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LAND AND SEA

The United States begins withdrawing its forces from Niger. Both countries announced this decision in a joint statement, following nearly a week of military discussions.

Source: [Defense News](#)

The U.S. Army's third multidomain task force, will integrate officers from Australia and the United Kingdom to advance technologies highlighted in the second pillar of the AUKUS pact.

Source: [Defense News](#)

The United States Department of Energy's national nuclear security administration conducts a subcritical nuclear experiment at the Nevada national security site on May 21, 2024.

Source: [Defence.in](#)

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited pushes back its target for the rollout of the first light combat aircraft Mk-2 fighter jet prototype

Source: [Defence.in](#)

Indian Naval Ships Delhi, Shakti, and Kiltan complete their visit to Manila, Philippines, as part of the Indian Navy's Eastern Fleet operational deployment to the South China Sea.

Source: [Press Information Bureau](#)

The Border Roads Organisation announces the commencement of work on the Shinku La tunnel in mid-september. The project aims to establish an all-weather connection between Manali and Leh.

Source: [Defence.in](#)

Lockheed Martin, along with several U.S. military services, successfully launches a patriot advanced capability-3 missile segment enhancement missile from a simulated aegis weapon system and achieved a direct hit on a live target.

Source: [Lockheed Martin](#)

The U.S. Army is exporting its joint pacific multinational combat training center to the Philippines as the southeast asia country seeks to enhance and modernize its defense strategy.

Source: [Defense News](#)

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The Philippines has shown a keen interest in Indian military hardware, including the advanced light helicopter Mk II and indigenously built warships.

Source: [The Eurasian Times](#)

In early May, a representative of Sichuan Jinjia special equipment technology informed that the monitor lizard all-terrain vehicle they developed is currently undergoing trials with the People's Liberation Army.

Source: [Janes](#)

The Indian Coast Guard hosts a "pollution response seminar and mock drill" on May 22 and 23, 2024. The initiative addresses the critical challenges of combating oil spills at sea.

Source: [Press Information Bureau](#)

SOFTWARE, SYSTEMS, AND CYBER

Chief of defence staff general (CDS) Anil Chauhan attends exercise cyber suraksha – 2024 on May 22, 2024. The CDS emphasizes the critical importance of strengthening India's cyber defence capabilities. The defence cyber agency is conducting this comprehensive cyber defence exercise from May 20 to 24, 2024.

Source: [Press Information Bureau](#)

Bengaluru-based Newspace Research and Technologies achieves a breakthrough with an artificial intelligence system for managing robot swarms. The Indian-patented technology has the potential to revolutionize various sectors, from emergency response to manufacturing.

Source: [Defence.in](#)

SPACE AND AEROSPACE

Indian aerospace startup Agnikul Cosmos reveals the launch window for their highly anticipated agnibaan rocket. The 3D-printed, semi-cryogenic marvel is set to lift off from Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)'s Satish Dhawan Space Centre sometime between May 28 and June 5, 2024.

Source: [Defence.in](#)

ISRO is gearing up to launch the NISAR satellite, a joint project with National Aeronautics and Space Administration (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](#)

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BUSINESS UPDATES

The U.S. Department of Defense is racing to build a self-supporting domestic supply chain for rare earth elements by 2027. The U.S. is actively building a global rare earths supply chain by partnering with key allies like Australia, Canada, and the UK. The move aims to reduce their vulnerability to the current global supply chain, heavily dominated by China.

Source: [The Economic Times](#)

Bangalore-based Pinaka aerospace introduces an innovative solution for developing and testing airborne surveillance systems: the mission systems integration rig.

Source: [Defence.in](#)

Azad Engineering secures a contract from the Gas Turbine Research Establishment (GTRE), a DRDO lab, to manufacture, assemble, and integrate advanced turbo gas generator engines.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

The Department of Defense establishes a due diligence program to reduce security risks in Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) funding, aligning with the SBIR and STTR Extension Act, 2022.

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

Aurora Flight Sciences achieves a major breakthrough in DARPA's speed and runway independent technologies or SPRINT program, successfully completing the conceptual design of their experimental vertical take-off and landing aircraft.

Source: [Defense News](#)

Airbus helicopters and Small Industries Development Bank of India join forces through an MoU to streamline financing for potential civil operators in India seeking to acquire Airbus helicopters. The collaboration specifically targets growth in the health and tourism sectors of the Indian helicopter market.

Source: [Defence.in](#)

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GOVERNMENT UPDATES

DRDO, through its centre for airborne systems, is actively seeking a private industry partner to develop and produce an advanced, indigenous electronic warfare suite for the su-30MKI fighter jet upgrade program.

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

On May 20 and May 21, 2024, delegations from the United States and the United Kingdom met in London for the inaugural joint committee meeting on science and technology cooperation. The meeting advances their commitment to bilateral research and development cooperation established by the Atlantic declaration.

Source: [U.S. Department of State](https://www.state.gov)

The United States lead the tenth enhanced partnership in northern europe dialogue in Stockholm, Sweden on May 20th and 21st, 2024. The biennial forum serves as a critical platform to foster consultative dialogue between the United States and the eight nordic and baltic nations.

Source: [U.S. Department of State](https://www.state.gov)

The United States, Philippines, and Japan form a steering committee to fulfill the trilateral leaders' April commitment. The committee will develop the luzon economic corridor under the Indo-Pacific economic framework investment accelerator program.

Source: [U.S. Department of State](https://www.state.gov)

On May 22, 2024, the United States and members of the gulf cooperation council convened in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, for a meeting of the U.S.-GCC defense working groups on integrated air and missile defense and Maritime Security.

Source: [U.S. Department of Defense](https://www.defense.gov)

The United States and the Philippines collaborate to host the prestigious Indo-Pacific business forum on May 21, 2024, in Manila, Philippines. The forum serves as a critical platform to connect CEOs, project developers, government officials, and financing sources for priority infrastructure projects across developing Indo-Pacific economies.

Source: [U.S. Department of State](https://www.state.gov)

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In testimony before the house foreign affairs committee, the secretary of state makes a strong case for the president's financial year 2025 budget request for the state department and USAID.

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

The leaders of Ireland, Spain, and Norway formally recognize Palestine as a state. They aim to support a two-state solution and promote peace in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Source: [The Economic Times](#)

The Indian government includes DRDO reforms in its 100-day agenda following the elections. The reforms will make the research agency more output-oriented and foster a robust defense industrial and technological base.

Source: [ANI News](#)

The House approves an \$883.7 billion defense bill for fiscal year 2025, boosting pay for junior enlisted troops by 20 percent and funding a second attack submarine.

Source: [Defense News](#)

U.S. assistant secretary of defence for Indo-Pacific security affairs Dr. Ely Ratner warns his Chinese counterpart about China's increasing cooperation with Russia.

Source: [Defence.in](#)

The first inter-ministerial delegation from India convened meetings from May 15 to May 17, 2024, under the intergovernmental framework agreement between the two countries concerning cooperation for the empowerment and operation of the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor.

Source: [Defence.in](#)

At the annual UK-India strategic dialogue, India and Britain recommitted themselves to finalizing a mutually beneficial free trade agreement.

Source: [Defence.in](#)

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TENDERS AND REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Department of Defense announces a \$20 million award to South32 under the defense production act investment program. The award aims to sustainably produce battery-grade manganese.

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

In a move to demonstrate on-orbit spacecraft maneuvering and servicing, space systems command, awards a \$37.5 million contract to Washington-based Starfish Space.

Source: [Defense News](#)

The Department of Defense awards Rockwell Collins inc. a contract valued up to \$196 million to supply the U.S. army with various spare parts for tactical airborne navigation systems.

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.

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