

# India, Canada draw roadmap to revive ties amid global flux

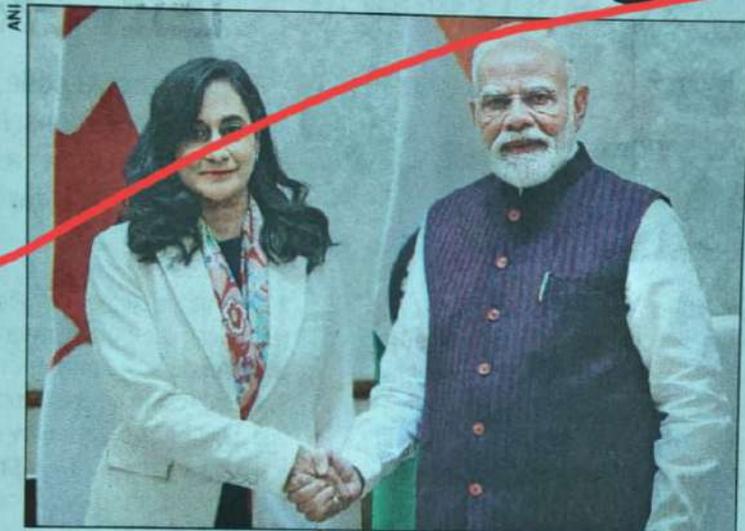
## Focus On Trade, Tech, Energy, Agriculture: Modi

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New Delhi: India and Canada took a major step forward to normalise their relationship as foreign minister S Jaishankar and his counterpart, Anita Anand, announced Monday a roadmap comprising a slew of initiatives to boost cooperation while underlining the significance of a law enforcement dialogue in addressing each other's security concerns.

In a rare India-Canada joint statement, the ministers sought constructive and balanced partnership grounded in respect for each other's concerns and sensitivities and growing economic complementarities.

Anand, who is travelling to



Canada foreign minister Anita Anand with PM Modi in New Delhi

Mumbai as well during her first visit to India as foreign minister, was welcomed by PM Modi for a meeting as the bilateral relationship continues to thaw. Modi recalled his "extremely productive" huddle with counterpart Mark Carney on the margins of the G7 summit

in Canada in June. "Discussed ways to strengthen cooperation in trade, technology, energy, agriculture and people-to-people exchanges for mutual growth and prosperity (with Anand)," Modi posted on X.

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## Taking our job to protect diplomats seriously: Anand

Canada is taking every step to ensure the security of its citizens on its soil, foreign minister Anita Anand said when asked about India's concerns regarding the activities of Khalistan separatists and its seeking the return of individuals it designates as terrorists. On the safety of foreign diplomats, she said Ottawa takes its job of protecting them

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"very very seriously".

On the progress of a probe into the murder of Khalistan separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, she said, "Canadians have the right to feel safe and secure in our country, and that's the purpose of the law enforcement dialogue (with India)."

# ISI-backed smugglers up game, drones can now detect tracking & scoot back

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**Chandigarh:** In past few weeks, security agencies manning anti-drone systems along Punjab border began noticing a strange trend — drones from Pakistan would be detected and tracked, but would whirr back behind the fence before they could be brought down.

ISI-backed smugglers in Pakistan routinely try to send arms, including AK-47s and grenades, and drugs, slung under drones, across the 532km-long border with Punjab. There was a lull in the immediate aftermath of Operation Sindoor, but it picked up after a few weeks. Detection and interception also rose on the Indian side as the three anti-drone systems (ADS) were strengthened.

Now, these new drones have upped the cat-and-mouse game. "Technology changes every day. What is happening now is that drones coming from Pakistan are largely programmed with a fail-safe mechanism with default settings of back-to-home. After sensing disruption in the signal between the drone and base sta-



**NEW CHALLENGES**

tion during our attempts to jam, lock, and neutralise them, the drones are programmed to return to the point where they took off," said a senior Punjab Police officer, describing it as "a tech challenge" in Punjab's war against Pakistan's ISI-backed smuggling network.

The Indian anti-drone systems are up to the task as most attempts to smuggle arms and drugs via drones get detected, the officer said. "The drones are either brought down or fly back across the border. Either way, it's foiled," he added. "The detection rate is very high, eight or 10 a day, sometimes even 15," he said, adding: "We need at least 100 such ADS for wider coverage of border areas."

Amid its ongoing 'Yudh Nashian Virudh', Punjab govt

deployed 3 vehicle-mounted ADS in the first phase, with an official launch by Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann and AAP national convenor Arvind Kejriwal in Tarn Taran on Aug 9. Punjab plans to deploy nine such systems at a total cost of around Rs 51 crore.

Since deployment of ADS, Tarn Taran police have registered 12 FIRs and arrested as many suspects in Bhikhiwind subdivision alone for receiving contraband via drones. The haul includes four pistols, 75 bullets, five magazines, over 3kg heroin, 492g ICE, and 506g opium.

Bhikhiwind DSP Preetinder Singh said: "ADS has proved very effective in combating smuggling of drugs and weapons from Pakistan via drones. Earlier, we had to rely on sound to track drones. This technology gives us exact coordinates of the drone along with speed, altitude and other parameters." "Up to a certain range and distance, jamming can neutralise the drone. But sometimes, the drone is at such a distance that jamming is ineffective, even though it can be detected. Detection has helped us make recoveries and arrests," the DSP added.

## After Army alert, Baramulla bans drones

**Srinagar:** Baramulla district administration on Monday imposed a complete ban on flying drones in the north Kashmir district until Oct 31, after intelligence inputs gathered by the Army indicated possible smuggling of unmanned aerial devices (UAVs) into Kashmir Valley and their potential use against security forces and vital installations in upcoming festive season, reports **Naseer Ganai**.

The Army's infantry division, in a Sept 24 communication, had alerted Baramulla authorities about their apprehension and advised prohibiting drone flying in district, Baramulla DC Minga Sherpa (IAS) stated in his order. The DC took up the issue with SSPs of Baramulla and Sopore district, who expressed similar concerns and recommended issuing restrictions to regulate or suspend all non-essential UAV operations in Baramulla as a precautionary measure.

**LINE OF NO CONTROL**

**SANDEEP ADHWARYU**

**UP**

# Mazagon to build German subs under 'Project-75India'

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Moreover, it would be difficult for Mazagon Docks (MDL) to handle two different complex submarine-building projects simultaneously," a source said. The three new Scorpenes were to add to the six such submarines already built at MDL under the over Rs 23,000-crore 'Project-75', which was inked way back in Oct 2005.

The first, INS Kalvari, was commissioned in Dec 2017 after much delay and the sixth, INS Vagsheer, in Jan this year. However, all six Kalvari-class submarines will be retrofitted with the air-independent propulsion (AIP) system being developed by DRDO for greater underwater endurance.

The AIP system gives a diesel-electric submarine the stealth capability to remain underwater for around two weeks, while a boat without it must surface or 'snorkel' every couple of days for oxygen to recharge its batteries.

The German submarines to be constructed at MDL under 'Project-75India (P-75I)', in partnership with ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems, will have AIP, land-attack cruise missiles and other new-generation technologies.

The decision to take forward the final techno-commercial negotiations for the



The first submarine, INS Kalvari, was commissioned in Dec 2017

six German submarines — with the option for another three of them at a later stage — was made after extensive deliberations among the defence ministry, Navy, National Security Council Secretariat and others, the sources said.

Consequently, the official contract talks for MDL to build the German submarines began last month. "These new-generation boats under P-75I will come with design ToT (transfer of technology) and a greater indigenisation level of around 60%. The project will serve as a bridge to the future P-76, under which conventional submarines will be constructed based on totally indigenous design," another source said.

However, considering France's expansive strategic ties with India, the project for three more Scorpenes could still be revived if there is top-level intervention.

The sources, on their part, said France should be pleased that it is on course to bag several other major projects.

## Def min: Used 50% of capital outlay this fiscal

New Delhi: The defence ministry on Monday said it utilised over 50% of its capital outlay by end-Sept in the ongoing fiscal, which will ensure timely delivery of vital aircraft, warships, submarines, weapon systems to the armed forces in the coming year.

"In absolute terms, the capital expenditure stands at Rs 92,211 crore (51%) out of the total allocation of Rs 1.8 lakh crore. Majority of the expenditure has been on aircraft and aero engines followed by land systems, electronic warfare equipment, armaments, and projectiles," the MoD said.

It, for instance, includes the first instalment for the largest-ever contract worth Rs 66,500 crore inked with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited for 97 Tejas Mark-1A fighters on Sept 25. TOI was the first to report that the contract would be inked to ensure budget spending timelines were met despite IAF's objections that it was yet to get even the first such 'improved' jet of the 83 ordered earlier for Rs 46,898 crore in Feb 2021. TNN

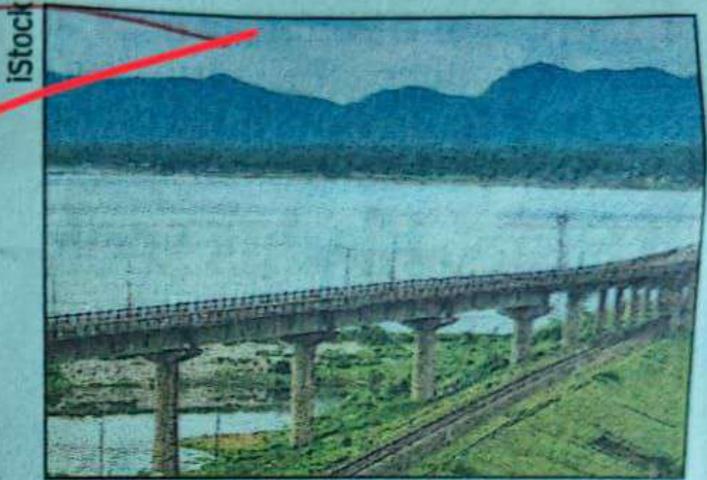
# Govt unveils ₹6.4L cr plan to generate 76 GW in NE

Sanjay Dutta | TNN

**New Delhi:** Amid China's expansion of dams on the Brahmaputra, India on Monday unveiled a Rs 6.4-lakh crore 'Master Plan' to wheel 76 gigawatt (GW) of power from ongoing and proposed projects on the mighty river's 12 sub-basins across the North-East.

The plan prepared by Central Electricity Authority, power ministry's technical planning arm, envisages building a total 31,000 circuit-km (ckm) of transmission lines, substations with 68 GW transformation capacity as well as 42 GW of HVDC (high voltage, direct current) lines by 2047. The plan is to be implemented in two phases. The first, estimated to cost Rs 1.9 lakh crore, will see building of 10,000 ckm of transmission lines with substations and 12 GW of HVDC lines by 2035. The second phase, estimated to cost over Rs 4.5 lakh crore, will witness construction of 21,000 ckm of transmission lines with substations and 32 GW of HVDC links by 2047.

These lines are to wheel almost 65 GW from conventional hydro projects and an addi-



## HARNESSING BRAHMAPUTRA

onal 11 GW from pump-storage plants. Arunachal Pradesh, bordering China, is expected to contribute more than 52 GW.

The Brahmaputra has become strategically important since China announced a plan to build a dam on the Yarlung Tsangpo, the river's Tibetan name. This has set off alarm bells in New Delhi over water flow in the river falling by up to 85% in the dry season and affecting India's efforts to tap the river system's hydel potential to meet its rapidly growing power demand. China, being on the upstream of the river, enjoys a natural advantage in controlling the flow of water. Since the river basin accounts for 85% of India's untapped potential, the Centre has in recent years speeded up the hydel projects in the North-East.

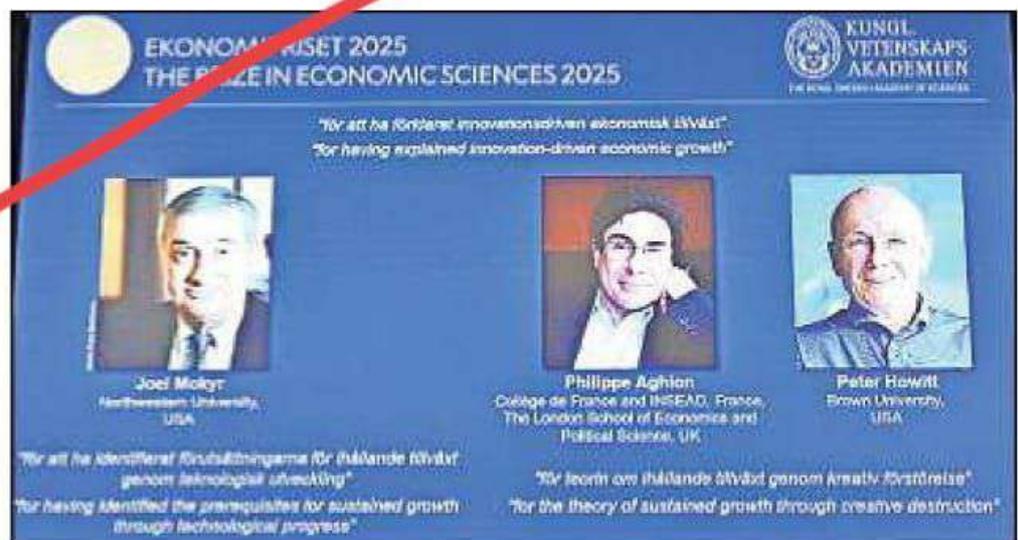
# Economics Nobel goes to 3 researchers for explaining innovation-driven economic growth

STOCKHOLM, Oct 13 (AP)

**JOEL** Mokyr, Philippe Aghion and Peter Howitt won the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economics Monday for their research into the impact of innovation on economic growth and how new technologies replace older ones, a key economic concept known as “creative destruction.”

The winners represent contrasting but complementary approaches to Economics. Mokyr is an economic historian who delved into long-term trends using historical sources, while Howitt and Aghion relied on mathematics to explain how creative destruction works.

Dutch-born Mokyr, 79, is from Northwestern University; Aghion, 69, from the Collège de France and the London School of Economics; and



Canadian-born Howitt, 79, from Brown University.

Mokyr was still trying to get his morning coffee when he was reached on the phone by an AP reporter, and said he was shocked to win the prize.

“People always say this, but in this case I am being truthful — I had no clue that anything like this was going to happen,” he said.

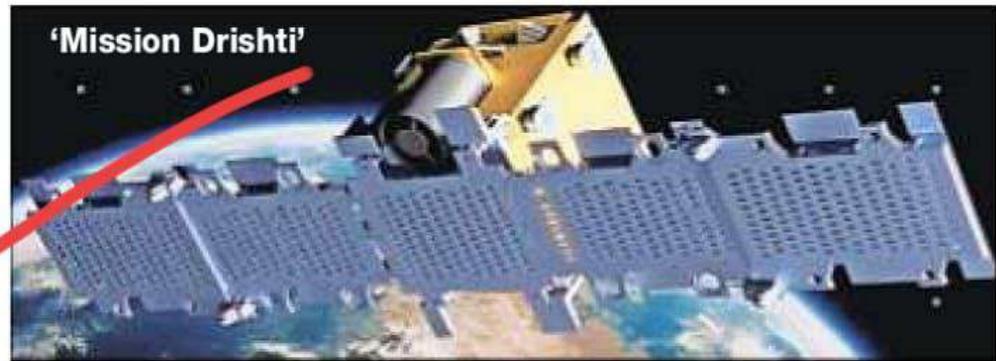
His students had asked him about  
*(Contd on page 5)*

# GalaxEye to launch **WORLD'S FIRST** multi-sensor EO satellite in 2026

NEW DELHI, Oct 13 (PTI)

SPACE-TECH start-up GalaxEye on Monday said it will launch the world's first multi-sensor Earth observation (EO) satellite 'Mission Drishti' in the first quarter of next year, marking the beginning of setting up a constellation of satellites over the next four years. Weighing 160 kg, Mission Drishti is India's largest privately built satellite and also the highest-resolution satellite developed in the country, the Bengaluru-based company said in a statement. It plans to launch 8-10 satellites by 2029.

The satellite uses GalaxEye's proprietary SyncFused Opto-SAR technology, which combines both Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) and multispectral sensors on a single platform. It will allow for continuous all-weather, high-resolution imagery with global coverage. The satellite, offering 1.5 metre resolution, will enable Governments, defence agencies



and industries to perform advanced geospatial analysis across a wide range of applications, including border surveillance, disaster management, defence, utilities and infrastructure monitoring, agriculture, as well as financial and insurance assessment, providing real-time environmental and structural insights.

"With Mission Drishti, we are unlocking a new era of actionable data through space exploration. For the first time in the world, we are deploying a satellite that combines multiple sensing technologies on a single platform, enabling us to observe the

Earth in ways that were previously impossible," Suyash Singh, co-founder and CEO, GalaxEye, said in a statement.

"This mission places India firmly on the global space map and creates a system that turns space technology into intelligence that businesses, governments, and communities can rely on," Singh said.

The Drishti satellite has undergone comprehensive structural testing at ISRO's U R Rao Satellite Centre (URSC), proving its capability to endure the harsh conditions of space, including extreme temperatures, vibrations, and vacuum.

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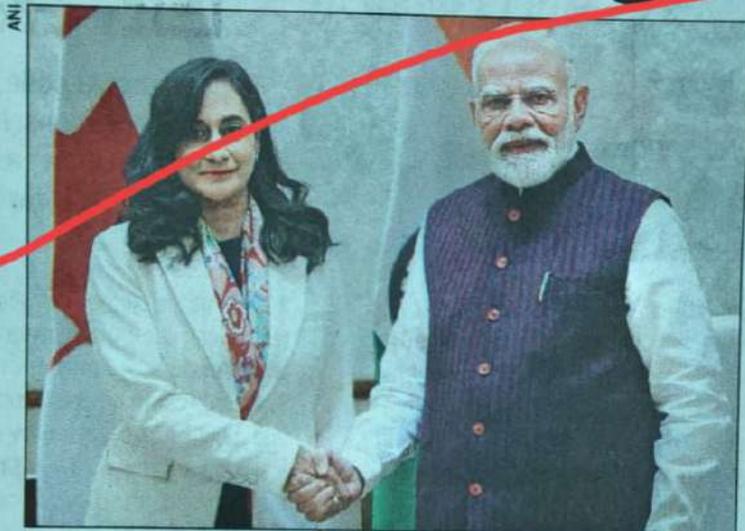
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