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LAND AND SEA

The Indian Armed Forces organized *Parivartan Chintan 2* on May 9 and May 10, 2024. The conference aims to discuss and strategize reforms to create a more integrated and efficient Indian military through joint operations.

Source: [PIB](#)

On May 10, 2024, vice admiral Sanjay Bhalla, a seasoned officer with 35 years of distinguished service, took the helm as Indian Navy's chief of personnel. Commissioned in 1989, his career encompasses a diverse range of roles, from technical specializations to commanding frontline warships and overseeing crucial operations.

Source: [PIB](#)

SOFTWARE, SYSTEMS, AND CYBER

U.S. Special Operations Command presents a comprehensive overview of ongoing projects during the Special Operations Forces Week conference, including the integrated visual augmentation system (IVAS). The \$22 billion program has been under development since 2019 and is expected to see the final testing phase of its helmet-mounted device later this year. The IVAS device integrates thermal imaging, night vision, and augmented reality functionalities.

Source: [c4isrnet](#)

India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) announces a successful test of a new liquid ramjet fuel on May 8, 2024. The fuel, developed by one of DRDO's labs, is specifically designed for advanced air-breathing engines. The achievement paves way for next-generation propulsion systems in collaboration with industry partners Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited and Mineral Oil Cooperation.

Source: [ANI News](#)

India's DRDO organizes the eighth Technology Council Meeting in New Delhi on May 9, 2024. The summit provides a platform to assess the integration of DRDO's advanced solutions into the arsenals of various security forces. Representatives from central armed police forces, police departments, and the national disaster response force actively participated, both physically and virtually from DRDO labs across the nation.

Source: [PIB](#)

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SPACE AND AEROSPACE

The U.S. National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) is building a central hub joint mission management center to combine space intelligence from the military, intelligence agencies, allied, and other sources to improve collaboration and decision-making.

Source: [Defense News](#)

On May 4, 2024, IN-SPACe, the Indian space agency, issued rules to implement the country's new space policy. The policy seeks to engage a greater number of private companies in India's space program.

Source: [IN-SPACe](#)

General Chance Saltzman, chief of space operations for the U.S. Space Force, visits Osan Air Base and Seoul between May 5 and May 7, 2024. The visit included meetings with government officials and their military counterparts in the Republic of Korea (ROK). The discussions focused on enhancing integration between ROK and U.S. space personnel and operational activities.

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

DARPA's LunA-10 program is actively investigating how commercial space companies can collaborate to establish a sustainable lunar economy. The program is focused on transitioning companies from self-contained systems to a more interconnected infrastructure. To achieve this, they are pinpointing key development areas such as in-situ resource utilization and robotics services.

Source: [DARPA](#)

BUSINESS UPDATES

The Defense Innovation Unit (DIU) launches the first "commercial solutions opening" solicitation for its new portfolio focused on emerging technology – transition of quantum sensors (TQS). The TQS project aims to demonstrate the potential military applications of quantum sensors for critical joint force capabilities like positioning, navigation, and anomaly detection. DIU's emerging technology portfolio seeks to propel initiatives derived from multifaceted, deep-tech solutions that lack a well-established pathway for integration within the Department of Defense.

Source: [DIU](#)

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On May 9, 2024, the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and Hindalco Industries signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU). The MoU establishes a framework for the domestic production and supply of marine-grade aluminum for use by Indian shipyards, both public and private, in the construction of vessels. The MoU extends additional benefits to participating shipyards, including established pricing mechanisms, prioritized deliveries, and volume discounts.

Source: [PIB](#)

The Indian Coast Guard and Jindal Steel & Power join forces on May 7, 2024, and sign an MoU in New Delhi. The collaboration focuses on the supply of domestically produced marine-grade steel, which is a crucial step towards strengthening the indigenous content within the nation's shipbuilding industry.

Source: [PIB](#)

The U.S. National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) is launching a pilot program, Project *Aegir*, to seek commercial solutions for enhanced maritime domain awareness in the Indo-Pacific region. The \$1.5 million pilot program is evaluating proposals submitted by vendors between May 6 and 24, 2024, with shortlisted candidates presenting their capabilities in June.

Source: [NGA](#)

GOVERNMENT UPDATES

India's Inter-Services Organisations (Command, Control and Discipline) Act commences implementation on May 10, 2024. Previously enacted by both houses of the parliament during the 2023 monsoon session and receiving presidential assent on August 15, 2023, the act empowers commanders-in-chief and officers-in-command of inter-services organizations to maintain effective command, control, and efficient functioning within their respective organizations.

Source: [PIB](#)

India and France will take part in the seventh edition of *Exercise Shakti*, a joint military exercise, from May 13, 2024, in Umroi, Meghalaya. *Exercise Shakti* will involve intensive training focused on joint planning where Indian and French troops will work together to craft strategies, tactics, and operational plans for various scenarios.

Source: [The Statesman](#)

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Top officials from the Indian and U.S. Navies convene for their twenty-fourth executive steering group meeting in Hawaii between May 6 and May 8, 2024. Vice admiral Tarun Sobti and vice admiral Fred Kacher co-chaired the discussions focused on strengthening cooperation between the two navies in the face of emerging regional challenges. The agenda covered a broad range of topics aimed at enhancing collaboration and interoperability to ensure maritime safety and security in the Indo-Pacific.

Source: [Indian Navy](#)

Philippine's hosts the concluding ceremony of *Exercise Balikatan* 2024. The ceremony formally concluded the largest annual combined military exercise conducted jointly by the Republic of the Philippines and the United States of America. *Balikatan* represents a yearly tradition aimed at strengthening bilateral interoperability, capabilities, trust, and cooperation between the two nations' militaries, utilizing decades of collaborative experiences.

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

Senior leaders from the United States and allied nations convene at a panel discussion on May 8, 2024, at the Special Operations Forces 2024 convention in Tampa, Florida. The discussion focused on the evolving role of technology, relationship building, and developing future special warfare teams. The hour-long session explored the challenges and opportunities presented by the increasing accessibility and affordability of advanced military technologies for both allies and adversaries globally.

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

The eastern fleet of the Indian Navy, under the leadership of rear admiral Rajesh Dhankhar, arrives in Singapore on May 6, 2024. Representatives of the Republic of Singapore Navy and the Indian High Commissioner welcomed the contingent, consisting of the guided-missile destroyer *Delhi*, fleet tanker and replenishment ship *Shakti*, and anti-submarine warfare corvette *Kiltan*. The visit is an essential part of the eastern fleet's operational deployment to the South China Sea.

Source: [PIB](#)

The European Union and India met in New Delhi on May 6, 2024, for their second round of security and defense consultations. The discussions focused on exchanging views and assessments on international and regional security concerns which included Russia's unlawful act of aggression against Ukraine in Europe, as well as developments unfolding in South Asia and the Middle East. Both parties agreed to deepen collaboration in established areas of bilateral cooperation, including cybersecurity, maritime security, and crisis management.

Source: [Delegation of the European Union to India and Bhutan](#)

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United States secretary of defense Lloyd J. Austin III convened a bilateral meeting at the Pentagon on May 9, 2024, to discuss shared strategic interests with his German counterpart, defense minister Boris Pistorius. The discussion encompassed a wide range of issues, including the ongoing crisis in Ukraine and security operations in the Indo-Pacific region. Minister Pistorius emphasized the critical importance of a free and peaceful Indo-Pacific, expressed Germany's commitment to promoting regional stability, and confirmed their participation in the upcoming Rim of the Pacific exercise scheduled for June 2024.

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

A delegation from the United States Indo-Pacific Command visits Papua New Guinea in furtherance of the recently enacted Defense Cooperation Agreement. The visit aims to expedite collaborative efforts in disaster response, bolster security cooperation initiatives, and overall strengthen the bilateral relationship between the United States and Papua New Guinea.

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

India and Australia commit to enhancing collaboration to successfully conclude their ongoing comprehensive economic cooperation agreement (CECA) negotiations. During the discussions, both sides explored various initiatives, including joint projects, streamlined trade, strengthened people-to-people links, greater data transparency, and innovative approaches to finalizing the CECA agreement.

Source: [PIB](#)

TENDERS AND REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Boeing receives a \$13.1 million contract to deliver aeroplane monitoring systems to key countries, including the U.S. Navy and the air forces of Australia, Kuwait, and Malaysia. A total of 130 systems will be provided.

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

Lockheed Martin Corp. secures a \$221 million contract for multiple launch rocket system requirements.

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

The U.S. Army awards Lockheed Martin Corp. a \$861 million contract to produce high mobility artillery rocket systems (HIMARS) and provide related support services.

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

Boeing receives a \$19 million add-on to a previously awarded contract for the F-15 eagle passive/active warning survivability System. The total value of the contract is now increased to \$824 million.

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

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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.