Dhoni invested drone company Garuda Aerospace to enter US, Australian and Middle Eastern markets

Chennai (UNI)

Cricketer MS Dhoni invested drone company Garuda Aerospace to enter the US, Australian and the Middle Eastern markets with its agriculture and surveillance drones.

According to Garuda Aerospace, venturing into the US, Australian and the Middle Eastern markets follows its earlier entry into the neighbouring Sri Lankan market.

Garuda Aerospace will focus its export efforts on the Garuda Kisan Drone, specifically designed to meet the growing demand in the agriculture sector.

These drones address precision farming and agri-tech services, particularly in agricultural regions such as those in the USA and Australia.

Additionally, the company aims to cater to the high-security and surveillance requirements of the Middle East, Garuda Aerospace said.

The company said it has the necessary export licence.

Agnishwar Jayaprakash, Founder and CEO of Garuda Aerospace said: "This export licence is a monumental step in our journey to becoming a leading global drone exporter. It reflects our unwavering commitment to diversifying revenue streams beyond India and gaining an early-mover advantage in emerging drone markets."

Garuda Aerospace is actively pursuing global partnerships and expansion opportunities, having already established strategic associations with renowned international companies such as Elbit Systems, Lockheed Martin, Cognizant, Thales, SAS Greece and more, the company said.

AI agents are behind enterprise transformation in 2025: Study

New Delhi (UNI)

Naascom partnered with Avasant (management consulting firm) released a report titled "Digital Enterprise 2025: Advancing to an AI-first enterprise." The research study is based on surveys conducted of more than 500 global enterprises with specialization in different sectors or of different sizes and geographies.

Sangeeta Gupta (Senior Vice President and Chief Strategy Officer, NASSCOM) said, " 2025 is emerging as a decisive year in enterprise transformation. The transition to synchronous AI agents is making a shift towards human-machine collaboration and unlocking new levels of productivity and innovation. Enterprises with AI-ready working modules will now position themselves strongly in the upcoming decade."

The study highlighted that more enterprises are adopting AI models, and data shows that 57 per cent of AI spending is now directed towards foundational readiness, emphasizing adopting AI at the basic level of operational activities. Enterprise push towards AI is reflected in the rise in hiring of Chief AI Officers, model trainers, AI ethics officers, and domain AI hybrids.

The report also pointed towards AI enablement through data annotation and integration of AI proof-of-concepts (PoCs). This study stressed that integrating AI proof-of-concepts (PoCs) reduces risk by validating feasibility, ensuring goal alignment, and commitment towards large-scale AI projects.

Indian tech firm Blue Cloud seals strategic U.S. cybersecurity buyout

Mumbai (UNI)

Mumbai-based Blue Cloud Softech Solutions (BSE: 539607) has acquired New Jersey tech firm AIS Anywhere through a 100% share swap valued at 730 crore rupees.

The deal involves issuing 31.68 crore Blue Cloud equity shares at a premium of 22.06 rupees per share in exchange for AIS Anywhere's 6.4 crore shares, establishing the U.S. company as a wholly-owned subsidiary at a 4.95:1 swap ratio.

The acquisition accelerates Blue Cloud's entry into the U.S. market, leveraging AIS Anywhere's 2024 revenue of 83.69 million USD and expertise in AI, IoT, and cyber-

security.

Managing Director Krishna Babu Vankineni emphasised the alignment with Blue Cloud's global growth vision, noting it will unlock new revenue streams and enhance digital offerings for international clients.

Founded in 1991, Blue Cloud specialises in secure solutions for defence and enterprise digital transformation across eight countries, including India, the U.S., and UAE.

AIS Anywhere strengthens this portfolio with its advanced cybersecurity and data analytics capabilities, positioning the combined entity for expanded innovation.

Capital India Finance Ltd announces issuance of Rs 50 Cr Debentures

Mumbai: Capital India Finance Limited, a prominent middle layer non-banking financial company (NBFC), today announced the successful issuance of senior, secured, rated, listed, redeemable, taxable Non-Convertible Debentures (NCDs) amounting to rupees 50 crore on a private placement basis.

"This move is aligned with the Company's strategy to strengthen its funding base and support ongoing business expansion.

The successful issuance of our Non-Convertible Debentures marks a pivotal step in Capital India Finance Limited's ongoing strategy to diversify and strengthen our liability profile" says Pinank Shah, CEO, Capital India Finance Limited in a press release.

AP seeks collaboration to establish AI research, innovation centers

Singapore (UNI)

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, committed to developing Andhra Pradesh as an emerging Artificial Intelligence hub, continued focused efforts during his third day in Singapore.

On Tuesday, the Chief Minister met with Prof. Mohan Kankanahalli, Deputy Executive Chairman of AI Singapore, seeking their cooperation to set up AI research and innovation centers AP.

The Chief Minister stressed the importance of prioritizing partnerships between AI Singapore and universities and research institutions in Andhra Pradesh. He proposed launching AI training programs, exchange initiatives,

and skill development modules for students across the state.

The discussions mainly revolved around the use of AI in sectors such as healthcare, agriculture, education, and public services. Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Prof. Kankanahalli also explored opportunities in technology promotion, deep tech, and AI innovation.

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu also met with Mr. NG Jan Lin Wilin, Senior Vice President of SIA Engineering. During the meeting, the Chief Minister discussed the upcoming airports in the state and sought cooperation for Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) services.

The Chief Minister briefed the SIA representatives on the government's newly introduced industry-friendly policies while showcasing the wide-ranging opportunities in the aviation sector. Mr, Naidu invited the firm to visit Andhra Pradesh to explore potential investments.

Responding positively, the Senior Vice President of SIA Engineering assured that a delegation would be sent to the state soon. The Andhra Pradesh government is keen to establish a world-class MRO centre by leveraging the expertise and technology of companies such as SIA Engineering. Visakhapatnam and Krishnapatnam have been identified as suitable locations for this initiative.

AP's Tenalai Double Horse pulses brand set to broadening its retail reach

Vijayawada (UNI)

With two decades of agricultural excellence, Tenali Double Horse, a premium pulses brand from Tenali in Andhra Pradesh's Guntur district, is broadening its retail reach by tapping into India's fast-growing digital consumer base. Nearly 20% of its online business now comes through Instamart, supporting its growth into new markets. Tenali Double Horse, a small brand born in the heart of Andhra Pradesh, is accessible across 12 Indian states-Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Delhi NCR, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Haryana, and Kerala on Instamart now.

This highlights how quick commerce platforms are enabling legacy and regional brands to reach wider geographies and new customer segments, particularly urban consumers seeking speed, quality, and convenience. Founded by Mr. Mohan Shyam Prasad in 2005, the brand's entry into quick commerce via Instamart demonstrates how traditional

businesses are leveraging modern retail to meet the growing demand for accessible, high-quality food. Its flagship product, Urad Gota, has earned strong brand loyalty and drives repeat purchases, while other staples like Toor Dal, Moong Dal, Channa Dal, and Idly Ravva are emerging as top sellers in the Dals & Pulses category on Instamart.

"At Instamart, we're committed to enabling India's most trusted and promising brands to reach consumers with speed, quality, and ease. Tenali Double Horse represents the best of regional excellence, and our partnership showcases how traditional businesses can thrive in the quick commerce ecosystem. Con-

sumers today are actively seeking high-quality, authentic products they can trust, and Tenali Double Horse's standout offerings like Urad Gota, Urad Ladoo, and Millets Ladoo are consistently becoming pantry essentials for users across India." said Arjun Choudhary, VP Revenue & Growth, Instamart

He revealed: "By bridging deep-rooted legacy with modern convenience, we're not only expanding access to premium, homegrown products but also empowering heritage regional brands to scale rapidly and connect with a new generation of digital-first consumers."

"While our brand enjoys strong recognition and demand in the market, Instamart has helped us connect with time-crunched urban consumers across India who appreciate quality and seek convenience. It has helped us serve both our loyal customers more efficiently and introduce our products to first-time buyers beyond our geographical presence.

Shriram General Insurance posts strong Q1: GWP up 31 percent, Net Profit rises 9 pc

Kolkata (UNI)

Shriram General Insurance Company (SGI) delivered a strong performance in first quarter (Q1) of Financial Year-2025-26, driven by sustained momentum in its motor insurance portfolio.

The company recorded a 31 percent year-on-year increase in Gross Written Premium (GWP), reaching Rs 960 crore, up from Rs 733 crore in Q1 FY25—well ahead of the general insurance industry's average growth rate of nine pc.

Net profit for the quarter rose by nine pc, climbing to Rs 125 crore from Rs 114 crore in the same period last year.

Additionally, investment income grew by seven pc, supported by consistent returns from financial instruments.

Anil Aggarwal, managing director and chief executive of Shriram General Insurance Company, said: "It's been a strong start to the year.

Our Q1 performance reflects the strength of our core segments and the growing trust of our customers. We issued 15.41 lakh policies during the first quarter of FY26, a 20 pc increase from 12.82 lakh policies in the same period last year.

"While the motor segment continues to be a consistent performer, we're also seeing promising growth in the recently launched health insurance products. We're optimistic that this momentum will carry forward in the years ahead. With such a strong start to the year, we're excited about the potential to deliver standout results in the upcoming quarters," he noted.

The company's solvency ratio stood at 3.35 as of June 2026, well above the regulatory requirement of 1.5. SGI had 68 lakh active policies at the end of Q1FY26 compared to 63 lakh a year ago.

Technopark honours legacy of longtime technical member and guide of 35 yrs

Thiruvananthapuram (UNI)

Technopark honoured former Chief Engineer of the Public works Department (PWD) K Madhavan Pillai, who had played a key role in developing the state-run IT park 35 years ago.

Technopark CEO Col Sanjeev Nair (Retd), along with senior officials and employees, came out to accord a rousing reception to Pillai on Monday, as part of the year-long 35th anniversary celebrations of the park, which is now India's biggest IT campus.

A distinguished civil engineer,

Shri Madhavan Pillai has been an integral part of Technopark's journey since its early days, shaping its physical and organizational landscape with his expertise and dedication, Col Sanjeev Nair (Retd) noted.

"It was Shri Madhavan Pillai who resolved the bottlenecks in the way of the acquisition of land for Technopark and other stum-

bling blocks.

His proactive approach ensured the timely progress of the Technopark project," Col Sanjeev Nair (Retd) said.

"Over the years, he has continued to serve as Technical Member of Technopark and as External Technical Advisor on various committees, guiding the park's development and expansion. Even after his retirement from the government service, K. Madhavan Pillai continued to provide crucial technical advice for new projects, infrastructure expansions, and poli-

cy issued relating to the infrastructure ecosystem," Col Sanjeev Nair added.

The technical advice provided by K. Madhavan Pillai for the infrastructure development at Technopark—from its inception to the current QUAD project—has been exemplary. His dedication, commitment, and consistently sound guidance during the planning and execution of all major infrastructure projects make him a true role model for the young engineers of Technopark," said Madhavan Praveen, GM (Projects).

Nasscom warns of more layoffs amid AI boom in IT sector

New Delhi (UNI)

National Association of Software and Service Companies (Nasscom), an Indian non-governmental trade association and advocacy group, released an official statement titled 'Workforce Realignment and Industry Transformation' on Tuesday. The statement came after Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) announced cutting 2 per cent of its global workforce.

In the official statement, the industry body noted that AI-enabled automation has made its stronghold in the operational activities of IT organizations. The body termed that IT companies are at the 'inflection point.' An 'inflection point' refers to a key set of events pointed to dynamically and constantly evolving companies, industries, sectors, or economies.

Air India Express announces 'Payday Sale' discounts up to 15 pc

Hyderabad (UNI)

Air India Express today announced it has launched its regular 'Payday Sale,' offering discounts of up to 15 per cent across its network with early access to logged-in members on the airline's award-winning website, www.airindiaexpress.com and mobile app.

The offer is valid on bookings made until August 1, 2025, and for travel till March 31, 2026.

Bookings on the sale fares can be made on other major booking channels from July 29, 2025, the airlines said in a release.

Air India Express is also waiving convenience fees for Xpress Lite bookings made through select payment methods on its website and app. Xpress Lite is the airline's exclusive zero-baggage fare with added benefits include the ability to pre-book an additional 3 kg of cabin baggage at no extra cost, along with discounted check-in baggage rates. Guests can check-in 15 kg of baggage for Rs 1,000 on domestic flights and 20 kg for Rs 1,300 on internation-

al flights.

The airline's website offers fab deals for loyalty members, including 25 percent off Xpress Biz fares and 20 per cent on all seat selections including Biz Upgrades. Xpress Biz is the airline's business class equivalent with best-in-class legroom with complimentary Gourmair Hot Meals, Xcess Check-in Baggage (25 Kg for DOM, 40 Kg for INT) and Xpress Ahead Priority Services. Biz seats are available on over 40 brand new Boeing 737-8 aircraft that Air India Express has recently inducted as part of its rapid expansion.

Logged-in members also enjoy 20 per cent off 'Gourmair' hot meals, standard and prime seat selection, Xpress Ahead priority services, 10 kg Xcess Check-in Baggage and 3 kg Xtra Carry-On Baggage.

Microsoft introduces Copilot Mode in Edge for agentic AI browsing

New Delhi (UNI)

Microsoft has introduced 'Copilot Mode' on its Edge browser to enhance the browsing experience for users. The move by the tech giant is aimed at competing with the latest launches in the AI-enabled search space.

Microsoft said in an official statement, " We are excited to launch Copilot Mode. It's a new experimental mode in Microsoft Edge and our next step towards powering the web."

Sean Lyndersay (Vice President of Products, Microsoft Edge) said, " Copilot will soon guide you in your tasks and organize your browsing into helpful and topic-based jour-

neys."

Copilot Mode enables users to access innovative AI(artificial intelligence) features in Edge to achieve a great browsing experience. It is powered up by Microsoft standards of security, privacy, and performance, trusted by billions of peo-

ple and businesses across the globe. This mode doesn't frustrate you by giving you endless tabs to sift through, but it works as a collaborator that keeps you browsing smoothly.

Moreover, this mode also accesses the full picture across the

open tabs, and you can also instruct it to handle some specific tasks. You can turn your browser into a tool to compare, decide, and perform different searching activities with ease. Users can also turn off the Copilot mode whenever they want, and Microsoft stated that " there will always be clear, visual cues on your browser when Copilot is viewing or listening."

Microsoft also announced that Copilot mode is free for now, and users can access the features for a limited time. The tech giant doesn't specify how long it will be free. Users can try it after installing the Edge Browser on their Windows or Mac.