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National

Chitrakoot node of Defence Industrial Corridor gains impetus, BEL gets 75 hectares of land

Land allotment letter for 75 hectares in the Chitrakoot node of the Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor was handed over to Bharat Electronics Limited.Strategically located in central India, the Chitrakoot node is emerging as a major centre for defence production due to its excellent logistics connectivity and geographical suitability. In the coming time, it will become a key driver of investment, employment generation and high technology-based industrial development.Under this project, Bharat Electronics Limited will establish an advanced manufacturing unit for the production of state-of-the-art radar and air defence systems with an investment of approximately Rs 562.5 crore.

Drone manufacturing startup BonV Aero commences work on Rs 300 crore UAV facility in Odisha

Drone manufacturing startup BonV Aero has started preparatory work for its Rs 300 crore unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) facility at Khordha in Odisha, where an advanced assembly line, a centre of excellence, and a drone park will be set up.The Khordha project adds to the company's existing commitments in the state, including a planned UAV corridor at Rangeilunda.it aims to establish Odisha as one of India's premier destinations for high-tech UAV manufacturing and aerospace innovation, adding that it also reflects a gradual but clear shift in India's drone manufacturing footprint away from its traditional centres.

The new facility, spanning 2.5 acres, is designed as an integrated UAV hub, housing advanced drone assembly lines, a drone centre of excellence (CoE), and an industrial skilling centre, besides featuring 'Odisha's first Drone Park', a dedicated space for innovation and testing.

The project will also have an 'experience centre', an interactive space for stakeholders and the public to engage with UAV technology.

Additionally, BonV plans to establish a remote pilot training organisation to cultivate the next generation of certified drone pilots.

India’s Hypersonic Breakthrough: Dhvani, LR-AShM and ET-LDHCM Poised to Transform Strike Power

India’s hypersonic weapons programme is now moving beyond research and early testing, with the country working toward deploying these systems for real military use. The effort includes three projects – the Dhvani Hypersonic Glide Vehicle, the Long-Range Anti-Ship Hypersonic Missile and the Extended Trajectory Long Duration Hypersonic Cruise Missile.The Dhvani Hypersonic Glide Vehicle is a long-range system built to carry nuclear payloads across vast distances. Travelling at speeds well beyond Mach 5 and with an estimated range close to 10,000 kilometres, it is built to glide through the upper atmosphere while constantly changing direction.Along with Dhvani, India is developing the Long-Range Anti-Ship Hypersonic Missile, a weapon built for naval dominance in the Indian Ocean Region. With a range of around 1,500 kilometres, this missile can target both moving warships and fixed land targets.

This capability allows India to hold adversary naval assets at risk across large maritime zones. The missile is also designed using locally developed electronics and sensors to reduce reliance on foreign targeting infrastructure.Bridging the gap between traditional cruise missiles and glide vehicles is the Extended Trajectory Long Duration Hypersonic Cruise Missile. Tested in 2025, this missile is designed to travel at speeds exceeding Mach 8 and cover distances beyond 1,500 kilometres.

It can change direction mid-flight and can be launched from aircraft, naval platforms and ground-based launchers. This flexibility allows it to be used across different combat scenarios.

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Waterjet contract for Indian Navy's Next Generation Missile Vessels

Kongsberg Maritime has signed a contract to supply 18 large Kamewa waterjets for the Indian Navy's Next Generation Missile Vessel (NGMV) programme. Each of the vessels will feature waterjets, delivering exceptional speed and manoeuvrability for high-performance naval operations.

The NGMV fleet is being built by Cochin Shipyard Limited and will play a critical role in India's maritime defence strategy. This contract marks Kongsberg Maritime's largest single waterjet order to date and signals a strong return to large waterjet manufacturing after a relatively quiet period over the past decade.

India Approves Indigenous Runway-Independent UAV Project For Combat Rescue And Logistics

The Government of India has set in motion the design and development of an advanced unmanned combat search and rescue aircraft for the Indian Air Force. This runway-independent UAV is intended to undertake missions to rescue aircrew without risking manned aircraft, while also serving as a platform to ferry logistics and supplies into forward areas and inhospitable terrains such as snow-bound heights where conventional helicopters face limitations. The UAV project is categorised under 'Make-I', which stipulates that the government will fund 70 per cent of development costs, while Indian vendors will contribute the remaining 30 per cent. Once successfully developed, procurement will follow the 'Buy (Indian-IDDM)' route, ensuring that at least 50 per cent of the material, components, and software are indigenously designed, developed, and manufactured. Specifications for the platform are : It should be capable of operating from sea level up to 16,000 feet, with 20,000 feet as a desirable threshold, and possess a radius of action of at least 200 kilometres with a loiter time of 45 minutes. The UAV must be able to carry a minimum payload of 400 kilograms, including four passengers and stretchers.

The aircraft is expected to feature autonomous capabilities such as auto-take-off, navigation, and landing, with integrated Emergency Locator Transmitter systems to search, locate, and land precisely. It should also be able to launch from unprepared surfaces and operate in Global Navigation Satellite System-denied conditions.

Swan Defence Secures Landmark Contract For India's First Ammonia-Powered Bulk Carriers

Swan Defence and Heavy Industries Limited (SDHI) has achieved a significant maritime milestone by securing a major shipbuilding contract from Australia-based Energy ONE Limited.

The agreement involves the construction of four large ammonia dual-fuel bulk carriers, each boasting a deadweight tonnage (DWT) of 92,500. This project is particularly notable as it marks the first time such ammonia-powered vessels will be constructed within India.The contract is officially classified as a Category 4 order, with an estimated valuation ranging between approximately ₹1,500 to ₹3,000 Crores.Technologically, these vessels represent the vanguard of green maritime solutions. Measuring approximately 229.5 metres in length with a beam of 37 metres, they will be equipped with sophisticated ammonia-fuelled propulsion systems designed to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This aligns with the global shipping industry's aggressive transition towards decarbonisation and sustainable fuel alternatives.

The project involves high-level international collaboration, with the vessels being designed by South Korean firm KMS-EMEC. To ensure the highest safety and quality standards, the ships will be classed by Det Norske Veritas (DNV), a leading global authority in maritime classification. This partnership ensures that the pioneering ammonia fuel technology meets rigorous international regulatory frameworks.

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Indian Navy Explores Drone-Based Rearming of Warships At Sea

Indian Navy is exploring an ambitious concept known as Rearming by Drone (REARM-D) at Sea, which envisions the use of multi-rotor drones to reload surface-to-air missiles into vertical launch system cells onboard warships while at sea. Indian Navy has officially released a problem statement titled "Rearming by Drone (REARM-D) at Sea" initiative under the Defence India Start-Up Challenge 14, aiming to tackle the complex task of reloading Vertical Launch System cells at sea without returning to port. The REARM-D concept is centred on the deployment of robust, autonomous drones capable of lifting and precisely manoeuvring heavy missile canisters in challenging maritime conditions. These drones would be engineered to handle the weight and dimensions of surface-to-air missile reloads, ensuring safe transfer from supply vessels or onboard storage to the vertical launch system cells of frontline warships.

Aventel Secures Fresh Order For Strategic Xponder Deployment

Avantel Limited has formally announced that it secured a significant new purchase order from NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) on 6 April 2026. This latest contract is valued at ₹11.59 croreand focuses on the high-tech communication sector. The agreement stipulates that Avantel will be responsible for the supply, installation, and commissioning of specialised devices for Xponders. These systems enable seamless, jam-resistant data-links for warships via GSAT-7 satellites. By localizing these electronic sub-systems, Avantel ensures absolute data sovereignty in the contested IOR.

ADSL develops indigenous 30km loitering munition to provide infantry with beyond-line-of-sight precision strike

ADSL is developing a 30km range loitering munition for the Indian Army. Engineered for "man-in-the-loop" ops, it allows infantry to strike armored vehicles or command posts with surgical precision. Featuring an EO/IR seeker and silent electric propulsion, it provides a cost-effective standoff tool to neutralize threats beyond the horizon without risking personnel. This bridges the gap between traditional mortars and expensive missiles under 'Make in India,' providing organic strike depth to battalion levels.

Global

Vection Technologies acquires DX Labs to accelerate digital twin and AI innovation for the Australian defense sector

Vection Technologies has acquired DX Labs to deepen its footprint within the Australian Department of Defence. This integration combines 3D modeling and XR expertise with DX Labs' AI-driven simulation platforms. The focus is on providing high-fidelity digital twins and immersive training for the Australian Defence Force (ADF). By localizing this software layer, Vection aims to reduce the ADF's reliance on foreign code for mission planning and maintenance. This acquisition positions Vection as a sovereign provider of software-defined combat support tools, enhancing operational decision-making in high-stakes environments.

Leonardo DRS secures $235 million US Army contract for integrated mission electronics to modernize Stryker vehicles

Leonardo DRS has clinched a $235 million contract to provide mission-critical electronics for the Stryker platform. The focus is on integrating advanced sensors, computing, and communications that enable the Stryker to function as a networked combat node. This digital backbone enhances situational awareness, allowing crews to share real-time data and coordinate with uncrewed assets. By securing this deal, Leonardo DRS reinforces its position as a Tier-1 provider for US ground forces, ensuring that primary troop carriers have the electronic precision required for 21st-century maneuver warfare.

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France greenlights a massive €3.6 billion ammunition surge to secure high-intensity "War Economy" readiness

The French Ministry of Armed Forces authorized a €3.6 billion expenditure to double national munitions and missile stockpiles. This response to the European security climate prioritizes 155mm shells, Aster interceptors, and HAMMER kits. By awarding long-term contracts to Nexter and MBDA, France aims to double production rates and establish a sovereign reserve resilient to supply chain shocks. This move replenishes stocks depleted by aid to Ukraine while ensuring French forces maintain a high-intensity strike capability, bulletproofing the nation's strategic deterrence for the next decade.

Belgium marks a global first by inducting the Cessna SkyCourier into military service for tactical logistics

The Belgian MoD finalized an agreement with Textron for two Cessna 408 SkyCourier turboprops, becoming the first military operator. These aircraft will perform tactical airlift, cargo transport, and para-drop missions, filling the gap between light planes and heavy transport. Selected for ruggedness and low cost, the SkyCourier represents a shift toward using high-efficiency commercial-off-the-shelf (COTS) platforms for non-combat support. This move ensures rapid response for NATO missions while optimizing procurement budgets for the Belgian Air Component.

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