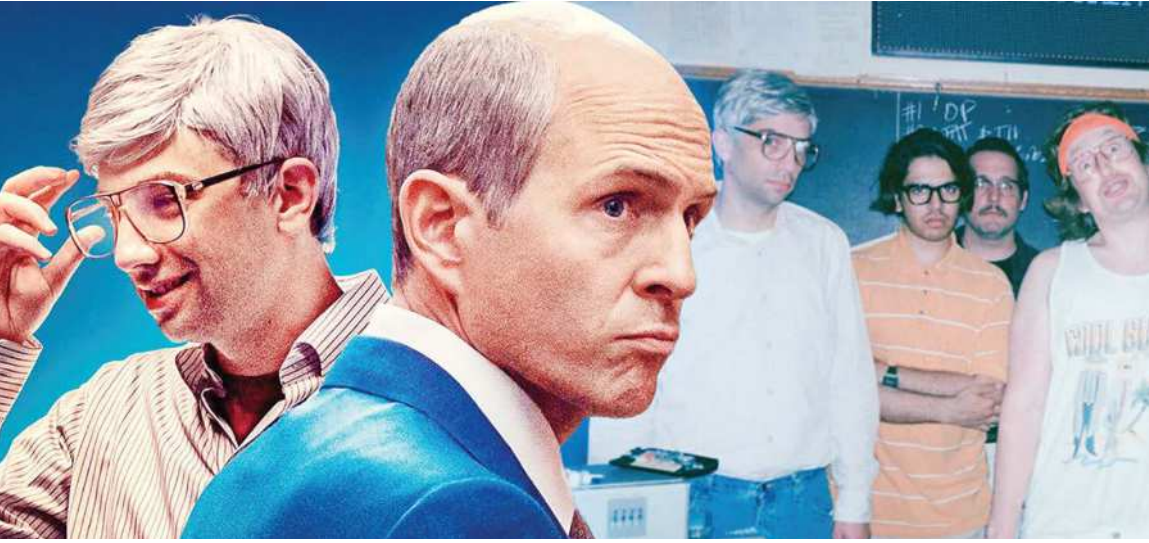


Before the iPhone, there was BlackBerry

Brilliant ideas built a tech giant; ruthless ambition brought it down



SRIKANTH GODAVARTHI

“NO, it’s actually the world’s smallest email terminal,” says Mike Lazaridis, a Canadian immigrant originally from Istanbul, during the prototype demonstration, when he, along with Doug Fregin, pitches their first working device to potential investors. It is a make-or-break moment for the young company, as the two engineers unveil a handheld device capable of sending and receiving emails wirelessly, something revolutionary in the ‘90s. The investors are initially sceptical, but the vision soon clicks; and with it begins the BlackBerry era.

Set during a period marked by a surge in technology, the two Canadian electrical engineers, Lazaridis and Fregin, portrayed by Jay Baruchel and Matt Johnson, engage in brainstorming sessions while navigating a rather tumultuous professional relationship.

Facing challenges in transforming their invention into a successful enterprise, the duo collaborates with Jim Balsillie, portrayed by Glenn Howerton, a driven and enterprising businessman who propels the company

Long before smartphones became part of everyday life, one device changed the way the world worked. BlackBerry revisits the phenomenal rise of the company that made mobile email indispensable, while delivering an engrossing drama about visionaries, risk-takers and the race to stay ahead. Fast-paced and funny it captures the excitement and the cost of building the next big thing

towards a path of growth, financial gain, and dominance in the tech-eat-tech world.

Together, they transform BlackBerry into an \$85 billion technology giant of the early 2000s, forever changing communication, until ‘iGod’ Steve Jobs stepped onto the stage with the Apple iPhone, marking the beginning of BlackBerry’s decline.

As competition intensifies with the arrival of the iPhone, alongside the success of Samsung and Google phones, rapid advancements in the technology sector, internal disputes, personal egos, and mounting corporate pressures begin to threaten the company’s dominant position.

The film highlights the fundamental conflict between the impulsive Jim, who is eager to have products shipped, and the meticulous Mike, who insists on perfecting them while refusing to compromise on excellence. In one of the film’s most mem-

BIG TICKET

orable exchanges, Jim asks, “Mike, are you familiar with the saying ‘Perfect is the enemy of good?’” Mike replies, “Well, good enough is the enemy of humanity.” The film has many such razor-sharp dialogues laced with humour, perfectly capturing the clash between commercial ambition and engineering perfection.

A status symbol, a business essential, and the device that made mobile email part of everyday life, BlackBerry was, at its peak, the prized possession of the powerful, the famous, and the wealthy from Barack Obama and Madonna to Kim Kardashian, top business executives, and even technology leaders such as Eric Schmidt. Lazaridis was just 23 when he founded Research In Motion (RIM) alongside his childhood friend and co-founder Doug Fregin, who was 24. What be-

Success in technology is rarely permanent, and BlackBerry is a reminder of just how quickly fortunes can change. Blending humour with high-stakes corporate drama, the film charts the highs and lows of an industry driven by innovation. Whether you’re interested in business, entrepreneurship or simply enjoy compelling true stories, this is a film that keeps you invested from start to finish

gan as the dream of two young engineers would eventually become one of the most iconic technology companies of its era.

For Gen Z, and perhaps even many millennials, it may be difficult to imagine just how dominant BlackBerry once was. The film offers a fascinating look at how a small Canadian startup built the world’s first successful smartphone, achieved extraordinary global success, and ultimately lost its place at the top in the face of relentless innovation and changing consumer expectations. More than just a story about a company’s collapse, BlackBerry is a compelling exploration of ambition, innovation, leadership, and the unforgiving pace of technological disruption, making it a must-watch for anyone interested in startups, entrepreneurship, business strategy, or the ever-evolving world of technology.

BlackBerry (2023) | Streaming on JioHotstar | Directed by Matthew Johnson | Based on true story

BRICS Summit: China yet to decide on Xi’s visit but backs India for ‘successful’ meet

India’s Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri visits Beijing, holds talks with several Chinese officials



BEIJING

CHINA said it supports India to make this year’s BRICS summit a “full success” but remained evasive about President Xi Jinping’s attendance.

“BRICS is an important platform for cooperation among emerging markets and developing countries”, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning told a media briefing here.

“China attaches great importance to and actively participates in BRICS cooperation. We support this year’s chair India in making the BRICS Summit a full success”, she said, but evaded answering a question on whether Xi would attend the meeting.

“For (the) specifics you mentioned, I have no information to share at the moment”, she said.

BRICS, originally comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, expanded in 2024 to include Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and the UAE, with Indonesia joining in 2025.

India, the current chair of the grouping, is scheduled to hold this year’s summit on Sept 12-13.

On this week’s visit of Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and his talks with various Chinese officials, including Vice Foreign Minister Hua Chunying, Mao said the two of them exchanged views on a range of issues.

“They exchanged views on delivering on the important common understandings be-

tween the leaders of the two countries, deepening political mutual trust, advancing exchanges and cooperation

in various areas, properly handling differences and disputes, and promoting the sound and steady develop-

India, China agree for bilateral cooperation and communication in trade, economic ties

BEIJING

INDIA’s Ambassador to China, Vikram Doraiswami, and Yan Dong, Member of the CPC Leadership Group of the Ministry of Commerce and Vice Minister, agreed to enhance mutual cooperation and communication on trade and economic ties.

“Ambassador Vikram Doraiswami met HE Yan Dong, Member of the CPC Leadership Group of the Ministry of Commerce and Vice Minister, today. They exchanged views on enhancing bilateral trade and economic ties, including the need for sustainable trade and enhanced market access for Indian products like pharmaceuticals. Towards this end, the two sides agreed to enhance cooperation and communication,” the Embassy of India in Beijing wrote on X.

On Wednesday, Pratik Mathur, Consul General of India in Shanghai, met CPC Party Secretary Shi Huifang and discussed Shi’s recent visit to India, where he visited Delhi and Bengaluru.

“Consul General Shri Pratik Mathur was welcomed by CPC Party Secretary HE Shi



According to the Consulate, the Consul General thanked the city’s leadership for the support extended to the Indian athletics team during the second Asian Relay Championships last month when Indian athletes won multiple medals, highlighted by a historic gold in the 4x100 metres women’s relay event.

Huifang on an official visit to Shaoxing prefecture-level city in Zhejiang province today. Both sides had an engaging discussion on Party Secretary Shi’s recent visit to India, where he visited Delhi and Bengaluru,” the Consulate General of India in Shanghai wrote on X.

According to the Consulate, the Consul General

BRICS, originally comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, expanded in 2024 to include Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and the UAE, with Indonesia joining in 2025

ment of China-India relations,” she said.

Misri, who was previously India’s Ambassador to China, met Hua on Monday during his two-day visit to China.

The meeting was held under the Vice Minister-Foreign Secretary mechanism between two countries, Mao said.

thanked the city’s leadership for the support extended to the Indian athletics team during the second Asian Relay Championships last month when Indian athletes won multiple medals, highlighted by a historic gold in the 4x100 metres women’s relay event.

“Consul General also used the opportunity to interact with the vibrant Indian diaspora and, at the invitation of Lu Xun Foundation, visit the home of China’s poet laureate, paying tribute to his strong friendship with Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore,” the Consulate highlighted. Earlier this week, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri paid an official visit to China, during which he held discussions with Hua Chunying, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of China. They reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations and discussed means of advancing the vision of the two leaders that India and China are partners and development opportunities for each other, including through mutually beneficial outcomes across trade and economic ties, culture, and people-to-people exchanges.

Asia focus: India emerges as key partner in Trump's diplomatic strategy to counter China



WASHINGTON

INDIA has emerged as part of the Trump administration’s evolving public diplomacy strategy as Washington shifts greater attention towards Asia while overhauling the way it communicates with overseas audiences, a senior US official told lawmakers.

Sarah Rogers, President Donald Trump’s nominee to lead the US Agency for Global Media (USAGM), said Asia would be one of the agency’s principal areas of focus as the United States responds to growing information campaigns by China and other authoritarian governments.

“Asia, huge focus,” Rogers told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee while outlining her vision for the agency, which oversees Voice of America, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, Radio Free Asia and other US-funded international broadcasters.

Explaining her public diplomacy outreach, Rogers

said she had concentrated much of her engagement on countries where social media plays a significant role in public discourse.

“I’ve also tweeted a lot of content about Japan and some about India,” she said, adding that these are among the countries “where Twitter is most popular.”

Rogers said the agency should increasingly tailor its outreach to modern media consumption habits rather than relying primarily on traditional radio and television broadcasts.

“If confirmed,” she said, USAGM would expand into “short-form video, diaspora group chats, podcasts and other timely forms of engagement,” while maintaining conventional broadcasting where it remains effective.

She also argued that US international broadcasting should concentrate on countries where access to independent information remains restricted, identifying Asia, the Middle East, Iran, Afghanistan and Cuba

Western countries must take India more seriously to balance China: Report

NEW DELHI

WHILE for the last 20 years, Western governments have seen India as indispensable to the 21st-century order, they have not matched this with capital investment which has instead been flowing into China over the last 30 years and created a strategic adversary, according to an article published Lowy Institute, an Australian think tank.

The article highlights that India is not yet the anchor of an industrial alternative capable of balancing China. But it is the only country with the scale to become one.

The West is now trying to correct a compounded strategic error by relying on incremental corporate decisions. Companies are encouraged to adopt “China plus one”, but they face incentives that favour China which has better infrastructure such as power and ports, that rising industrial powers are still trying to build, the article written by Stephanie Campbell states.

among the agency’s strategic priorities.

“My first priority will be to stabilise the agency, strength-



While Vietnam, Mexico, Indonesia and others can absorb specific industries and create valuable redundancy, India is the only country that can provide an industrial alternative at continental scale, the report says

“The policy failure is to mistake the accumulation of fragmented corporate decisions for strategic rebalancing. Governments now ask firms to bear the cost of reversing a concentration created by dec-

ades of collective investment and reinforced by Western policy,” the article observes. “PM Modi has spent more than a decade trying to convert India’s demographic and geopolitical scale into industrial power, with promising but uneven results. But India cannot become a second centre of industrial gravity through domestic reform alone,” the article further states.

viewership,” Rogers said.

The comments come as the United States places growing emphasis on competing

individual investments. While Vietnam, Mexico, Indonesia and others can absorb specific industries and create valuable redundancy, India is the only country that can provide an industrial alternative at continental scale.

The relevant choice is between a strategically autonomous India and continued industrial dependence on a strategic competitor. The West is demanding greater alignment from the country it needs to strengthen than it demanded from the adversary it allowed itself to depend upon,” the article observes.

It also highlights that although Australia cannot finance India’s industrial transformation, it can integrate critical minerals, energy and defence cooperation into a broader industrial strategy. India will remain strategically autonomous and – from the perspective of Western capitals – an imperfect partner. However, that imperfection is less dangerous than continued dependence on China.

with China not only in trade, technology and defence but also in the information domain.

The comments come as the United States places growing emphasis on competing

India, Bhutan review progress, sign ₹ 4,000-cr LoC agreement

THIMPHU



India is Bhutan's largest development partner and has been extending financial and technical assistance for infrastructure, connectivity, education, health and capacity-building projects over the decades

INDIA and Bhutan reviewed the progress of New Delhi-supported development projects in the Himalayan nation during a high-level talk, as the two sides signed a concessional line of credit agreement worth Rs 4,000 crore and expanded cooperation in the health sector.

The fifth India-Bhutan Development Cooperation Talks, co-chaired by Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and his Bhutanese counterpart Dasho Pema Lektup Dorji on Thursday, focused on the implementation of projects under Bhutan’s 13th Five-Year Plan, the Indian Embassy in Bhutan said in a social media post. The two sides reviewed the progress and implementation of India-supported projects across diverse sectors, it said. Bhutan appreciated India’s significant support and its contribution to the country’s socio-economic development, the mission said.

The two foreign secretaries also virtually inaugurated the Thimphu Ecological Park and the Olakha Park, developed under the “Green Infrastructure and Open Spaces in Thimphu” project funded by India as part of bilateral economic development.

An agreement for a concessional line of credit of Rs 4,000 crore (Nu 40 billion) was exchanged between the Export-Import Bank of India and Bhutan’s Ministry of Finance to support development initiatives in the country, the embassy said. The two

sides also exchanged a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for cooperation in health education and research between the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and Bhutan’s Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Sciences, it said.

As part of India’s support for Bhutan’s green mobility initiatives, 45 electric vehicles were handed over to the Royal Government of Bhutan.

India is Bhutan’s largest development partner and has been extending financial and technical assistance for infrastructure, connectivity, education, health and capacity-building projects over the decades. New Delhi has committed support for Bhutan’s 13th Five-Year Plan as part of its longstanding development partnership with the neighbouring Himalayan kingdom.