

## CNN to be in Trump's favor?

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Dhaka: CNN is set to enter a new and politically sensitive chapter after shareholders of Warner Bros Discovery approved a USD 111 billion acquisition by Paramount, a deal that could reshape not only Hollywood but also the future direction of one of America's most influential news networks.

The takeover gives Paramount control over Warner Bros Discovery's vast media empire, including blockbuster franchises, streaming platforms like HBO Max, and major television assets. However, it is the future of CNN that has drawn the most attention in Washington and beyond, given its political influence and long-standing tension with former President Donald Trump.

Paramount's leadership is closely tied to billionaire investor Larry Ellison, a prominent Republican donor, and his son David Ellison, who is leading the company's expansion push. The timing of the deal has

intensified speculation over whether CNN's editorial direction could shift under new ownership, especially as Trump has frequently criticized the network and previously suggested it should change ownership altogether.

Trump has repeatedly accused CNN of political bias, and during his previous presidency and campaign rallies, he often singled out the network as an opponent. Against that backdrop, the prospect of CNN coming under a new corporate structure linked to influential political donors has triggered debate over whether its tone or leadership could eventually change.



Supporters of the merger argue it is primarily a business decision aimed at building a stronger global media giant. Warner Bros Discovery chair

Samuel DiPiazza said the combined company would unlock greater value across its entertainment and news portfolio and expand opportunities for creators and audiences worldwide.

However, critics in Hollywood and politics see the deal differently. More than 1,400 actors, directors, and filmmakers have already warned that the consolidation could reduce competition and narrow creative opportunities across the industry. Some lawmakers, including Senator Elizabeth Warren, have called the transaction an “antitrust disaster,” urging regulators to intervene.

Adding to the controversy, Paramount’s leadership is scheduled to meet with political figures in Washington, fueling further scrutiny over how media influence, business consolidation, and politics may intersect in the final approval process.

Regulators in the United States and Europe still need to sign off on the acquisition, with European authorities expected to examine the deal closely due to concerns over media concentration.

If approved, Paramount would absorb Warner Bros Discovery’s full portfolio and integrate its streaming services into its existing network of entertainment brands. But beyond Hollywood consolidation, the most closely watched question remains whether CNN—long at the center of America’s political media battles—will remain unchanged or begin to reflect the priorities of its new corporate owner.

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