



Source: [Northrop Grumman](#)

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LAND AND SEA

The Defence Research and Development Organisation successfully tested the new generation *AKASH (AKASH-NG)* missile on January 12, 2024, at the integrated test range in Odisha. The missile system, equipped with indigenously developed systems, demonstrated its effectiveness by intercepting and destroying the target during the test flight.

Source: [Press Information Bureau](#)

Northrop Grumman Corporation conducted a successful live test of a sentinel intercontinental ballistic missile stage-two solid rocket motor at a U.S. Air Force complex. The test took place in a vacuum chamber, replicating real-world environmental conditions experienced by the solid rocket motor.

Source: [Northrop Grumman](#)

SOFTWARE, SYSTEMS, AND CYBER

The Indian Army developed a self-reliant mobile system, called the secure army mobile Bharat version or *SAMBHAV*. The end-to-end secure mobile ecosystem, developed domestically, ensures safe communication with instant connectivity on the move.

Source: [DRDO](#)

OpenAI, the creator of ChatGPT, collaborates with the U.S. military on various projects, including the development of open-source cybersecurity software and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency's artificial intelligence cyber challenge.

Source: [Bloomberg](#)

SPACE AND AEROSPACE

NASA's commercial lunar delivery service concludes its first flight. After spending ten days and thirteen hours in space, Astrobotic's "peregrine mission one" safely re-entered Earth over the South Pacific on January 18, 2024. The initiative is a part of NASA's Artemis campaign, focusing on advancing capabilities for lunar science, exploration, and commercial development.

Source: [NASA](#)

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SPACE AND AEROSPACE

Japan's SLIM "moon sniper" spacecraft successfully landed on the moon, marking the country as the fifth to achieve a robotic lunar landing.

Source: [Reuters](#)

On January 18, SpaceX launched Axiom Space's third private astronaut mission, sending a former NASA astronaut and three European government astronauts to the International Space Station (ISS). Axiom Space is using these missions to gain experience in spaceflight operations and prepare for installing commercial modules on the ISS.

Source: [NASA](#)

BUSINESS UPDATES

Arcline Investment Management, a private equity firm focused on technology-driven industrial businesses, acquires aviation firm Kaman in an all-cash transaction valued at \$1.8 billion.

Source: [Kaman](#)

AT&T, Google, and Vodafone invest \$155 million in a satellite firm, AST Space Mobile. The company is developing a space-based cellular broadband network that can be directly accessed with smartphones. The company operates in BlueWalker 3 satellite orbit, touted as the largest commercial communications array in low-Earth orbit.

Source: [Indian Express](#)

RTC Aerospace, a manufacturer of high-precision components for commercial and military aircraft, acquires Vanderhorst Brothers Industries (VBI).

Source: [Business Wire](#)

Northrop Grumman and Mitsubishi Electric Corporation entered into a teaming agreement to work together on integrated air and missile defense capabilities designed for Japan's ground-based systems.

Source: [Northrop Grumman](#)

Airbus signs contracts with Tata Advanced Systems Ltd. (TASL) and Mahindra Aerospace Structures Pvt. Ltd. to acquire commercial aircraft components. TASL and Mahindra Aerostructures will produce metallic detail parts, components, and assemblies for Airbus' A320neo, A330neo, and A350 programs under the contract.

Source: [Airbus](#)

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BUSINESS UPDATES

Airbus Helicopters acquires Aerovel, including its unmanned aerial system (UAS) called the flexrotor. The move is part of Airbus Helicopters' strategy to enhance its line-up of tactical unmanned solutions. Flexrotor is a compact UAS designed for "intelligence, surveillance, target acquisition, and reconnaissance missions" both at sea and on land.

Source: [Airbus](#)

GOVERNMENT UPDATES

The U.S. secretary of defense Lloyd J. Austin III conducted a call with Swedish defense minister Pål Jonson this week, addressing topics like Sweden's NATO accession, backing for Ukraine, and the Middle East crisis. The two officials affirmed their commitment to Sweden joining NATO and highlighted the significance of the U.S.- Sweden defense cooperation agreement signed in December to strengthen their defense ties.

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

The first-ever joint maritime exercise between the Indian Navy (IN) and Royal Thai Navy took place from December 20 to 23, 2023. The thirty-sixth edition of the Indian-Thailand coordinated patrol was also conducted concurrently with the maiden bilateral exercise.

Source: [Press Information Bureau](#)

This week, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a phone conversation with the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin.

Source: [Narendra Modi](#)

Next week, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) will begin its largest military exercises in decades, involving approximately ninety thousand personnel. The drills, known as Steadfast Defender 24, aim to demonstrate NATO's capability to defend its territory up to the border with Russia.

Source: [Defense News](#)

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GOVERNMENT UPDATES

NATO unveils its first quantum strategy to ensure NATO is "quantum ready." The strategy, outlined on January 17, 2024, highlights quantum applications in defense and security, including, imaging, sensing, and data communication enhancement through quantum-resistant cryptography.

Source: [NATO](#)

The Arctic senior leader dialogue took place on January 18, 2024, facilitated by the Department of Defense. The event convened senior interagency leaders to help guide decisions related to investments in Arctic capabilities.

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

This week, acting under-secretary of defense for policy Sasha Baker met with Australia's secretary of defense Greg Moriarty at the Pentagon. The officials discussed strengthening defense and security cooperation between the United States and Australia, emphasizing collaboration in defense technology, force posture, and the AUKUS partnership with the UK.

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

On January 18, 2024, Japan's Ministry of Defense signed a letter of offer and acceptance with the U.S. government for the procurement of *Tomahawk* cruise missiles and associated equipment through a foreign military sales agreement.

Source: [USNI News](#)

TENDERS AND REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The U.S. Army awards Allison Transmission, the manufacturer of defense and commercial vehicles, an \$83.3 million contract. The contract involves supplying enhanced and new X1100 transmissions to bolster Abrams main battle tank variations used by both the U.S. Army and customers engaged in foreign military sales.

Source: [Allison Transmission](#)

The U.S. Air Force grants QuSecure, a post-quantum cryptography company, a contract to safeguard encrypted communications and data from quantum threats, employing quantum-resistant channels for enhanced security.

Source: [QuSecure](#)

The U.S. space development agency awards Lockheed Martin a contract to manufacture eighteen space vehicles for the "tranche 2 tracking layer constellation." The layer aims to enhance capabilities for persistent indications, warning, tracking, detection, and identification of both advanced and conventional missile threats, including hypersonic missile systems.

Source: [Lockheed Martin](#)

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TENDERS AND REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Department of Defense awards an other transaction agreement to Advanced Technology International to oversee the defense industrial base consortium (DIBC) as the consortium manager. The agreement facilitates quick research and provides access to commercial solutions for defense needs and innovations.

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

The Space Development Agency awarded Sierra Space, a commercial space company, a contract worth \$740 million for eighteen satellites focused on missile warning and tracking. The contract was awarded through an other transaction authority.

Source: [Sierra Space](#)

The Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) provides CACI International a task order to supply technology for the agency's chief information officer office. The task order, known as enterprise communications services, is granted under DIA's solution for the Information Technology Enterprise III contract.

Source: [CACI](#)

The U.S. Army awards Amentum a \$946 million contract to provide system modernization and maintenance solutions for the army's fleet of fixed-wing transport aircraft.

Source: [Amentum](#)

The Department of Defense (DoD) awards Northrop Grumman the "maritime targeting cell – expeditionary (MTC-X) contract" to advance mobile ground station technology for frontline operations. The MTC-X prototype system supports the DoD's joint all-domain command and control mission by providing crucial multi-domain data to units and individual warfighters.

Source: [Northrop Grumman](#)

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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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