludes with a Collaborative Road Map to Prepare the Indian Armed Forces for Multi Domain Conflict

Core Elements of the Ran Samwad 2026 Roadmap

- Multi-Domain Operations: Warfare will operate simultaneously across land, air, sea, cyber, space, and cognitive domains, recognizing conflicts are non-linear and layered.
- From Jointness to Full Integration: The focus shifts from coordination to complete integration among services, highlighting real-time domain fusion.
- AI-Enabled Decision Superiority: Emphasis on rapid, AI-driven decision-making with advanced command systems and data-centric operations.
- ISR for Information Dominance: Integrated Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance ensures information superiority using advanced data fusion.
- Doctrine & Training Reform: Military doctrines and training are updated for hybrid, irregular, and multi-domain operations.
- Integrated Theatre Commands: Structural reforms establish theatre commands for Western (Pakistan), Northern (China), and Maritime (Indian Ocean) fronts.
- Civil-Military Integration: Expanding collaboration with industry, academia, and tech sectors to enhance defense capabilities.
- Operational Art & Planning: Warfare planning is redefined for synchronization, adaptive control, and complex battlespace management.
- Conventional & Irregular Threats: Strategies prepare for high-intensity, grey-zone, and hybrid warfare threats.
- Operational Excellence: Goals include technological advancement, structural reform, information dominance, integrated forces, and a holistic national defense ecosystem.

SSI's Project Vimana: Drone-Powered Telesurgery Set To Transform Battlefield Trauma Care On Wounded Soldiers

SS Innovations (SSI), based in Gurugram, has unveiled Project Vimana, a ground breaking drone-mounted robotic system tailored for remote telesurgery on wounded soldiers in battlefield settings. This innovative technology promises to revolutionise emergency medical care in combat zonesProject Vimana integrates a heavy-lift autonomous drone as its core platform. This drone carries dual 7-degree-of-freedom miniature robotic arms, alongside high-definition cameras for precise visual feedback.

Trauma surgeons operate these robotic arms remotely from a secure command centre. This setup enables them to execute critical procedures such as haemorrhage control, chest decompression, shrapnel extraction, and wound repair.

The primary goal of Project Vimana centres on bridging the vital 'golden hour'—the critical window between injury occurrence and medical evacuation in high-risk combat environments. By delivering immediate intervention, it aims to boost survival rates dramatically.

At present, the project remains in the proof-of-concept stage. Developers anticipate roughly 1.5 years for comprehensive trials and securing essential regulatory approvals before full deployment.

Operation Tiranga Concludes — Theaterisation Plan to Reach Defence Minister

CDS Gen Anil Chauhan announced that Operation Tiranga — the internal exercise to finalise India's military theaterisation plan — has concluded. The proposal envisions three theatre commands: Western (IAF-led, vs. Pakistan), Northern (Army-led, vs. China), and Maritime (Navy-led). Strategic assets like AWACS and tankers remain under Air HQ. The plan will be submitted to the Defence Ministry next week for Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) approval.

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Defense tech firm Tsecond.ai raises $21.5 Mn led by MSN Holdings

Tsecond.ai, an edge AI and data infrastructure startup, has raised Rs 190 crorein funding led by MSN Holdings, the family office of Solar Industries India's MD and CEO Manish Nuwal. The investment has been structured across multiple rounds over the past two years and will support the company's growth in defence and mission-critical AI infrastructure.

Founded by Sahil Chawla, Tsecond.ai builds edge compute and data systems for defence, aerospace, and enterprise use cases. Its flagship platform, BRYCK, enables high-speed data capture and AI processing in environments where cloud connectivity is not available.

Its systems are already deployed across defence programmes in markets including the US, UK, India, and Europe.

Tsecond.ai is focused on building infrastructure for real-time data processing in remote and disconnected environments, where traditional cloud-based systems are not viable.

In India, Tsecond.ai operates in a growing defence and edge AI ecosystem alongside startups such as IdeaForge, which builds UAVs for surveillance, and Tonbo Imaging, which develops advanced imaging and sensor systems for defence applications. Other players include Zuppa, which is working on real-time AI systems for drones, and Craic Precision, which focuses on AI-enabled battlefield systems and edge computing.

IAF Leads Western Theatre Command in Finalised Theaterisation Framework

The idea of the Western Theatre to be headed by an Air Force officer is that Operation Sindoor showed that Pakistan can be countered by long-range weapons with the Indian Air Force (IAF) playing a critical role besides any ground operation that may come by. However, for the northern front with China, the thought process is that it will involve bigger role for ground troops when it comes to defence, and hence the Northern Theatre would be headed by an Army officer.

Strategic Partnership Forged For Indian Manufacture of Airbus Rotorcraft

The European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) has formalised a significant collaborative agreement with India's Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).This partnership is specifically designed to facilitate the industrial production of Airbus helicopters within Indian borders.The focus of this arrangement is the manufacturing of Airbus AS350 B3 helicopters, which will be produced at the dedicated Vemagal facility located in Karnataka.

The newly signed arrangement provides a structured framework for ongoing cooperation between the two regulatory authorities. A primary function of this agreement is to support the extension of EASA's Production Organisation Approval (POA) to the Vemagal site.Beyond the immediate manufacturing goals, the agreement is intended to foster the development of a safe and efficient aviation sector within India. It serves as a foundational step for broader collaboration, aiming to align the two regions at both technical and strategic levels.

Indian Army Chief Unveils Cutting-Edge 3D Printing Hub To Fortify Self-Reliance And Battlefield Readiness

Indian Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi has commissioned a state-of-the-art Additive Manufacturing facility at the 515 Army Base Workshop. This milestone development marks a significant step forward in enhancing the Indian Army's technological prowess.

The facility promises to boost indigenisation efforts across military operations. It equips the army with advanced tools for rapid prototyping, enabling quicker development of essential components without reliance on external suppliers.Mission-critical repair capabilities receive a major upgrade through this initiative. Soldiers and technicians can now address equipment failures swiftly, minimising downtime in high-stakes environments.

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At the heart of the facility lie sophisticated technologies, including advanced 3D scanning for precise digital modelling of parts. This allows for accurate replication of complex components that might otherwise be hard to source.

Polymer printing capabilities form a key pillar of the setup. These enable the swift production of durable, lightweight parts using high-performance polymers, ideal for non-structural applications in combat gear.

Metal printing takes indigenisation to the next level. The facility supports the fabrication of robust metal components, crucial for heavy-duty military hardware like vehicle parts and weapon systems.

Pune Start-Up Astrophel Aerospace, Set For Historic Reusable Rocket Flight On 15 August 2026

Astrophel Aerospace has scheduled a suborbital test flight of its reusable rocket prototype for 15 August 2026. This mission aims to advance the development of indigenous cryogenic systems and launch vehicles through a vertical take-off and vertical landing test vehicle. The project serves as a critical step in the company's strategic roadmap towards creating a commercially viable reusable launch vehicle. The prototype vehicle is a three-metre-long hopper with a total weight of approximately 200 kg. Every stage of its development, including design, manufacturing, and assembly, is being conducted at the company's dedicated facility in Pune.This upcoming test flight is intended to act as a validation platform for the firm's proprietary propulsion technologies and in-house cryogenic subsystems.In addition to the rocket itself, the company has expanded its technical portfolio to include high-performance cryogenic control valves, turbopumps, and vacuum-insulated cryogenic tanks. They have also developed precision linear actuators, further strengthening their suite of space hardware.

Apollo Micro Systems Becomes Sole Indian Developer of Naval Limpet Mines Following Successful Blast Trials

Apollo Micro Systems Limited has achieved a significant milestone in India's maritime security sector by successfully completing blast trials for its indigenously developed Limpet Mines.These specialised explosives are designed to be carried by divers and attached to enemy vessels for naval defence operations.The company has officially confirmed that it is the only Indian entity to have successfully engineered this specific product for the Indian Navy.

The successful testing of these mines represents a strategic expansion of the company's portfolio within the underwater electronic warfare segment. This development enables the firm to provide a full spectrum of underwater mine solutions, covering shallow water and deep water environments in addition to the newly validated limpet mine category.

Indian Army issues strategic tenders to modernize AK-103 rifles with indigenous holographic sights and tactical kits under the 'Make in India' push

The Indian Army has officially floated high-stakes tenders for the comprehensive technical upgrade of its AK-103 assault rifle fleet. Deep research into the requirement reveals a focus on enhancing infantry lethality in low-light and close-quarter battle (CQB) environments. The Army is seeking 100% indigenous accessories, including high-precision holographic sights, IR lasers, and advanced sound suppressors. This move is a strategic attempt to integrate Indian MSMEs into the tactical small-arms supply chain, allowing for rapid field modifications and ensuring that frontline infantry units possess a sovereign-led edge in precision fire. By localizing these high-end optics and tactical furniture, the Army is reducing its long-term reliance on foreign proprietary hardware from the US or Europe, shoring up the 'Aatmanirbhar' infantry modernization roadmap for the next decade.

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India Seeks Indigenous Long Range Surveillance Radars with 450 km Range

The Ministry of Defence has invited Indian vendors to develop next-generation Long Range Surveillance Radars (LRSR). Radars would be used for Air Defence Surveillance. The radar should be 4D Active electronically scanning Phased Array System based on solid state T/R modules, making use of GaN technology and integrated IFF system capable of providing high quality Air Situation Picture with 360° coverage under tough environmental conditions (temparture from -40°C to +50°C and operating with steady winds upto 70 Kt)including capability of deployment at an altitude of 5000 m. Primary and secondary surveillance capability should include an ability for stare mode operation (+/- 60Deg or better). In addition to main radar, X-band radar co-located on main antenna vehicle should be included for drone detection, with the common associated/fused display. The X Band radar, though co-located on the same vehicle chassis, must be removable, if required, as well as be able to be operated/deployed independently to provide flexibility to the operator. The system may have separate RDP and separate tracking features as the ranges as well as target specifications are vastly different from LRSR. The fusion of display may take place post tracking stage for presentation in the ASP if necessary. Separate console or PIP facility may also be sought for display of X band radar picture alongside LRSR display. The system should be vehicle mounted and capable should be there for mobility in all terrains and should be air transportable. The Radar Energy System should be independent with UPS and captive power capable of high altitude operations. System should support 'Graceful Degradation' not resulting in disproportionate deterioration in overall detection capability

MDL Acquires 51% Stake in Colombo Dockyard — Sri Lanka's Largest Shipyard Becomes MDL Subsidiary

Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) completed the acquisition of a controlling 51% stake in Colombo Dockyard PLC (CDPLC), Sri Lanka's largest shipyard. Total investment is valued at USD 26.8 million. The acquisition strengthens India's regional maritime and shipbuilding footprint under its neighbourhood-first policy.

Tata Advanced Systems scales up India's border vigil with the indigenous RAJAK-ULR ultra-long-range surveillance suite

Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) has reached a critical milestone in indigenous sensor technology with the deployment-readiness of the RAJAK-ULR (Ultra Long Range) electro-optical system. Deep research highlights that this sophisticated "eye" is specifically designed for persistent monitoring of sensitive frontiers, capable of detecting human activity at 18km and vehicles up to 25km in absolute darkness. The system integrates high-definition thermal imaging, a laser rangefinder, and AI-driven motion detection to provide commanders with near-instantaneous situational awareness. By localizing this high-end electro-optics layer, India is effectively neutralizing its reliance on foreign sensor suites from Israel or Europe. This sovereign innovation is essential for the F-INSAS program, ensuring that India's border management is backed by unhackable, homegrown vision systems that maintain an absolute tactical edge in high-altitude Himalayan sectors, effectively detecting and tracking adversarial movements well before they reach terminal distances.

French major Flying Whales to establish a dedicated LCA60T airship assembly line in India to revolutionize heavy-lift logistics

French aerospace innovator Flying Whales has finalized a strategic roadmap to set up a Final Assembly Line (FAL) for its massive LCA60T airship in India. This 200-meter-long rigid airship is specifically engineered to transport up to 60 tonnes of heavy cargo without the need for runways or traditional airport infrastructure. The platform is uniquely suited for the Indian military's high-altitude logistics in the Himalayas, where traditional heavy-lift helicopters face payload constraints at extreme elevations.

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By localizing production, the project aims to bypass road transport bottlenecks for large-scale military equipment like radar units and mobile hospitals. This move positions India as a global manufacturing hub for large-scale lighter-than-air (LTA) technology, ensuring sovereign access to a resilient, low-cost logistics backbone that supports both strategic defense readiness and rapid disaster response missions.

Jayem Automotives debuts indigenous 180hp MALE UAV engine to eliminate strategic dependency on foreign aero-propulsion

Coimbatore-based Jayem Automotives has unveiled a high-performance 180hp engine specifically designed for Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE) Unmanned Aerial Vehicles at AeroDef India 2026. This development is a critical breakthrough in India's quest for aero-propulsion sovereignty, as the domestic drone sector has traditionally relied on imported engines like the Austrian Rotax. The engine is optimized for high-altitude operations and features a superior power-to-weight ratio, making it a viable candidate for powering platforms like the Tapas BH-201. By localizing this "heart" of the drone, Jayem is addressing a major capability gap in the indigenous uncrewed ecosystem. This move ensures that India's strategic surveillance assets can be manufactured and maintained entirely within a sovereign supply chain, immune to foreign export restrictions while offering a cost-effective propulsion solution for future tactical and commercial UAV programs.

SSS Defence achieves high-altitude drone tracking milestone with Varaha C-UAS to secure tactical airspace against steep-angle threats

Bangalore-based SSS Defence has reached a significant technological benchmark with its indigenous "Varaha" Counter-Unmanned Aircraft System (C-UAS). During recent field evaluations, the system demonstrated sustained localization and tracking of rogue drones at altitudes exceeding 1 km. Deep research reveals the Varaha utilizes a proprietary multi-sensor fusion logic, combining high-frequency radar with electro-optical tracking to pinpoint small, low-RCS targets in complex aerial environments. By mastering high-altitude detection, the firm addresses a critical vulnerability where traditional jammers fail to track steep-angle threats. This breakthrough enables frontline units to establish a persistent "no-fly" bubble, protecting strategic assets from loitering munitions and tactical surveillance UAVs. Localizing this logic ensures sovereign control over the air defense software, providing a battle-ready shield for high-altitude border vigil under 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' that is immune to foreign data manipulation.

Global

China preparing delivery of new air defense systems to Iran

China is preparing to deliver new air defense systems to Iran in the next few weeks, following over a month of U.S. and Israeli strikes on Iran's military and missile capabilities The planned transfer underscores Beijing's growing role as a strategic supplier in the Middle East and could significantly bolster Iran's ability to defend its critical assets against aerial attacks. For Tehran, the systems represent an urgent effort to rebuild deterrence and restore confidence after recent losses, while for Washington and Tel Aviv, they raise operational risks and complicate future strike planning. The development also signals a potential shift in regional defense dynamics, with China stepping into a space traditionally dominated by Russia, and may prompt Gulf states to accelerate their own procurement programs in response.

Raytheon Awarded $708.9M Contract for Small Diameter Bomb Increment II Production Lot 12

Raytheon Co. (Tucson, AZ) received an undefinitized contract action worth up to $708,939,863 for Small Diameter Bomb Increment II (SDB II) production Lot 12 and associated test equipment. SDB II is a precision-guided glide bomb with a tri-mode seeker, widely used by US and allied air forces.

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DARPA Awards CoVar Phase II SBIR for Predictive Psychological Architectures for Decision-Making

DARPA awarded CoVar a Direct-to-Phase II SBIR contract on April 9 for Predictive Psychological Architectures for Decision-Making (PPADM). The program aims to develop AI systems that predict human decision-making under stress — with applications for national security, military command, and battlefield decision support.

Greece Selects PULS as 6th European Country to Choose the System; Europe's Artillery Arms Race Continues

Greece's selection of the PULS multiple-launch rocket system makes it the sixth European nation to adopt the platform, reflecting the continent's rapid military build-up. Sweden has also announced plans to purchase HIMARS, while Norway has selected the Chunmoo artillery system — reflecting a pan-European push to boost long-range fires capability.

DARPA Launches MATHBAC Program — Mathematical Frameworks for AI Agent Communication

DARPA launched the MATHBAC program (Phase I awards capped at $2M, proposals due June 16). The 34-month program seeks rigorous mathematical frameworks for communication between AI agents to accelerate scientific discovery for national defense. Separately, DARPA's CLARA solicitation (proposals due Apr 10) targets high-assurance AI integrating ML with automated reasoning.

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