

DOT Weekly

NEWSLETTER: MARCH 15 – MARCH 21, 2025 | VOL: 3 | ISSUE: 11

LAND AND SEA

Project *Convergence Capstone 5*, the U.S. Army's modernization experiment, is scheduled for March and April this year. The experiment will test next-generation warfare technologies across the National Training Center and the Indo-Pacific.

Source: [U.S. Army](#)

On March 20, 2025, exercise *Sea Dragon* concluded in Guam, marking two weeks of intensive anti-submarine warfare training between the Royal Australian Air Force, the Indian Navy, the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force, the Republic of Korea Navy, and the U.S. Navy.

Source: [U.S. Indo-Pacific Command X](#)

On March 18, 2025, the Indian Navy and the Indian Coast Guard held the *NAV GUARD* meeting at the Indian Coast Guard Headquarters in New Delhi, focusing on operations and enhancing maritime security.

Source: [Indian Coast Guard](#)

On March 19, 2025, India's defence secretary Rajesh Kumar Sing, addressed the fourteenth ASEAN Defense Ministers meeting plus experts working group on counterterrorism in New Delhi.

Source: [PIB](#)

Indian Army deploys Mahindra Defence Systems Limited's 4x4 vehicle-mounted infantry mortar systems near the line of actual control in Sikkim, enhancing rapid-fire support capabilities.

Source: [Trishakticrops X](#)

Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers conducted contractor sea trials for *Himgiri*, an advanced frigate under *Project 17A*, and *Androth*, an anti-submarine warfare shallow watercraft, on March 3, 2025, marking a key step toward their induction into the Indian Navy.

Source: [PIB](#)

Indian Coast Guard opens ships for visitors in Chennai.

Source: [Indian Coast Guard X](#)

On March 17, 2025, vice admiral Justin Jones, chief of joint operations, Australian Army, met the Indian Army's chief, general Upendra Dwivedi, to discuss mutual interests and enhance defense cooperation.

Source: [Indian Army X](#)

On March 18, 2023, U.S. Central Command forces continued strikes against Iran-backed Houthi terrorists, maintaining pressure in response to regional threats.

Source: [U.S. Central Command X](#)

India and France conduct exercise *VARUNA 2025* between March 19 and March 22, 2025, enhancing naval interoperability with joint carrier operations, air

combat drills, and anti-submarine warfare exercises.

Source: [PIB](#)

SOFTWARE, SYSTEMS, AND CYBER

Tonbo Imaging launches *Spartan-R*, an ultra-lightweight, high-performance thermal imaging sight with Android tactical assault kit integration, advanced targeting precision, and multi-mission versatility.

Source: [TonboImaging X](#)

Oracle Corporation partners with Singapore's Defence Science and Technology Agency to provide an air-gapped cloud solution for Singapore's Ministry of Defence.

Source: [Oracle](#)

SPACE AND AEROSPACE

On March 16, 2025, at 1204 hours Eastern Time, SpaceX's *Dragon* spacecraft autonomously docked with the International Space Station. Launched on March 14 aboard Falcon 9 from National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Kennedy Space Center, Crew-10 will conduct research to advance space exploration and benefit life on Earth.

Source: [SpaceX](#)

On March 16, 2025, the Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) chairman V. Narayanan said the Indian government has approved the Chandrayaan-5 mission to study the Moon, which will be undertaken jointly with Japan.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

On March 15, 2025, United States Northern Command deployed the *Arleigh* Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS *Gravelly* for drug interdiction and border security.

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

On March 17, 2025, U.S. and South Korean troops conducted joint air assault drills in Paju as part of the *Freedom Shield* 2025 exercise.

Source: [U.S. Army Pacific X](#)

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and Drone Federation India launched a national innovation challenge for drone application and research or *NIDAR*, under the capacity building for human resource development in unmanned aircraft systems or *SwaYaan* initiative to promote drone technology in disaster management and precision agriculture.

Source: [PIB](#)

Dr. G. Satheesh Reddy, former Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) chairman, has been appointed as an honorary advisor to the Andhra Pradesh government with a cabinet rank.

Source: [ANI X](#)

DRDO's Jodhpur Labs is leading the development of an advanced airborne coating system to enhance the stealth and durability of aircraft.

Source: [idrw](#)

BUSINESS UPDATES

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited will roll out its first light combat aircraft *Mk1A* from its Nashik facility by April 2025, increasing annual production capacity from 16 to 24 units.

Source: [Times of India](#)

Vivek Lall, chief executive officer of General Atomics, in an interview with BharatShakti editor-in-chief Nitin A. Gokhale, revealed that 21 out of 31 *MQ-9B predator* unmanned aerial vehicles ordered by India will be assembled domestically.

Source: [Bharat Shakti](#)

Infosys, in partnership with GalaxEye and another undisclosed firm, is among six private teams shortlisted by IN-SPACe for a \$173.23 million satellite constellation project, marking its foray into India's space technology sector.

Source: [The Hindu Business Line](#)

GOVERNMENT UPDATES

On March 14, 2025, the U.S. Senate confirmed Stephen A. Feinberg as the thirty-sixth deputy defense secretary in a 59-40 vote.

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

The Department of Defense's deferred resignation program saw 21,000 civilian employees volunteer for resignation with full pay and benefits as part of a five to eight percent workforce reduction. The Pentagon has also imposed a hiring freeze and plans to remove 5,400 underperforming probationary employees.

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

On March 17, 2025, national security advisor Ajit Doval and defence minister Rajnath Singh held bilateral talks with U.S. director of national intelligence Tulsi Gabbard in New Delhi.

Source: [NDTV](#) / [PIB](#)

On March 17, 2025, the U.S.-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) hosted a high-level discussion on U.S.-India critical and emerging technology and technology resilience and ubiquitous security (TRUST). Key U.S. officials, including Admiral Samuel Paparo and Ricky Gill, joined Indian counterparts to discuss deepening defense cooperation in artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and emerging technologies.

Source: [U.S.-India Strategic Partnership Forum](#)

The tenth Raisina Dialogue took place between March 17 and March 19, 2025. The event was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, with New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon as chief guest, and featured key U.S. representatives like Tulsi Gabbard, Ricky Gill, and Bonnie Glick, alongside other government and think tank leaders, highlighting global discussions on geopolitics, trade, and emerging technologies.

Source: [ORF](#)

India and Malaysia will co-chair the fourteenth ASEAN defense ministers' meeting-plus experts working group on counterterrorism in New Delhi on March 19 and March 20, 2025, focusing on a comprehensive strategy against evolving threats.

Source: [PIB](#)

On March 17, 2025, India and Australia held the ninth defense policy talks in New Delhi, focusing on maritime security, defense industry collaboration, and regional stability in the Indo-Pacific.

Source: [PIB](#)

India negotiated a \$4.65 billion reduction from France and Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited on the three additional *Scorpene*-class submarines, bringing the final cost to \$4.19 billion.

Source: [Defence Monitor](#)

New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi sign an India-New Zealand memorandum of understanding for defense cooperation.

Source: [PIB \(Joint Statement\)](#)

India's Cabinet Committee on Security approves a \$808 million deal for 307 advanced towed artillery gun systems.

Source: [PIB](#)

India's Defence Acquisition Council approves capital acquisition proposals worth over \$6.24 billion to enhance India's defense capabilities.

Source: [PIB](#)

The Pentagon is cutting \$580 million in wasteful spending, including contracts, grants, and delayed programs, to prioritize efficiency and defense readiness.

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

TENDERS AND REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

India's Cabinet Committee on Security cleared the procurement of the advanced towed artillery gun system, developed by DRDO with Bharat Forge and Tata Advanced Systems.

Source: [The Economics Times](#)

On March 19, 2025, the European Commission released the European Defence White Paper, outlining a strategic roadmap to strengthen military capabilities, boost defense investments, and reduce reliance on the United States.

Source: [European Commission White Paper](#)

Symmetry Energy Solutions LLC (\$36.17 million) and four other companies secure contracts totaling \$113.2 million from the Defense Logistics Agency Energy to supply pipeline-quality direct natural gas across multiple states for the Army, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Federal Agencies until May 31, 2027.

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

Sunshine Aero Industries Inc. receives a \$30.1 million contract from the U.S. Air Force for flight test support services across multiple bases, supporting research, development, and operational testing until March 18, 2030.

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

Heil Trailer wins \$588.6 million in Army contracts for the tactical fuel distribution system, set for completion by 2030.

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

Raytheon is awarded a \$100 million Air Force deal for *HC-130J* electro-optical/infrared system retrofitting and repairs, running until 2035.

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

Lockheed Martin secures an award worth \$10.2 million for Global Positioning System III mission ten launch and on-orbit checkout, with completion expected in 2026.

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

Raytheon secures a \$141 million contract to procure standard missile-2 production spares under foreign military sales.

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

Aery Aviation wins an award of \$52.6 million for electronic warfare jet training services for naval fleet defense, running until 2027.

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

Northrop Grumman secures an award worth \$33.6 million contract for *E-2D* advanced Hawkeye transition efforts from production to sustainment.

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

Collins Aerospace, an RTX Business, secures an \$80 million contract to upgrade the avionics system of U.S. Army Black Hawk helicopters under the *H-60M* modular open systems approach avionics architecture solution program.

Source: [RTX](#)

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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