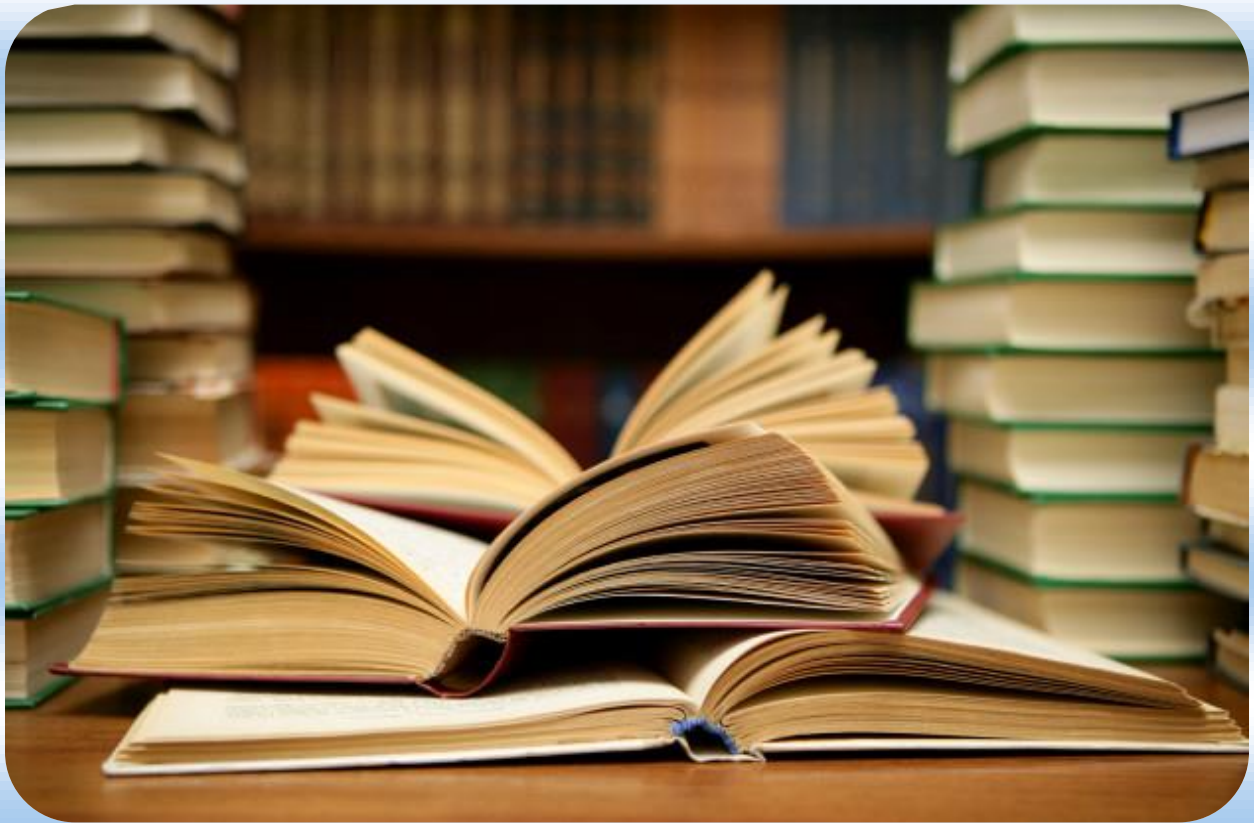


LIBRARY & RESOURCE CENTER, NOIDA

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE MONTHLY



NOVEMBER-2024

NATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

Ravindra Jadeja Climbs to 5th Spot in India's Test Wicket List

Not only did Ravindra Jadeja turn the innings around with his five-for against New Zealand on Friday — storming past the Kiwis' lower-middle order to bundle them out at 235 — he also did so by notching another fine achievement. With his 314th Test wicket, Jadeja has overtaken Zaheer Khan and Ishant Sharma to become India's sixth-highest wicket-taker in Test cricket.



Guinness Records Set in Ayodhya Over 25 lakhs Diyas on Deepotsav 2024

Two Guinness World Records—the most people performing 'aarti' simultaneously and the largest display of oil lamps — were set at the eighth edition of Deepotsav in Ayodhya on Wednesday (October 30, 2024). The two records were set on 55 ghats, including Ram ki Paidi, on the banks of the Saryu River in the holy city.



October GST Collections Surge by 8.9% Year-on-Year to Reach Rs 1.87 Lakh Crore

Gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections rose 8.9 per cent year-on-year to Rs 1.87 lakh crore in October (for sales in September), the second highest level of monthly collections seen since the July 2017 rollout of the indirect tax regime, primarily driven by a rise in domestic revenue than imports, the data released by the Finance Ministry on Friday showed. On a net basis, GST collections increased 7.9 per cent to Rs 1.68 lakh crore, the data showed.

UPI Transactions Reach Record High in October with Rs 23.5 Trillion in Value

There were 16.58 billion Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions worth Rs 23.5 trillion in October, the highest numbers for the digital system since it became operational in April 2016. UPI's previous peak was 15.04 billion in volume terms in September 2024 and Rs 20.64 trillion in value in July. Data from previous months shows that the growth in transactions is driven by person to merchant transactions (for buying goods or services), which got a festival season push in October. It was the first time that UPI crossed 16 billion in volume and Rs 23 trillion in value.

Praveena Rai Takes the Appointed as CEO and MD of MCX

Leading commodity exchange MCX on Friday said Praveena Rai has assumed office as its Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director for a five-year term. Rai took charge on October 31, the exchange said in a statement. She succeeds P S Reddy, who completed his five-year tenure in May 2024.



India May to Welcome Indonesia's President on Republic Day 2025

New Delhi may be looking east, at Indonesia's new President Prabowo Subianto, as chief guest for its Republic Day 2025 celebrations, sources said. A number of high-level interactions with the new Indonesian government and defence deals are on the anvil, besides a possible invitation to the Indonesian military to participate in the parade.



NSE Launches Multilingual Mobile App and Website

The National Stock Exchange of India (NSE India) has launched its new mobile app NSEIndia which went live on Diwali (November 1) this year. In a press release, the exchange further said that it has also expanded its website to support a total of 11 regional languages, besides English. The regional languages added include Assamese, Bengali, Kannada, Malayalam, Oriya, Punjabi, Tamil and Telugu. Hindi, Marathi, and Gujarati were already available on the website (www.nseindia.com) in addition to English.

Canara Bank Aims for ₹6,000 Crore Recovery in H2 FY25

Canara Bank plans to recover Rs 6,000 crore from bad loans in the second half of the fiscal year. The bank expects Rs 3,000 crore in recovery for both the third and fourth quarter. Additionally, it anticipates the IPO of Canara Robeco Asset Management Company to happen in the fourth quarter. State-owned Canara Bank aims to recover about Rs 6,000 crore from bad loans during the second half of the current fiscal. "We are anticipating recovery somewhere about Rs 3,000 crore in the third quarter and a similar amount in the fourth quarter," Canara Bank managing director and CEO K Satyanarayana Raju told PTI.

SEBI Proposes Reforms to Enhance Flexibility and Protection for REITs and InvITs

Markets regulator Sebi has proposed allowing Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs), Small and Medium REITs (SM REITs) and Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs) to use interest rate derivatives for hedging risk. Also, the regulator has suggested approving locked-in units for REITs and InvITs to be transferred among sponsors and their groups, similar to rules for promoters in listed companies, to help sponsors manage their holdings without compromising "skin in the game".

SEBI's New Securitisation Rules: Key Investor Safeguards

Market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has proposed new regulations that include a minimum investment threshold of Rs 1 crore for participants engaged in securitisation activities. This initiative, targeting both RBI-regulated originators and unregulated entities, seeks to streamline investment processes and protect investor interests.



Itaru Otani Appointed as Chairman of India Yamaha Motor

New Delhi: India Yamaha Motor on Friday said it has appointed Itaru Otani as the new Chairman. Otani brings over three decades of experience with Yamaha Motor Company, having held key leadership roles across global markets, including Australia, Brazil and Japan, the company said in a statement. Prior to this role, he served as Chief General Manager, leading the Land Mobility Business Operations based out of Japan, it added. "The aspirations of Indian consumers are evolving rapidly, and we see incredible opportunities to bring in products that blend Yamaha's global expertise with the unique needs and desires of Indian riders," Otani said.

ISRO Begins Groundbreaking Analogue Space Mission in Leh

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) announced on Friday the launch of its analogue space mission in Leh, Ladakh. This groundbreaking initiative aims to simulate life in extraterrestrial conditions, addressing the complexities associated with establishing a base station beyond our planet.



NTPC and ONGC Drive India's Green Energy Future with New Joint Venture

Leading public sector undertakings (PSUs) NTPC Limited and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) on Monday announced the formation of a 50:50 joint venture company (JVC) to further promote their interests in the renewable and new energy arena. The JVC between the country's largest power generating company and largest oil and gas producer has been formed through their green energy subsidiaries – NTPC Green Energy Ltd (NGEL) and ONGC Green Energy Ltd.



IDFC FIRST Bank Launches Real-Time International Money Transfer Tracking

IDFC First Bank has become the first Indian lender to offer a real-time tracking service, in association with Swift, for money sent abroad. The service is available on the bank's award-winning mobile application and internet banking platforms, IDFC First Bank said in a statement. This marks a significant milestone in the Indian banking industry, demonstrating the Bank's commitment to delivering seamless and efficient banking solutions, reiterating its Customer First approach, it added.

Royal Enfield Launches EV Brand "Flying Flea"

Royal Enfield (RE) is planning to introduce its electric bike initially in developed markets such as Europe and the US where it anticipates better traction for the premium product, a top company executive said on Tuesday. brand.



MP Cabinet Approves 35% Job Reservation for Women in State Services

A cabinet meeting was held under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Mohan Yadav at Mantralaya in the state capital Bhopal on Tuesday and the council of ministers approved 35 percent reservation for women in all the recruitments of the Madhya Pradesh government services. After the cabinet meeting, Deputy CM of Madhya Pradesh, Rajendra Shukla told ANI, "Reservation (for women) in all recruitment under Government services in Madhya Pradesh has been increased to 35 per cent from 33 per cent.

Jangra Seizes WBF World Championship Title

Indian professional boxer Mandeep Jangra won the World Boxing Federation's super featherweight world title after defeating Britain's Conor McIntosh in the Cayman Islands. The 31-year-old, who trains under former Olympic silver medallist Roy Jones Jr and has faced only one defeat in his professional career so far, had the upper hand in most rounds.



Cabinet Approves ₹10,700 Crore Equity Infusion for FCI

The Centre has greenlit a dual initiative aimed at strengthening India's agricultural backbone and bolstering educational access for underserved youth. On Wednesday, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved an equity infusion of ₹10,700 crore for the Food Corp. of India (FCI) to enhance food grain procurement operations. In parallel, the PM Vidyalaxmi scheme was announced, offering collateral-free education loans of up to ₹10 lakh for students from middle- and lower-income families.

Deutsche Bank Infuses ₹5,113 Crore to Boost India Operations

German lender Deutsche Bank on Wednesday announced that it has infused Rs 5113 crore (€571 million) into its India branch operations to fund its growth plans in the country. The additional funds, along with retained earnings and other statutory components, increases the regulatory capital of Deutsche Bank AG India branches, to nearly Rs 30,000 crore, registering a jump of 33 per cent over 2023 levels, it said in a statement. Capitalizing on India's growth trajectory, Deutsche Bank said that it is committed to supporting the country's growth.

IFC Invests \$400 Million in Bajaj Finance for Climate and Women Empowerment

International Finance Corporation (IFC) on Wednesday said that it will partner with Bajaj Finance to invest \$400 million out of the \$1 billion fundraising to aid in the expansion of the latter's EV fleet, energy-efficient consumer goods (EECG) and women empowerment.



President Murmu Witnesses Naval Operations Aboard INS Vikrant

President Droupadi Murmu will witness the Indian Navy's multi-domain operations at sea aboard the indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant today. "The Hon'ble President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu will embark indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant and witness 'Naval Operations' at sea on November 7, 2024," a Ministry of Defence release read. Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, the Chief of the Naval Staff, will receive the Hon'ble President at INS Hansa (Naval Air Station at Goa) and present a 150-men Ceremonial Guard of Honour. Soon thereafter, the Hon'ble President will embark the indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant at sea off Goa.

RBI Designates 10-Year Sovereign Green Bonds Under FAR for Non-Resident Investments

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has expanded the list of specified Government securities that non-residents can invest in under the Fully Accessible Route (FAR) by including 10-year Sovereign Green Bonds (SGrBs). The central bank has decided to designate SGrBs of 10-year tenor to be issued by the Government in the second half of the fiscal year 2024-25 as 'specified securities' under the FAR. This comes in the wake of Indian Government Securities (G-Secs) being included in JPMorgan Chase's benchmark Emerging Markets Bond Index Global Diversified (GBI-EM GD) index starting June 28, 2024.

Arjun Erigaisi's Climb Continues Now World's Second Best in Chess Ratings

India's Arjun Erigaisi leapfrogged to second place in the world chess rankings thanks to his victory over Alexey Sarana in the Chennai Grand Masters 2024 here on Thursday. He is jointly leading the Masters category alongside Amin Tabatabaei after three rounds. Starting with the black pieces, Arjun reacted to Sarana's Queen's Pawn Opening as he engaged him in the Indian Game before swiftly going for an East Indian Defense.



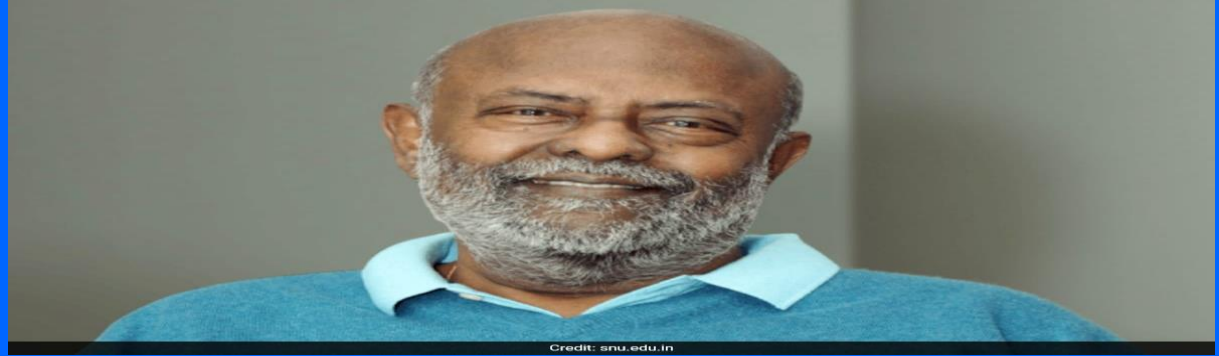
3 Year Old Anish Chooses GothamChess Over Peppa Pig, Scores Big

At three years, eight months and 19 days, Kolkata's Anish Sarkar became the youngest-rated chess player in history on Friday. Born on January 26, 2021, Sarkar picked up the sport a year ago and made his competitive debut in October when he played in the West Bengal State Under-9 Open. By defeating two rated players, he secured 5.5 out of 8 points to finish 24th.



HCL's Shiv Nadar Tops Hurun India Philanthropy List 2024

With a donation of ₹ 2,153 crore, HCL Technologies founder Shiv Nadar and family have retained their position as the top donor in India on the EdelGive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2024. Their donations were primarily directed in the area of education. Following them among the top five donors are Mukesh Ambani and family, the Bajaj family, Kumar Mangalam Birla and family, and Gautam Adani and family.



Bengaluru Unveils First Digital Population Clock at ISEC

Bengaluru: The Institute for Social and Economic Change's (ISEC) Population Research Centre has launched a digital population clock and Census Data Research Workstation to provide real-time estimates of the population of Karnataka and India.



India Becomes Second Largest Smartphone Market by Unit Volume in Q3 2024

India's smartphone market emerged as the second largest globally by unit volume and the third largest by value in the third quarter (Q3) of calendar year (CY) 2024, according to estimates by Counterpoint Research. In Q3 smartphone shipments, India accounted for 15.5 per cent of global shipments, second only to China, which led with a 22 per cent share.



PV Sindhu Lays Foundation for World-Class Badminton Centre in Visakhapatnam

VISAKHAPATNAM: Indian badminton player and Olympic medallist PV Sindhu laid the foundation stone for the PV Sindhu Centre for Badminton and Sports Excellence on Thursday. Located in Chinna Gadili village on the outskirts of the city, the centre spans three acres. The Andhra Pradesh government had allocated the land in 2021. Speaking at the event, Sindhu said the first step towards building a world-class facility has been taken.

Justice Sanjiv Khanna Sworn in as 51st Chief Justice of India

On November 11, 2024 (Monday), Justice Sanjiv Khanna was sworn in as the 51st Chief Justice of India, taking over from Justice DY Chandrachud. The oath of office was administered by President Droupadi Murmu during a ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan. Justice Khanna, known for his role in key Supreme Court rulings, including striking down the electoral bonds scheme and endorsing the revocation of Article 370, will serve a brief tenure, concluding on March 13, 2025.

Supreme Court Overturns 1967 Ruling on AMU's Minority Status

The Supreme Court on Friday overruled by 4:3 majority the 1967 judgement which held that Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) can't claim minority status as it was created by a statute. The Court, however, said that in order to determine whether or not an institution is a minority institution should be on the basis of who (community) established it. A final decision in this regard will be taken up by a regular bench, not yet constituted, based on this view of the majority, the court ruled.

Tata Power Invests Rs 550 Crore in Renewable Energy for Noida International Airport

Tata Power will invest Rs 550 crore to develop solar and wind power capacities and related infrastructure to supply clean energy to Noida International Airport. Tata Power entered into a partnership with Noida International Airport (NIA) on Thursday to supply renewable energy to the upcoming airport in Jewar in Uttar Pradesh's Gautam Buddha Nagar district.



India's Exports Soar 17% in October, Trade Deficit Hits \$27 Billion

India's merchandise exports grew at the fastest pace in 28 months in October, witnessing double-digit growth of 17.3 per cent year-on-year (Y-o-Y) to touch \$39.2 billion, due to inventory build-up in the Western countries ahead of the Christmas season. However, the imports hit an all-time high of \$66.34 billion in October, growing at 3.9 per cent, leading to a widening of the trade deficit, or the gap between imports and exports, to \$27.1 billion from \$20.8 billion in September, data released by the commerce department on Thursday showed.

\$8.5B Disney-Reliance Merger Completed for Indian Assets

Reliance Industries has completed the merger of its media assets with the India business of global media house Walt Disney to form a new joint venture worth Rs 70,352 crore. The JV, in which Reliance Industries has invested Rs 11,500 crore (USD 1.4 billion) for its growth, will be headed by Nita Ambani as its Chairperson, according to a joint statement.



Nvidia and SoftBank Unveil First-Ever AI and 5G Telecom Network

TOKYO: Leading chipmaker Nvidia and SoftBank Corp, the telecommunications arm of SoftBank Group, have piloted the world's first artificial intelligence (AI) and 5G telecoms network, the two companies said on Wednesday. The network can run AI and 5G workloads concurrently, a process known as an artificial intelligence radio access network (AI-RAN), the companies said. Applications for the network include autonomous vehicle remote support and robotics control. "Every other telco will have to follow this new wave," SoftBank Group CEO Masayoshi Son said at an AI event where he was speaking alongside Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang.

Moody's Optimistic About India's Economic Growth Despite Volatility

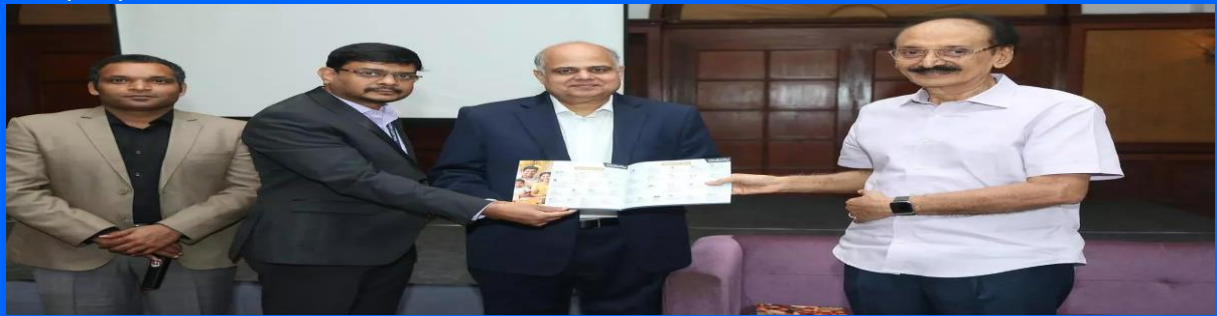
The Indian economy is in a sweet spot, with a mix of solid growth and moderating inflation, Moody's Ratings said in its latest global macro outlook published on Friday. The rating agency has projected 7.2 per cent growth for India for 2024. It is followed by 6.6 per cent and 6.5 per cent growth for 2025 and 2026, respectively. India's real GDP expanded 6.7 per cent year-on-year (Y-o-Y) in the June quarter of 2024. It was driven by a revival in household consumption, robust investment and strong manufacturing activity.

Tata Acquires Majority Stake in Pegatron's iPhone Plant in Tamil Nadu

Tata Electronics is set to acquire a 60 per cent majority stake in Taiwanese contract manufacturer Pegatron's iPhone plant in Tamil Nadu, forming a new joint venture (JV), Reuters reported citing two sources. The move will strengthen Tata's position as an Apple supplier in its India supply chain, the sources added. Tata Electronics will hold 60 per cent of the JV and run its daily operations, while Pegatron will hold the remaining 40 per cent and provide technical support, they added.

Galaxy Health Insurance Launches 'Galaxy Promise' to Tackle Rising Healthcare Costs

Standalone health insurer Galaxy Health Insurance Company Ltd has launched its first product, 'Galaxy Promise', targeting families seeking affordable health coverage. Galaxy Health Insurance is jointly promoted by Venu Srinivasan, Chairman Emeritus of TVS Motor Company and Sundaram-Clayton Ltd, and V Jagannathan, founder of Star Health and Allied Insurance Company Ltd.



Punit Goenka's Resignation as MD and CEO of Zee Entertainment

Punit Goenka has resigned as the Managing Director of Zee Entertainment and has been appointed as CEO to have his focus entirely on operational responsibilities assigned to him by the board of the company. The board has "accepted the resignation of Punit Goenka as Managing Director of the Company and appointed him as CEO," said Zee Entertainment in a regulatory update.

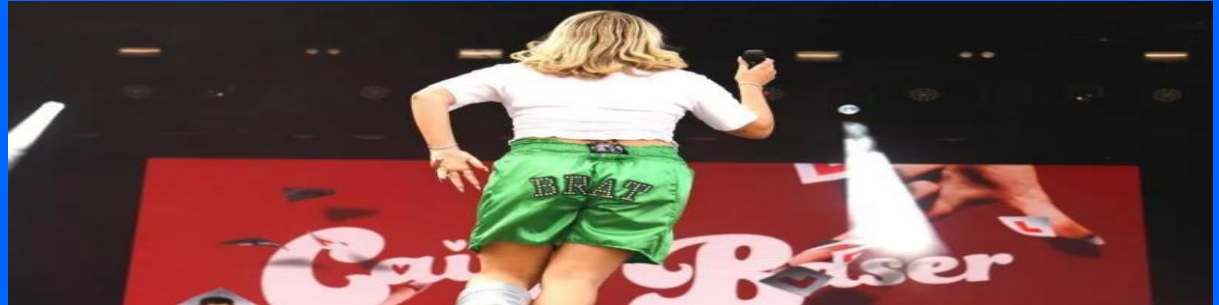
Meta Fined ₹213.14 Crore Over WhatsApp Privacy Policy: Challenges Loom

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) on Monday, November 18, concluded its investigation of WhatsApp's 2021 privacy policy update, imposing a fine of Rs 213.14 crore on the Meta-owned messaging giant and ordering it to implement certain behavioural changes within the next three months. In a 156-page ruling, India's competition watchdog held that WhatsApp abused its dominance of the over-the-top (OTT) messaging market to impose unfair terms on users.

INTERNATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

Collins Dictionary Names "Brat" 2024 Word of the Year

Brat is a word you've probably seen just about everywhere over the last couple of months and now it's officially Collins Dictionary word of the year. Defined as someone with a "confident, independent and hedonistic attitude" it has been inspired by Charli XCX. What started as the name of her number one album has arguably grown into a cultural movement for some, with people adopting the brat way of life.



Kemi Badenoch: A Historic Rise as Conservative Party Leader and UK Opposition Chief

Kemi Badenoch has promised to win back voters who have deserted the Conservatives after securing a historic victory in the party's leadership contest. The 44-year-old becomes the first black woman to lead a major political party in the UK. She defeated fellow right-winger Robert Jenrick, 42, by 12,418 votes after a marathon contest to replace Rishi Sunak, who led the party to the biggest defeat in its history in July's general election. In her victory speech, Badenoch promised to "renew" the party and told cheering supporters it was "time to get down to business".

Sheinbaum Leads as Mexico's First Woman President

Claudia Sheinbaum has been sworn in as Mexico's first female president. Sheinbaum took over from outgoing president – and close Morena party ally – Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador at an inauguration ceremony in the country's Congress on Tuesday.



Donald Trump Set To Back In The White House As 47th President Of USA

Donald Trump was elected president, capping a remarkable comeback four years after he was voted out of the White House and ushering in a new American leadership likely to test democratic institutions at home and relations abroad. Trump, 78, recaptured the White House on Wednesday by securing more than the 270 Electoral College votes needed to win the presidency, Edison Research projected, following a campaign of dark rhetoric that deepened the polarization in the country.



Moldova's President Maia Sandu Wins Second Term Amid Russian Interference Claims

The pro-western incumbent Maia Sandu has won a second term in office in the Moldovan presidential election, preliminary results have shown, marking a significant boost for the country's EU aspirations and a clear rebuke to Moscow. The runoff election was seen as a crucial indicator of whether the country's long-term geopolitical alignment will be with Russia or Europe. The pro-western incumbent, Sandu, who has intensified the nation's efforts to break away from Moscow's influence, was facing the Kremlin-friendly political newcomer, Alexandr Stoianoglo, from the Socialist party, in the second round of voting on Sunday.

Switzerland's Burqa Ban Law to Take Effect in 2025

Switzerland's contentious ban on facial coverings in public, commonly known as the "burqa ban," will officially take effect on January 1, 2025. The announcement was made by the Federal Council in a statement cited by Reuters on Wednesday. Violators of the law could face fines of up to 1,000 Swiss francs (approximately Rs 96,280).



World's First Wooden Satellite, LignoSat

The world's first wood-panelled satellite has been launched into space to test the suitability of timber as a renewable building material in future exploration of destinations like the Moon and Mars. Made by researchers in Japan, the tiny satellite weighing just 900g is heading for the International Space Station on a SpaceX mission. It will then be released into orbit above the Earth.



Australia to Ban Social Media for Children Under 16

Australia's government says it will introduce "world-leading" legislation to ban children under 16 from social media. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said the proposed laws, to be tabled in parliament next week, were aimed at mitigating the "harm" social media was inflicting on Australian children.



Zverev Triumphs at Paris Masters, Securing 2024 Title

Germany's Alexander Zverev claimed a straight-set win over home favourite Ugo Humbert to clinch his first Paris Masters title. The new world number two beat the French number one 6-2 6-2 on Sunday to secure the seventh ATP 1000 title of his career.



QS Asia Rankings 2025: India's Top 10 Universities and Their Growing Impact

China's Peking University continues to hold the prestigious top spot, followed by The University of Hong Kong and the National University of Singapore. Indian institutes, especially the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), have shown notable performance in research productivity and employability metrics.



Li Quanhai Re-Elected as World Sailing President for Second Term

SINGAPORE, Nov. 9 (Xinhua) -- Li Quanhai was re-elected as president of World Sailing for a new four-year term at the organization's Annual General Meeting on Saturday, continuing as the only Chinese president of an Olympic International Sports Federation. "Re-election is not only an honor but also a heavy responsibility. Over the past few years, we have witnessed the vigorous growth and widespread popularity of sailing around the globe," said Li.

Canada Cancels SDS Visa Program Ended for India and 13 Other Countries

The Canadian government has ended the Student Direct Stream (SDS) programme for international students which helped to streamline the process for study application, a move that is likely to impact lakhs of prospective students who were planning to come to the country. The Student Direct Stream (SDS) was a popular international student program which applied to students from India, China, Pakistan, Brazil, Senegal and several others. The program, however, was abruptly ended at 2 PM on November 8 (local time).

China Unveils Megaport in Peru, but Locals Feel Left Behind

CHANCAY: On the edge of Peru's coastal desert, a remote fishing town where a third of all residents have no running water is being transformed into a huge deep-water port to cash in on the inexorable rise of Chinese interest in resource-rich South America. The megaport of Chancay, a \$1.3 billion project majority-owned by the Chinese shipping giant Cosco, is turning this outpost of bobbing fishing boats into an important node of the global economy.

Tim Southee to Bid Farewell to Cricket After World Test Championship

New Zealand pacer Tim Southee has announced his retirement from Tests, making his upcoming home series against England his final assignment unless his side qualifies for next year's ICC World Test Championship final in June.



From Congress to Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard's New Role for National Intelligence

Tulsi Gabbard - a former Democratic congresswoman who joined the Republican Party to back Donald Trump - is the president-elect's pick for director of national intelligence. The wide-ranging role would mean she oversees US intelligence agencies like the CIA, FBI and the National Security Agency (NSA), which focuses on intelligence gathering. The nomination has raised questions over Gabbard's lack of experience in intelligence as well as accusations that she has in the past amplified Russia propaganda.

Shanghai, Tokyo, New York, and Houston Leading Emitters of Greenhouse Gases

Cities in Asia and the United States emit the most heat-trapping gas that feeds climate change, with Shanghai the most polluting, according to new data that combines observations and artificial intelligence. Seven states or provinces spew more than 1 billion metric tons of greenhouse gases.



Nvidia and SoftBank Unveil First-Ever AI and 5G Telecom Network

TOKYO: Leading chipmaker Nvidia and SoftBank Corp, the telecommunications arm of SoftBank Group, have piloted the world's first artificial intelligence (AI) and 5G telecoms network, the two companies said on Wednesday. The network can run AI and 5G workloads concurrently, a process known as an artificial intelligence radio access network (AI-RAN), the companies said. Applications for the network include autonomous vehicle remote support and robotics control.

