

International

Australia passes world-first law banning under-16s from social media.

Australia has introduced a new law banning children under 16 from using social media. This measure is set to ensure the safety of minors and will come into effect after a year. The legislation will make platforms such as TikTok, Facebook, Snapchat, Reddit, X, and Instagram liable for fines of up to 50 million Australian dollars (£26 million) if they fail to prevent children under 16 from creating accounts.

The Senate passed the Bill with 34 votes in favour and 19 against. The House of Representatives overwhelmingly approved the legislation by 102 votes to 13.

Georgia's new government led by PM Irakli Kobakhidze wins parliamentary confidence.

Georgia's new government led by Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze has won a vote of confidence in the Parliament. The government will have three new ministers. According to Georgia's constitution, the new government will take office after winning a vote of confidence in the Parliament.

National

Gujarat leads in Rooftop Solar System installations under PM-Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana.

Gujarat is leading in installations of Rooftop Solar System under PM-Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana. In a written reply in Lok Sabha, Minister of New and Renewable Energy Shripad Naik informed that around 26 lakh applications have been received and more than 6 lakh 16 thousand installations are completed in the country.

With more than 2 lakh 81 thousand installations, Gujarat is leading in the states. In Maharashtra more than 1 lakh 20 thousand installations have been done. More than 51 thousand roof top solar systems are installed in Kerala and Uttar Pradesh. Applications under this scheme are

open for all residential consumers of the country and there is no state-wise allocation of targeted 1 crore households under the scheme.

Centre approves 40 projects worth 3,300 crore to develop iconic tourist centers to global standards.

The Central government has approved 40 projects worth around 3 thousand 300 crore rupees to develop iconic tourist centers across the nation to global standards. The projects will span through 23 states under the Special Assistance to States and Union Territories for Capital Investment (SASCI) scheme as a financial assistance provided to the State Governments in the form of 50-year interest free loan for capital investment projects.

A host of measures will be undertaken under this, including decongesting popular sites, integrating advanced technologies, promoting sustainable practices, and encouraging public-private partnerships to enhance infrastructure and visitor experiences.

Indian Railways to design & manufacture high-speed trains.

The union government has informed the Lok Sabha that, Indian Railways has taken up designing and manufacturing of High-speed trains. In a written reply Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw informed that Integral Coach Factory (ICF), in collaboration with BEML is designing and manufacturing High-Speed Trains sets which will have a design speed of 280 kilometers per hour. The manufacturing cost is around 28 crore rupees per car, which is highly competitive compared with other train sets.

Indian Army launches 'Eklavya' online digital platform for officers training.

Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) General, Upendra Dwivedi launched Eklavya, an online digital platform for officers training. This initiative, launched in New Delhi, aligns with the Indian Army propelling itself into the "Decade of Transformation and also with the Indian Army's theme for 2024 as the Year of

Technology Absorption. This platform has been hosted on the Army Data Network and features a scalable architecture.

This enables Headquarters Army Training Command to seamlessly integrate any number of training establishments of the Indian Army, each capable of hosting an extensive range of courses. Student officers are permitted to register for multiple courses simultaneously.

55th IFFI award winners.

The 55th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) ended with a grand closing ceremony held at the Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor Stadium in Goa. The nine-day event showcased over 200 films from 75 countries, making it a global celebration of cinema.

Winners

Golden Peacock (Best Film): Toxic (Lithuanian language), Saulė Bliuvaitytė

Silver Peacock for Best Director: Bogdan Muresanu (The New Year That Never Came)

Best Actress: Vesta Matulyte and Iva Rupeikaite (Toxic)

Best Actor: Clement Faveau (Holy Cow)

Special Jury Award: Louise Courvoisier (Holy Cow)

Special Mention (Best Actor Male): Adam Besa (Who Do I Belong To)

Best Web Series: Lampan (Marathi language)

Best Debut for Feature Film Director: Sarah Friedland (Familiar Touch)

Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award : Australian Filmmaker Phillip Noyce

Indian Film Personality of the Year: Vikrant Massey

Best Debut Director of an Indian Feature Film: Gharat Ganpati, Navjot Bandiwadkar

ICFT-UNESCO Gandhi Medal: Crossing, Levan Akin.

Business and Economy

Masato Kanda elected as ADB President

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) Board of Governors has unanimously elected Masato Kanda as ADB's 11th President. Kanda

currently serves as the Special Advisor to Japan's Prime Minister and Minister of Finance. Mr Kanda will assume office in February next year, succeeding Masatsugu Asakawa. He will complete the unexpired term of President Asakawa, which ends on 23 November 2026.

ADB is a regional development bank established in 1966, which is headquartered in Manila, the Philippines. The bank also maintains 31 field offices around the world to promote social and economic development in Asia.

AU Small Finance Bank enters into bancassurance pact with Bharti AXA Life Insurance.

AU Small Finance Bank (AU SFB) and Bharti AXA Life Insurance have announced a bancassurance partnership to provide AU SFB's customers with a comprehensive life insurance and financial security solutions.

With immediate effect, AU SFB's customers will gain access to Bharti AXA's suite of life insurance and financial security solutions, featuring life insurance, term insurance, ULIP plans, savings plans, child education plans and retirement plans.

Bank of Baroda raises ₹3,500 crore through bonds.

Bank of Baroda raised ₹3,500 crore through issuance of Basel III compliant Tier II capital bonds. It received a total of 120 bids amounting to ₹9,500 crore against the base issue size of ₹1,000 crore and a Greenshoe option to retain oversubscription up to ₹2,500 crore (total issue size of ₹3,500 crore).

These bonds are unsecured, listed, rated, subordinated, non-convertible, taxable, redeemable having a tenor of 15 years from deemed date of allotment with a 10-year call option, the bank said.

Godrej Enterprises Group unveils refreshed brand identity.

The Godrej Enterprises Group (GEG), a diversified engineering and design-led conglomerate manufacturing locks and

aerospace equipment has unveiled a refreshed brand identity.

The refreshed brand identity introduces a striking purple colour while retaining the cursive logo, reminiscent of the founder Pirojsha Godrej's signature. The new logo marks a clear shift from three colours to a single colour, which the company said, allows 'for greater consistency and synergy across its businesses'.

Indian pharma industry projected to reach \$130 billion by 2030 say experts.

The Indian pharma industry expects to grow 58 % to \$130 billion in the next five years from its current market value of \$55 billion, driven by innovations, increasing exports, and a strong focus on affordability and efficiency.

India's pharmaceutical sector is expected to continue its upward trajectory, with a target of a \$1 trillion industry by 2047.

With exports currently contributing \$27.85 billion, India is solidifying its position as the 'Pharmacy of the World'.

Canara Bank gets exemption to hold more than 30% in JVs.

Canara Bank has got exemption from the Centre to hold stake beyond the 30% upper limit under the Banking Regulation Act in joint ventures Canara Robeco Asset Management Company and Canara HSBC Life Insurance Company.

The bank, which owns 51% each in the two JVs, had approached the government seeking permission to divest 13% in the asset management entity and 14.5% in the insurer, by way of initial public offers. The Centre, on the recommendation of the Reserve Bank of India, has decided that the provisions of sub-section (2) of Section 19 of the Banking Regulation Act will not apply to Canara Bank with regard to its shareholding exceeding 30% in the two companies till October 31, 2029 or its revocation, whichever is earlier, the Finance Ministry said .

Sports

India's Rinchen Youdol wins Bronze at first World Para Poomsae Taekwondo Championships.

Rinchen Youdol, a para-athlete from Bodhkharboo, Kargil in the Union Territory of Ladakh, has created history by winning the Bronze Medal at the 1st World Para Poomsae Taekwondo Championships held in Manama, Bahrain.

Competing in the Senior Female (No Age Bar) category against 140 athletes from 23 countries, Rinchen's exceptional performance has brought immense pride to Ladakh and India. She is the first athlete from Ladakh to achieve the milestone in Taekwondo, marking a new chapter in the region's sporting history.

World Chess Championship, Game 3: Gukesh beat Ding with Whites.

India's D. Gukesh, made a strong comeback, handing defending champion China's Ding Liren his first loss of the FIDE World Chess Championship 2024, in the third round at the Resorts World Sentosa in Singapore. Playing with Whites, Gukesh avenged his first-round loss to Ding in the Queen's Gambit Declined Game.

Gukesh had lost to Ding in the opening round with lighter pieces in the French Game.

Syed Modi International tournament: PV Sindhu, Lakshya Sen enter quarterfinals of Singles event

PV Sindhu has advanced to the Women's Singles quarter-final of Syed Modi India International 2024 Super 300 tournament in Lucknow, defeating Ira Sharma. Sindhu won 21-10, 12-21, 21-15, in the Round of 16, in a tiebreaker after a solid fight from Ira.

Lakshya Sen also dominated his match, beating compatriot Meiraba Luwang Maisnam 21-8, 21-19 in the men's singles quarterfinal.