



source: penn state

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LAND AND SEA

The launch of the ammunition cum torpedo cum missile barge took place on January 24, 2024. The contract for building these barges was signed between the ministry of defense and *Suryadipta* projects private limited on March 5, 2021. The indigenously designed and built barges will enhance the operational capabilities of the Indian Navy.

Source: [Press Information Bureau](#)

The Indian defense materials and stores research and development establishment achieves a significant milestone in self-reliance by developing indigenous fuel for the *Brahmos* supersonic cruise missile. The fuel, designed for the missile's liquid Ramjet engine, is currently undergoing testing.

Source: [DRDO](#)

Teledyne FLIR Defense unveils the "thermosight," a new long-range thermal sniper sight, at the SHOT show in Las Vegas. The lightweight and high-performance thermal weapon sight enables precision shooters to detect, identify, and engage targets accurately at distances exceeding 2,200 meters.

Source: [Teledyne FLIR](#)

SOFTWARE, SYSTEMS, AND CYBER

PrmisAI, a provider of artificial intelligence-driven hardware design automation, unveils the enhanced version of its tool, RapidGPT. The tool empowers the engineers to interact with their design and the entire electronic design automation ecosystem.

Source: [Business Wire](#)

Leonardo DRS launches the Stretto family of high-precision lasers this week, marking a next-generation system with unparalleled performance across the visible, near-infrared, and ultraviolet spectrum. The technology aims to be advantageous for quantum information science.

Source: [Leonardo DRS](#)

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SOFTWARE, SYSTEMS, AND CYBER

India achieves a significant milestone in the national quantum mission (NQM) with the calls for pre-proposals to set up thematic hubs. NQM was approved by the union cabinet on April 19, 2023, and is currently being implemented by the department of science and technology. The mission seeks to foster and expand scientific and industrial research and development in quantum technology, establishing a dynamic and innovative ecosystem.

Source: [Press Information Bureau](#)

SPACE AND AEROSPACE

NewSpace India Limited and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) jointly organized a stakeholders' conference in Bengaluru to explore partnership options with the Indian industry for the manufacturing of ISRO's heaviest launcher, launch vehicle mark 3 (LVM3).

Source: [The Hindu](#)

National Aeronautical Space Administration's (NASA) spacecraft, equipped with a laser instrument orbiting the moon, successfully communicated with India's *Chandrayan-3* mission's *Vikram* lander. NASA reported the successful emission and reflection of a laser beam between the lunar reconnaissance orbiter and a device on the *Vikram* lander, approximately the size of an oreo.

Source: [DRDO](#)

BUSINESS UPDATES

Laser Photonics, a leading maker of cleantech laser systems, secures an order from *Karavan* Trailers for its cleantech LPC-1500-CTHD laser cleaning system.

Source: [Laser Photonics](#)

Booz Allen Hamilton's corporate venture capital arm, Booz Allen Ventures, invests in Albedo, the pioneer in operating satellites in very low earth orbit. The investment supports Albedo's deployment of operational constellations and aligns with Booz Allen's commitment to enhancing U.S. space capabilities through data.

Source: [Albedo](#)

GOVERNMENT UPDATES

The assistant secretary of state for South and Central Asian affairs, Donald Lu, visited India on January 26, 2024. The secretary led a U.S. delegation at the India-U.S. forum in New Delhi, joined by assistant secretary of state for energy resources Geoffrey R. Pyatt. The delegation engaged with Indian government officials, academia, media, and private sector representatives to bolster opportunities between the United States and India.

Source: [U.S. Department of State](#)

The under-secretary of state for economic growth, Jose W. Fernandez, met with the Prime Minister of Vietnam, Pham Minh Chinh, on January 25, 2024. During the meeting, the undersecretary reiterated the United States' commitment as a long-term partner and expressed support for the rapid development of Vietnam's semiconductor ecosystem as part of the U.S.-Vietnam comprehensive strategic partnership.

Source: [U.S. Department of State](#)

The eleventh India-Kyrgyzstan joint special forces exercise, named *KHANJAR*, starts in Himachal Pradesh. The exercise will take place from January 22 to February 3, 2024, to share experiences and best practices in counterterrorism and special forces operations in mountainous terrain, following chapter VII of the United Nations charter.

Source: [Press Information Bureau](#)

On January 23, Belgium joined the Artemis Accords, becoming the thirty-fourth country to do so. The United States and Belgium, being close partners and NATO Allies, collaborate on NASA - led Artemis missions through Belgium's membership in the European Space Agency.

Source: [U.S. Department of State](#)

The Indian Army contingent of twenty-five personnel has arrived in Egypt to participate in the second edition of the India-Egypt joint special forces exercise, CYCLONE. The exercise is scheduled to take place in Egypt, from January 22 to February 1, 2024.

Source: [Press Information Bureau](#)

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GOVERNMENT UPDATES

The deputy secretary of defense Dr. Kathleen Hicks hosted the winter meeting of the defense innovation board at the Pentagon. The board members recommended the modernization of security processes, standardization of contract bidding practices, utilization of dual-use technology, and centralization of enterprise licensing.

Source: [U.S. Department of Defense](#)

Senior defense officials from the U.S., Australia, Canada, the UK, and New Zealand gathered in Singapore this week. The senior officials emphasized significance of air and maritime operational safety in the Indo-Pacific region and reaffirmed the commitment to collaborate efforts for collective resilience in both partner nations and the broader Indo-Pacific region.

Source: [U.S. Department of Defense](#)

The Indian Air Force (IAF) conducted exercise 'Desert Knight' with the French Air and Space Force (FASF) and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Air Force on January 23, 2024. The exercise involved French *Rafale* fighter aircraft, a multi-role tanker transport, and UAE Air Force's F-16, operating from the Al Dhafra air base in the UAE. The IAF contingent included Su-30 MKI, MiG-29, Jaguar, AWACS, C-130-J, and air to air refueler aircraft. The exercise took place over the Arabian sea, focusing on enhancing synergy and interoperability among the three air forces.

Source: [Press Information Bureau](#)

TENDERS AND REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The U.S. Space Force selects Lockheed Martin and Boeing to design satellite prototypes for its 'mobile user objective system program,' offering secure narrowband communication for military operators. Each company has been awarded a \$66 million contract.

Source: [Defense News](#)

The U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) awards two contracts worth \$49 million to Micross Components and the government of Osceola County to enhance advanced packaging capabilities for semiconductors in defense applications. The awards, granted through the industrial base analysis and sustainment program, aligns with the DoD's 're-shore ecosystem for secure heterogenous advanced packaged electronics' initiative.

Source: [U.S. Department of Defense](#)

TENDERS AND REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The U.S. Navy grants an advanced planning contract to Huntington Ingalls Industries (HII) for the refueling and complex overhaul of the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS Harry S. Truman. The contract, with a total potential value of \$913 million, has been awarded to HII's Newport news shipbuilding division.

Source: [HII](#)

The U.S. Air Force awards *Kratos* Space and Missile Defense Systems a multi-award contract to provide suborbital launch services and the required launch support services to fulfil the suborbital mission objectives of the rocket systems launch program.

Source: [U.S. Department of Defense](#)

The U.S. Army seeks industry input on the best ways to procure a second interceptor for its indirect fire protection capability (IFPC), focusing on countering cruise missile threats. The IFPC Increment 2 system aims to safeguard fixed and semi-fixed sites from rockets, artillery, mortars, cruise missiles, and drones.

Source: [Defense News](#)

The U.S. Army awards Raytheon a \$154 million contract to supply commander's independent viewer (CIV) system. The CIV employs electro-optical and infrared technology, featuring second- generation forward-looking infrared cameras and sensors. The system enhances the Bradley fighting vehicles' battlefield awareness and targeting capabilities.

Source: [RTX](#)

The U.S. Air Force research laboratory, AFWERX, selects Qrypt, a quantum-secure encryption company, for a small business technology transfer contract to address key challenges in the department of air force. Qrypt's encryption solution, designed to be quantum-secure, addresses the immediate threat of "harvest now, decrypt later" attacks by eliminating key transmission.

Source: [Qrypt](#)

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About Us



IndUS Tech Council (IndUS Tech) is a Washington D.C. and New Delhi-based organization focused on accelerating U.S.-India technology collaboration, innovation, and investments. IndUS Tech's mission is to position the U.S.-India technology ecosystem for global innovation through thought leadership, policy advocacy, and facilitating collaborative partnerships between the two nations' private sectors.

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