

India in talks with Boeing, Blue Origin for partnerships

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The Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) is exploring joint collaborations with Boeing, Jeff Bezos's Blue Origin and Voyager Space, as an official visit by the head of Nasa highlights the growing level of cooperation between the US and India in outer space.

The potential partnerships could also involve Indian commercial entities, India's Department of Space said in a statement on Wednesday.

NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) Administrator Bill Nelson is visiting several locations in India this week, including Bengaluru-based facilities that are testing and integrating spacecraft for a joint US-Indian Earth-observing mission scheduled for launch in 2024.

Nelson's visit underscores Nasa's deepening space alliance with Isro, which this year notched several accomplishments including the landing of a spacecraft near the moon's south pole in August.

The two space agencies are planning to send an Indian astronaut to the International Space Station next year. In June, Nelson joined a

ceremony in Washington when India signed the Artemis Accords, a US-backed initiative with more than two dozen other countries to establish principles for space exploration. Blue Origin is "very keen" on considering using an Indian rocket as a crew capsule to service its proposed space station Orbital Reef in low-Earth orbit, Isro Chairman S Somanath told *The Times of India* in June. Larsen & Toubro is in early discussions with Blue Origin to supply orbital launch capabilities, according to local media.

Tata arm inks deal to build LEO satellites

Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) and Nasdaq-listed Satellogic have signed a strategic contract to build low earth orbit (LEO) satellites in India, the companies said on Wednesday, adding that TASL will commission a satellite plant in Karnataka. TASL would establish an assembly, integration, and testing (AIT) facility for satellites in India and co-develop a satellite design with Satellogic, a leader in sub-metre resolution earth observation (EO) data collection, a joint press release added. **PTI**

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