PM Modi aims to boost investment ties, secure tariff relief during US visit

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi faces a tougher challenge this time in pitching the country as an attractive investment destination for President Donald Trump and US investors. The climate around Indian financial assets has shifted dramatically since Modi last visited the US nearly two years ago. Then, he touted the nation's booming economy, soaring stock markets, and its potential to rival China as the world's factory. Now, his case is harder to make. Modi's visit comes as foreigners have pulled $21 billion from Indian shares since the end of September, the rupee has hit fresh lows, and the nation's $4.1 trillion stock market is Asia's worst performer this year among the region's major economies. Trump's threats of reciprocal tariffs are only making matters worse.

'Right time to come to India': PM Modi to French business leaders at India-France CEO Forum

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday enumerated the steps taken by India towards ease of doing business and rationalising compliances while addressing CEOs in France. At the India-France CEO Forum in Paris, PM Modi said, "Let me tell you all, this is the right time to come to India. Everyone's progress is linked to India's progress. An example of this was seen in the aviation sector when Indian companies placed large orders for airplanes. And, now, when we are going to open 120 new airports, you can imagine the future possibilities for yourselves". He said India is becoming "the biggest centre of diversification and de-risking". "A few days ago, a new generation of reforms were outlined in our budget," he noted, "New steps have been taken for ease of doing business. In the last few years, we have rationalised more than 40,000 compliances. To promote trust-based economic governance, a high-level committee for regulatory reforms has been formed. The custom rate structure has been rationalised."

India's Private Bank Launches UPI, Net Banking FD Opening Featur

 One of the largest private sector banks in India, today announced the introduction of a first-of-its-kind feature that enables customers to open Fixed Deposits (FDs) with its mobile application, using funds from their non-Bank accounts via UPI and Net Banking payment options. The Bank is the first private sector bank to introduce this new-age banking feature by leveraging the Account Aggregator ecosystem, thus creating a seamless banking experience for its customers. With this feature, Bank's ETB (Existing-To-Bank) customers with valid KYC can open a Fixed Deposit with funds from their other bank accounts through UPI or Net Banking payment options. The FD opening will be processed after successful payment completion and receipt of funds from the payment gateway service provider.

Evolving contours of India-US statecraft

With economic weight shifting towards Asia-centric emerging economies, Western nations, especially the US, have keen interest in India for two reasons — counterbalancing China, and ensuring geostrategic dominance in the Indo-Pacific. India fits as the most suitable partner in the entire ballgame. With Donald Trump's return as the 47th US President, hyper-activism is evident in abrupt, individualistic, and transactional decisions. This evolving scenario necessitates reassessing geoeconomic and geostrategic statecraft, particularly in light of Prime Minister Modi's US visit. Trump's business-centric, transactional, and unpredictable nature prioritises bilateral over multilateral deals under "America First". His administration shifts focus from institutional frameworks to direct negotiations, disregarding global governance structures (G20, WTO, UN), engaging in transactional diplomacy (Mexico, Canada), tech and tariff wars (China), coercive diplomacy (Gaza, Panama Canal, Greenland), and unilateral military actions (Somalia, Syria). He employs tariffs, tech bans, economic sanctions, and trade curbs, reshaping diplomatic relations purely on economic calculus favouring the US.

Rupee gives up gains to end at 86.89 against $

The currency rose to a two-week high of 86.47 in early hours of trading. The Reserve Bank of India likely intervened in the NDF segment, before the spot market opened, driving the rupee to open stronger than expected at 86.457/$1, traders said. The Indian rupee strengthened to 86.47 during early hours on Recently, but gave up most of its gains to close at 86.89, slightly weaker from its previous close of 86.82. The rupee was pressured by maturity of positions in the non-deliverable forwards (NDF) segment, and equity sales by overseas investors. The currency rose to a two-week high of 86.47 in early hours of trading. The Reserve Bank of India likely intervened in the NDF segment, before the spot market opened, driving the rupee to open stronger than expected at 86.457/$1, traders said.

India, France advance defence ties with R&D framework agreement

India and France have strengthened their defence cooperation, with an agreement between India's DRDO and France's DGA for early launch of R&D framework. Discussions also took place on air and maritime assets, AI governance, and the Pinaka missile system. Both nations aim to harness innovation for mutual growth. India and France recently elevated their defence ties with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Emmanuel Macron agreeing for early launch of an R&D framework for cooperation in defence technologies between French state agency DGA and India's DRDO. In addition, both leaders welcomed ongoing talks between France's L'Office National d'Etudes et de Recherches Aerospatiales (ONERA) and Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) to identify technologies for R&D partnerships, according to a joint statement issued after Modi-Macron Summit in Marseilles during the PM's third day of his visit to France.

Curreny	Rate (Rs)	Change		Index	Change
USDINR	86.805	0.014	NIFTY 50	23,183.90	138.65
EURINR	91	0.326	BSE Sensex	76,602.96	431.88
GBPINR	108.636	0.417			
JPYINR	0.5635	0.0007			