



Source: [Lockheed Martin](#)

# DOT Weekly

**NEWSLETTER MAY 11 – MAY 17, 2024**

**VOL: 2 ISSUE: 21**

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## LAND AND SEA

The Indian government is ramping up border infrastructure near China by sanctioning the construction of 113 roads in Uttarakhand, Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh.

**Source:** [The Hindu](#)

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Lieutenant general D.S. Rana, director general of the defence intelligence agency of India, is on an official visit to the United Republic of Tanzania from May 13 to 15, 2024. The visit aims to solidify existing defense ties between the two nations and explore avenues for collaboration on regional security matters.

**Source:** [Press Information Bureau](#)

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Rear admiral Rajesh Dhankhar leads Indian naval vessels Delhi and Shakti on a port call to Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia, as part of an operational deployment.

**Source:** [Press Information Bureau](#)

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The Indian Navy's eastern fleet deploys the INS Kiltan on a port visit to Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam on May 12, 2024.

**Source:** [Press Information Bureau](#)

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The House Armed Services Committee challenges the U.S. Navy's plan to buy just one Virginia-class submarine in fiscal year 2025. The committee added \$1 billion to partially fund a second submarine, with plans to secure more money in future years. The move aims to keep the Virginia-class sub supply chain strong and meet Australia's request for submarines under the AUKUS agreement.

**Source:** [Defense News](#)

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India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), is teaming up with Indian industry to equip Dornier-228 aircraft with a new high-resolution radar system. The radars will provide real-time intelligence for day and night surveillance missions, and can be used to guide weapons deployment.

**Source:** [Tribune India](#)

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The sixteenth Indian Navy-Australian Navy staff talks wrap up in Kochi, India. The discussions centered on bolstering cooperation between the two navies in domains like maritime operations and information sharing. In a separate initiative, India dispatched the INS Kiltan on a visit to Vietnam.

**Source:** [Business Standard](#)

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In a major advancement for emergency response, the Indian Air Force successfully tests a new portable hospital system called BHISHM. Designed for swift deployment in disaster zones, these air droppable units can be assembled in just twelve minutes and are capable of treating up to 200 casualties.

**Source:** [Economic Times](#)

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India's armored vehicle manufacturer, AVNL, unveils the next-generation T-90 Mark III tanks during a virtual ceremony.

**Source:** [Sputnik News](#)

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In a boost for India's "Make in India" initiative, the Indian Army inducts a new weapon called the Sirin Hexadrone. The hexacopter drone, developed by Ikran Aerospace, is equipped with a machine gun and designed to enhance soldier safety and national security.

**Source:** [ANI News](#)

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The U.S. Department of Defense launches the regional sustainment framework, a global network designed to streamline weapon system maintenance and repair near active combat zones.

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

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The Indian Army deploys a force of over 500 tanks and combat vehicles in Eastern Ladakh. To ensure these machines are operational in the harsh environment, the army is actively building two high-altitude repair facilities.

**Source:** [Defence.in](#)

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North Korea fires short-range ballistic missiles into the sea, hours after denying weapons sales to Russia. The event follows joint U.S.-South Korea military drills and comes amid a series of North Korean tests, including a possible satellite launch preparation.

**Source:** [Japan Times](#)

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The U.S. Central Command forces launched Exercise Eager Lion 2024 alongside host country Jordan and over 30 other partner nations.

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

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The Indian Air Force expects to receive its first Tejas Mark 1A fighter jet as early as July this year. Developed by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited under the "Made in India" initiative, the aircraft was initially slated for a February-March delivery but experienced minor technical delays.

**Source:** [Defence.in](#)

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Spain refuses a port call to a Danish-flagged merchant vessel carrying "27 tonnes of explosive material from India to Israel," stating that the Middle East "requires peace and not more weapons."

**Source:** [Defence.in](https://defence.in)

The Indian Navy hosted the second trilateral maritime security workshop at INS Dronacharya, Kochi, India, from May 15 to May 17, 2024. The workshop included information exchange mechanisms and capabilities of the IFC-IOR, maritime domain awareness, non-traditional and illicit maritime activities, maritime law enforcement, initiatives for capability enhancement and capacity building, and avenues to strengthen interoperability and cooperation.

**Source:** [Press Information Bureau](https://pressinformationbureau.in)

## SOFTWARE, SYSTEMS, AND CYBER

The Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay hosted the fourth technology innovation in cyber-physical systems workshop on May 13, 2024. The biannual event convenes key stakeholders from government, startups, investors, academia, and industry leaders to foster collaboration, spark idea exchange, and showcase cutting-edge advancements in cyber-physical systems.

**Source:** [Press Information Bureau](https://pressinformationbureau.in)

The Department of Telecommunications announces the participants for stage 1 of their "Sangam" initiative. Launched in February 2024, the initiative attracted a diverse group of 114 participants, including industry leaders, startups, and academic institutions, bringing expertise in unified data platforms, advanced artificial intelligence modeling, immersive augmented and virtual reality applications, and sophisticated scenario planning.

**Source:** [Press Information Bureau](https://pressinformationbureau.in)

In a collaborative effort, the National Telecommunications Institute for Policy Research, the Department of Telecommunications, and the International Telecommunication Union hosted a two-day workshop in Ghaziabad on May 15 and 16, 2024. Titled "Bridging the Standardization Gap," the workshop emphasized the importance of working together to set standards in information and communication technologies.

**Source:** [Press Information Bureau](https://pressinformationbureau.in)

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## SPACE AND AEROSPACE

The House Armed Services Committee is asking the Space Force to address growing congestion at U.S. launch facilities – Cape Canaveral and Vandenberg Space Force Bases – caused by a surge in launches.

**Source:** [Defense News](#)

The India Space Congress, a premier event focused on space exploration, is set to convene from June 26 to 28, 2024. Over 800 attendees from more than 30 countries are anticipated.

**Source:** [Indian Express](#)

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is gearing up to launch the NISAR satellite, a joint project with NASA, that holds the potential to deepen the understanding of tectonic plate movements. The data will be used to improve the comprehension of geological processes, predict earthquakes with greater accuracy, and mitigate the risks associated with them.

**Source:** [Defence.in](#)

On May 13, 2024, the U.S.-Nigeria Air Transport Agreement officially entered into force. This bilateral agreement establishes a modern civil aviation relationship with Nigeria, aligning with U.S. Open Skies international aviation policy and committing to high standards of aviation safety and security. The agreement provides for unrestricted capacity and frequency of services, open route rights, a liberal charter regime, and open code-sharing opportunities.

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

On May 15, Lithuania became the fortieth signatory to the Artemis Accords during a ceremony held in Vilnius. Minister of economy and innovation Aušrinė Armonaitė signed the Accords for Lithuania, with the U.S. Ambassador Kara C. McDonald witnessing the event.

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

NASA and the European Space Agency (ESA) sign an agreement to expand NASA's involvement in the ExoMars Rosalind Franklin rover, an ESA-led mission set to launch in 2028 to search for signs of ancient life on Mars. NASA's launch services program will procure a U.S. commercial launch provider for the Rosalind Franklin rover.

**Source:** [NASA](#)

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## BUSINESS UPDATES

China bounces back to become India's biggest trading partner, overtaking the United States after a two-year reign.

**Source:** [LiveMint](#)

From May 20 to May 24, the special representative for global partnerships, Dorothy McAuliffe, and science and technology adviser to the secretary of state Patricia Gruber will lead a "Deep Tech Inclusion" partnership opportunity delegation to London, United Kingdom.

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

## GOVERNMENT UPDATES

In a move to counter the growing threat of hypersonic missiles, the United States and Japan sign a collaborative agreement to develop a hypersonic missile defense system. The United States will take the lead in development, while Japan will contribute its expertise by creating the propulsion system. Full completion is expected by the mid-2030s, the U.S. Congress has pressed for an initial operational capability by 2029, highlighting the urgency of the project.

**Source:** [Defense News](#)

The House Armed Services Committee proposes a \$883.7 billion defense policy bill, exceeding spending caps by one percent.

**Source:** [Defense News](#)

The House Armed Services Committee asks the Pentagon to create a test and evaluation center within the Defense Innovation Unit (DIU). The pilot program will focus on validating promising commercial technologies and getting them into service faster. The proposal is part of a broader effort to give DIU a bigger role in acquiring new tech for the military. The committee recently approved a significant budget increase for DIU and proposed expanding its scientific staff from 5 to 35 members.

**Source:** [Defense News](#)

The House Armed Services Committee is recommending a reduction from 68 to 48 F-35s.

**Source:** [Defense News](#)

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On May 16, 2024, Chinese President Xi Jinping held a meeting with his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin, who was on a state visit to China.

**Source:** [Foreign Ministry of China](#)

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A U.S. official announced on Thursday that U.S. defense secretary Lloyd Austin plans to meet with China's defense minister at a conference in Singapore later this month. The encounter would mark the first significant in-person meeting between U.S. and Chinese defense leaders in two years, although secretary Austin and Chinese defense minister Dong Jun spoke during a phone conversation last month.

**Source:** [Financial Times](#)

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The United States imposes sanctions on five Russia-based individuals and entities. These individuals and entities were involved in transferring military equipment between North Korea and Russia which is a violation of the UN arms embargo on North Korea.

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

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India and Mongolia's Defence Ministries hold the twelfth joint working group (JWG) meeting in Ulaanbaatar on May 16-17, 2024.

**Source:** [Press Information Bureau](#)

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Secretary of defense Lloyd J. Austin III spoke with Israel's minister of defense Yoav Gallant to discuss increasing humanitarian assistance to Palestinian civilians in Gaza, including through the Kerem Shalom and Rafah crossings.

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

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The fifty-first U.S.-Portugal standing bilateral commission explores expanding economic and trade relations, enhancing cooperation in science and technology, particularly in renewable energy and space exploration, and addressing climate change through joint policies and sustainable development.

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

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## TENDERS AND REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The U.S. Army awards Lockheed Martin with a \$451-million contract to upgrade its M270 multiple launch rocket system (MLRS). Lockheed's MLRS overhaul will include new engines, improved armor cabs, and the common fire control system, which is compatible with current and future MLRS munitions. The upgrade will be performed for both domestic and international launchers.

**Source:** [The Defense Post](#)

Curtiss-Wright Corporation announces it has secured contracts valued in excess of \$250 million to provide propulsion valves, pumps, and advanced instrumentation and control systems for the U.S. Navy's Virginia-class nuclear-powered attack submarine, Columbia-class submarine, and Ford-class aircraft carrier programs.

**Source:** [Defence Industries](#)

The Department of Defense awards Lockheed Martin Space a \$756 million modification contract for long range hypersonic weapon ground support equipment.

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

The Department of Defense awards BAE Systems Land & Armaments a \$57 million modification contract for producing and delivering M109A7 self-propelled howitzers and M992A3 carrier ammunition tracker ground combat vehicles.

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



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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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