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# DOT Weekly

NEWSLETTER JANUARY 11 - JANUARY 17, 2025

VOL: 3 ISSUE: 2

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## LAND AND SEA

India commissions three frontline naval combatants, INS Surat, INS Nilgiri, and INS Vaghsheer at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai, Maharashtra, on January 15, 2025.

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

India's indigenously developed Nag Mk 2, a third-generation anti-tank fire-and-forget guided missile, undergoes successful field evaluation trials at the Pokhran Field Range.

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

The keel-laying ceremony for the Indian Coast Guard's Training Ship (Yard 16101) was held at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd, Mumbai, on January 13, 2025.

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

The second of the Indian Navy's two multi-purpose vessels, named Utkarsh, was launched on January 13, 2025, at the L&T Shipyard in Kattupalli, Chennai, in the presence of defence secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh.

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

India successfully tests its first indigenous micro-missile system, Bhargavastra, designed to counter swarm drone threats. The system, developed by Economic Explosives Ltd, was tested with two successful firings at Gopalpur Seaward Firing Ranges and can engage targets over 2.5km from a mobile platform.

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

## SOFTWARE, SYSTEMS, AND CYBER

Geologists and innovators from the U.S. Geological Survey, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency or DARPA, the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy or ARPA-E, and other partners convened from January 13 to January 17, 2025, to collaborate, train, and transition artificial intelligence (AI) tools aimed at streamlining mineral resource assessment workflows.

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

The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research – National Aerospace Laboratories or CSIR-NAL makes a breakthrough in stealth technology with the development of two advanced radar-absorbing materials: NiRaLa-monolithic radar-absorbing laminate and ADRISHYA-RAM paint. The innovations will enhance aircraft stealth by reducing radar cross-section and improving evasion from enemy radar detection.

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

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The Indian Army distributed around 30,000 Sambhav smartphones to its officers to enhance secure communication. Developed in-house, these smartphones are equipped with advanced end-to-end encryption and leverage 5G technology.

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

## SPACE AND AEROSPACE

Space Flag 25-1, the U.S. Space Force's premier exercise, reached a milestone with full participation from operational command and control centers. For the first time, S4S's National Space Defense Center, Combined Space Operations Center, and Joint Overhead Persistent Infrared Center, as well as the National Reconnaissance Office Operations Center, joined the exercise as Blue Cell players.

**Source:** [Space Force](#)

Bengaluru-based start-up Digantara launched a satellite, called space camera for object tracking or SCOT, onboard SpaceX's Transporter-12 mission. The satellite is capable of tracking space objects as small as five centimeters.

**Source:** [Digantara Tweet](#)

The union cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approves the establishment of the third launch pad at the Indian Space Research Organisation's Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.

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

ReOrbit signs a memorandum of understanding with Ananth Technologies on January 7, 2025, to explore collaborative opportunities in the design and development of geostationary orbit or GEO communication satellites.

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

Pixxel successfully launches the first three satellites of its Firefly constellation aboard SpaceX's Transporter-12 mission from Vandenberg Space Force Base, California.

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

ISRO successfully executes the SpaDeX docking experiment on January 16, 2025, with satellites SDX01 (Chaser) and SDX02 (Target), launched by PSLV C60 on December 30, 2024, achieving a successful dock.

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

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## BUSINESS UPDATES

Optiplus Infracom's subsidiary Optiplus unmanned systems enters into a partnership with KunWay Technology, a Taiwan-based drone manufacturing company. The collaboration aims to manufacture KunWay Technology's extensive range of drones in India.

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

The Trajan 155 mm towed artillery gun system, a joint development by India and France, has been selected for induction by Armenia. The advanced 52-calibre towed gun system was developed collaboratively by India's L&T and KNDS France.

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

Lotus Advance Technologies Pvt Ltd and Steadicopter Pvt Ltd are collaborating to combine advanced manufacturing and cutting-edge technology, delivering rotary unmanned aerial vehicles or RUAVs.

**Source:** [Lotus Advanced Technologies](#)

Airbus Helicopters shortlists Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka in India to set up the production line for H125 helicopters in partnership with Tata Advanced Systems Limited.

**Source:** [Invest UP](#)

DG Propulsion's DG J40 jet engine successfully completes multiple vertical test runs.

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

Zen Technologies secures an Indian patent for the T-72 containerized crew gunnery simulator system or T-72 CGS. The advanced training platform is specifically designed to enhance the gunnery skills of T-72 tank commanders and gunners.

**Source:** [Zen Technologies](#)

The Drishti 10 Starliner drone, developed by Adani Defence and Aerospace, crashed off the coast of Porbandar, Gujarat, during acceptance trials before its scheduled delivery to the Indian Navy.

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

Chennai-based space tech start-up OrbitAID raises \$1.5 million in a pre-seed round led by Unicorn India Ventures. The funds will support in-space demonstrations of docking and refueling, expansion of on-orbit servicing facilities, and advancement of its standard interface docking and refueling port or SIDRP to commercial readiness.

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

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Azad Engineering Limited enters into an agreement with GE Vernova for a contract valued at \$112 million. The company will supply highly engineered, complex rotating, and stationary airfoils for advanced gas turbine engines.

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

## GOVERNMENT UPDATES

Seven Indian private companies including KaleidEO, EthereumX, Aadyah Space, Shyam VNL, Bellatrix Aerospace, Pixxel, and Skyroot Aerospace have been selected for the inaugural India-U.S. space and defense collaboration program.

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

The United States and India identified the site for the new U.S. consulate in Bengaluru, marking the establishment of the fifth U.S. consulate in India.

**Source:** [U.S. Embassy & Consulates in India](#)

The United States introduces a new export control regime that provides unrestricted access to AI-related chips for 20 close allies and partners. The U.S. Department of Commerce has categorized countries into three groups: those with unrestricted access, those with some restrictions, and those under restricted access. India has been placed in the second category, allowing access with certain limitations.

**Source:** [White House](#)

Acting special coordinator for the partnership for global infrastructure and investment, Helaina Matza, will lead the U.S. Government delegation to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, from January 13, 2025, to January 16, 2025, to participate in the future minerals forum.

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

The Indian Armed Forces conducts exercise Devil Strike from January 16 to January 19, 2025, featuring joint operations by elite airborne soldiers of the Indian Army and the Indian Air Force.

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

A ceasefire and hostage-exchange deal between Israel and Hamas has been finalized, signaling a potential end to the 15-month conflict.

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

On January 14, 2025, the United States and the Kingdom of Thailand signed a 123 Agreement in Bangkok, enabling the transfer of nuclear materials, equipment, and information for nuclear research and civil energy production.

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

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India extends an offer to the Malaysian Coast Guard for the domestically produced Dornier 228 aircraft. The proposal includes provisions for establishing maintenance facilities and transferring relevant technology.

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

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## TENDERS AND REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

India's Ministry of Defence signs a contract with Bharat Dynamics Limited for the supply of medium-range surface-to-air missiles for the Indian Navy, valued at approximately \$342 million.

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

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Raytheon secures a \$333 million contract from the U.S. Navy to produce Standard Missile-6 (SM-6) Block IA missiles.

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

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The Indian Army is set to finalize the contract for procuring 307 advanced towed artillery gun systems or ATAGS platforms by March 2025. The indigenously developed, 155mm howitzers are expected to be acquired at an estimated cost of \$924 million.

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

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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.