



Current Affairs of the Day

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- SC says new rules to regulate OTT platforms lack teeth
- More Myanmar nationals take refuge in Mizoram
- China targets 6% growth, tech supremacy

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- Secrecy shrouds proposed cryptocurrency Bill: IAMAI



SC says new rules to regulate OTT platforms lack teeth

The Supreme Court on Friday said the government's new rules to regulate OTT (over-the-top) platforms lacked teeth to punish violators or to screen offensive content.

Highlights:

1. "We went through your Information Technology [Guidelines for Intermediaries and Digital Media Ethics Code] Rules of 2021. These are merely guidelines. There is no provision for punishment or fine. What is the mechanism to control and regulate these platforms?" the court asked.
2. The court order said the new rules were "more in the nature of guidelines" and there was "no effective mechanism for screening or to take appropriate action" against violators.

More Myanmar nationals take refuge in Mizoram

Villagers in Mizoram's border districts said more than 100 people have crossed over from Myanmar to escape a military crackdown there.

Highlights:

1. Mizoram government has issued a standard operating procedure for the identification of the refugees.
2. Residents of border areas in Champhai district said people from across the border have been trickling in after crossing river Tiau that runs along a long stretch of Mizoram's 404 km border with Myanmar.

China targets 6% growth, tech supremacy

The legislature is likely to approve a new five-year plan and an overhaul of Hong Kong's electoral system.

An aspiration to become a \$30 trillion economy by 2035

1. China's government on Friday announced a 6% growth target for 2021 and the creation of over 11 million new urban jobs. It also unveiled a five-year plan (2021-2025) and vision for 2035 that aims to expand the country's global footprint as a major technology power.



2. The plans unveiled at the start of the annual week-long convening of the Communist Party-controlled legislature, the National People's Congress (NPC).
3. The Plan outlined a push for China to consolidate the positions of its supply chains in key strategic industries, amid a push from some countries towards decoupling, and to significantly increase China's spending on research and development (R&D) to achieve self-reliance in key high-tech sectors.
4. The five-year plan (FYP) for 2025 for the first time did not mention annual growth targets, instead of announcing an ambitious annual target to increase R&D spending "by more than 7% per year".
5. The NPC will also approve a plan for "long-range objectives through the year 2035". President Xi Jinping said the country could double its GDP by 2035, pushing China towards becoming a \$30 trillion economy.
6. Both plans have emphasised self-reliance and a focus on high-tech growth. The FYP said China "will take self-reliance in science and technology as the strategic underpinning for national development" and "will focus on the development of strategic emerging industries including information technology, biotech and new energy".

Control over Hongkong

1. The NPC is also expected to approve a major overhaul of Hong Kong's electoral system that will see a diminishing share for directly elected legislative seats, dealing a blow to pro-democracy parties and strengthening Beijing's control.
2. The plan is likely to bestow greater powers on the largely Beijing-nominated 1,200-member Election Committee that chooses Hong Kong's, Chief Executive. A push for universal suffrage and to directly choose the Chief Executive was among the demands of the 2019 protests. Hong Kong only directly votes for half of its 70 Legislative Council members.
3. Under the new plan, Hong Kong media reported, the size of the council could be increased to 90 with the additional members chosen by the Election Committee. This would decrease the proportion of directly elected members and further dilute the presence of pro-democracy parties.



Secrecy shrouds proposed cryptocurrency Bill: IAMAI

There is some amount of 'secrecy' around the Cryptocurrency and Regulation of Official Digital Currency Bill, 2021, a new regulation expected to be cleared by the Centre soon, the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) said.

Highlights:

1. What makes it more strange is, not a single ecosystem player, industry representative or members of the public were consulted before its draft was prepared, IAMAI added.
2. India has more than 10 million buyers and sellers of cryptocurrency (mostly in bitcoins) constituting 10-15% of the global user base.
3. Many entrepreneurs have already built their businesses around cryptocurrency and also hundreds of techies are deployed in building the required software platforms and trading infrastructure for crypto exchanges.
4. Lakhs of people have made legitimate investments in crypto. To deprive them of opportunities may have constitutional issues.