



85th Edition



MAGA meets MIGA: In meet with Trump, Modi bats for 'MEGA' India-US partnership

The meeting underscored a growing India-US alliance, built on shared economic, security, and strategic interests.

As Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump took the stage for a press conference, amid discussions of defence deals, economic cooperation, and shared democratic values, one moment stood out — Modi's nod to Trump's signature "Make America Great Again" mantra. With a smile, Modi introduced his own slogan — "Make India Great Again."

Standing alongside Trump, Modi drew parallels between the two nationalistic slogans, emphasizing the shared vision of strengthening their respective nations.

"Just as President Trump has spoken of 'Make America Great Again,' I too am committed to 'Make India Great Again,'" PM Modi said.

The people of America know President Trump's motto 'MAGA – Make America Great Again.' In India, we are working with determination toward a Viksit Bharat, which in American terms, is MIGA – Make India Great Again. Together, MAGA and MIGA create a MEGA partnership for prosperity," Modi added



Tata Advanced Systems unveils advanced loitering drone with 250 km range suitable for LAC

Tata Advanced Systems Ltd (TASL) has unveiled a new long-range, autonomous suicide drone designed for high-altitude and forward operations. The fully indigenous system will be offered to the armed forces.

The Advanced Loitering System (ALS) drone has a range of over 250 km and is designed for takeoff from advanced landing grounds above 10,000 feet. Several such advanced landing grounds dot the border with China, particularly on the Ladakh border.

The precision attack loitering system uses visual targeting, operates in all weather conditions, and functions without GPS, making it effective in jammed environments.

The stand-off weapon can carry anti-tank warheads and other munitions as needed. It features short-runway takeoff and is based on the ALS 50 design, which has a 50 km range.

The new weapon, unlike the battery-operated shorter-range system, uses an internal combustion engine for extended range and higher payload capacity. It is an entirely Indian design, including avionics, guidance, and ground control, and is globally competitive.

Source: The Economic Times

Japan Eyes India for Business Growth Under 'China Plus One' Strategy India Becomes a Key Manufacturing Hub

Post-Covid, Japanese companies are looking beyond China and choosing India as a major manufacturing and supply chain hub. The 'China Plus One' strategy helps reduce dependence on China, and India is a top beneficiary due to its large market and strategic location for exports to the Middle East and Africa.

Massive Surge in Japanese Investments

For the first time ever, India has overtaken China as the top destination for Japanese Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)! In 2023, Japan invested \$6 billion in India, while its investment in China fell to just \$3 billion. Over the years, Japan has invested \$44 billion in India, making it the 5th largest foreign investor in the country.

Japanese Companies Betting Big on Startups

It's not just manufacturing—Japanese firms are eyeing Indian startups in fintech, deep tech, and digital solutions. Over the past 10 years, 200+ investment deals have happened between the Japan-India corridor. Bengaluru has even become a hotspot for Japanese venture capitalists

Source: NDTV

India-France strategic ties to get major boost with Rafale & Scorpene deals

India and France are set to strengthen their strategic ties with two massive defense deals worth almost Rs 1 lakh crore (Euro 10.6 billion). The first deal involves the direct acquisition of 26 Rafale-Marine fighters, while the second deal involves the construction of three additional Scorpene submarines¹.

The Rafale-M deal, worth Rs 63,000 crore, includes 22 single-seat jets and four twin-seat trainers for the Navy. This deal is currently awaiting final approval from the Cabinet Committee for Security (CCS). The Rafale-M jets will be manufactured by Dassault Aviation and will come with specific enhancements to operate from the deck of India's indigenous aircraft carrier, INS Vikrant¹.

The Scorpene submarine deal, worth Rs 33,500 crore, involves the construction of three additional diesel-electric submarines by Mazagon Docks (MDL) in collaboration with French Naval Group. These submarines will have design modifications and improvements over the existing Kalvari-class vessels¹.

These deals are expected to be finalized soon, with the aim of inking both deals before the end of the fiscal year on March 31. The collaboration between India and France is also expected to extend to other areas, including the co-development of a 110 kilonewton jet engine for India's fifth-generation stealth fighter project, AMCA.

Source: Times of India



Income Tax Simplified: What's Changing in the New Bill?

Simplification of Tax Laws: The new bill reorganizes and rephrases existing tax sections to reduce confusion, condensing the law from 800 to 600 pages.

Consolidation of Deductions: Deductions, previously scattered across sections 80C to 80U, are now grouped under a single cluster titled "Deductions to be made in computing total income," providing a comprehensive list in one place.

Terminology Update: The terms "Previous year" and "Assessment year" are replaced with "Tax Year," referring to the period when income is earned, simplifying tax filing references.

Introduction of 'Virtual Digital Space': This term encompasses online environments like emails, social media, online banking, cloud servers, and digital platforms. It plays a significant role in "search and seizure" operations, allowing authorities to access these records during tax investigations.

Source: Finshots

Jio Financial & BlackRock: A Bold New Chapter in India's Broking Space

Joint Venture Expands Horizons

Jio Financial Services and BlackRock are taking their partnership to the next level! On Tuesday, they announced their new subsidiary, Jio BlackRock Broking Private Ltd, which is stepping into the broking business.

This subsidiary, formed on January 20, 2025, is an extension of their joint venture, Jio BlackRock Investment Advisers Private Ltd, which was first announced in July 2023.

Massive ₹2,500 Crore Investment for Big Dreams

Well, both Jio Financial Services and BlackRock are putting their money. Each partner has committed a whopping ₹1,250 crore to the venture, creating a fund of ₹2,500 crore to power this digital-first platform.

Their mission? To democratize access to wealth management and broking services. They aim to bring advanced investment solutions to the everyday Indian and change how we all manage our money.

Regulatory Green Lights & Bigger Plans

Last year, the joint venture got an in-principle approval from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), clearing the way for this major initiative. Now, they're focused on securing the remaining approvals to go full steam ahead.

Source: The Economic Times

Mukesh Ambani's Big Plan: World's Largest Data Centre in Jamnagar

Reliance's Grand Vision

Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries is gearing up to build the world's largest data centre in Jamnagar, Gujarat.

This massive project aims to boost India's capabilities in artificial intelligence (AI) and data storage.

Powering Up with AI

The data centre will be AI-ready, meaning it's designed to handle advanced AI applications and services.

This move is set to position India as a leader in the global AI landscape, making cutting-edge technology more accessible.

A Green Initiative

Reliance plans to power this huge facility using renewable energy sources, aligning with global sustainability trends.

Source: Mint



BUSINESS LEADERS NEWS

HARSH JAIN CO- FOUNDER AND CEO OF DREAM11

Intro

Dream11 is an Indian fantasy sports platform that allows users to play daily fantasy sports contests, primarily in cricket. In April 2019, Dream11 became the first Indian fantasy sport company to become a unicorn. In November 2021, Dream11 was valued at \$8 billion. In October 2023, Dream11 claimed to have 200 million users.

Dream11 was co-founded by Harsh Jain (son of Indian businessman Anand Jain) and Bhavit Sheth in 2008. In 2012, they introduced freemium fantasy sports in India for cricket fans. In 2014, the company reported 1 million registered users, which grew to 2 million in 2016 and to 45 million in 2018.

Dream11 Business Model

A premium business model allows Dream11 to draw in a big user base and make money through premium services. The net profit for Dream11 in FY23 was INR 187.8 crore, up 32% from the previous year. Its business strategy is structured such that it earns money from the joining fees of the contests, which users must pay to take part in paid public or private contests. It can be quite tough and resource-intensive to turn free users into paying clients. A lot of people still favor Dream11, even though other websites provide cheaper commissions or don't charge anything for private competitions (like HalaPlay or MyTeam11). This preference is largely due to its ability to create personalized competitions, which is particularly useful when playing with friends or creating your cricket team.

USP of Dream11

Dream11 has developed a highly effective marketing strategy thanks to its data-driven culture and the insights it has gained. Its organic traffic accounts for more than 30% of its total users. The company's digital marketing and referral programs, combined with its powerful media efforts, have successfully captivated the Indian masses and made fantasy sports a phenomenon in the country.

Conclusion

Over the past ten years, fantasy sports have seen tremendous transformation. There is a staggering rate of new apps appearing. This has led to a leveling off of competition in the fantasy game market. However, to inject some freshness, innovation is required.

Nowadays, Dream11's competitors all use the same point system and UI, which turns off a lot of players on the first try because they're always looking for something new. Dream11 has developed, and grown rapidly, even though formidable competitors have emerged. With the increasing commercialization of sports, Dream11's future is bright.



HEDGE FUNDS

An investment fund that uses a wide range of strategies, often risky, to earn above average returns for its members. This alternative type of investment is managed more actively than others and is only open to professional investors and institutions.

Head Of The Department

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