

19 November 2024

Australia's Plan to Ban Social Media for Teenagers

Context: Australia has announced plans to introduce legislation aimed at restricting access to social media platforms (e.g., Instagram, TikTok, Facebook) for children under 16 years.

- The proposal has sparked significant debate regarding its efficacy, necessity, and the broader implications for adolescent health and privacy.
- The move is intended to address concerns over the negative impact of social media on the mental health of teenagers.

The Proposed Legislation:

- The proposal is based on an independent study conducted by South Australia, led by former Chief Justice Robert French, which explored the feasibility of restricting social media access for minors.

Key Aspects of the Law:

- **Age Verification:** Social media platforms would be responsible for ensuring that users under 14 cannot access the platforms. Access for 14- and 15-year-olds would require parental consent.
- **Regulation and Penalties:** A regulatory body would be set up to monitor the enforcement of the law. Non-compliant companies could face fines, which would fund a Children's Online Safety Fund to address harms caused by social media exposure.

The Challenges of Enforcing an Age-Based Ban:

- Currently, social media platforms like Instagram and Facebook rely on users to self-report their age, which many minors bypass by providing false information.
- Virtual Private Networks (VPNs) allow users to disguise their location and bypass age restrictions, making enforcement difficult.

Proposed Solutions:

- The South Australian study suggests using more secure methods like government-issued IDs, credit cards, or facial recognition technology for age verification.
- However, these solutions raise significant privacy concerns, especially when minors' sensitive data is involved.

Social Media and Its Impact on Adolescents

- **Negative Mental Health Effects:**
 - » Studies link excessive social media use to poor mental health outcomes, such as increased anxiety, depression, and substance abuse among teenagers.
 - » Prolonged screen time has been shown to affect sleep patterns, which is crucial for adolescent development.
 - » Pressure to maintain a curated online persona can lead to feelings of inadequacy, low self-esteem, and poor body image.
- **The Role of FOMO:**
 - » Teenagers often experience Fear of Missing Out (FOMO), which results in anxiety and an unhealthy desire to stay connected at all times.
 - » This constant online connection can make face-to-face communication difficult, leading to feelings of isolation.
- **Potential Benefits of Social Media:**
 - » Social media also has a positive side, especially during the pandemic, when it helped teenagers stay connected and informed.
 - » It can provide a sense of community for marginalized groups and offer support for issues like mental health, gender identity, and social justice.

Global Debate

- **Global Context:**
 - » Australia's move contributes to the ongoing global debate about protecting children online. Some countries (e.g., UK, US) have introduced stricter regulations or age verification systems.
- **Education vs. Ban:**
 - » While some support a ban, others argue that education and awareness about safe social media use may be more effective.
 - » Rather than restricting access, policymakers could focus on digital literacy, teaching adolescents to navigate online spaces responsibly.

₹27,000 Crore Assam Semiconductor Plant

Context: India is poised to make a significant leap in its semiconductor manufacturing capabilities with the

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construction of a cutting-edge semiconductor facility in Morigaon, Assam.

- Spearheaded by Tata Semiconductor Assembly and Test Pvt Ltd (TSAT), the ₹27,000 crore project is set to become a cornerstone of India's ambition to establish a self-sufficient semiconductor ecosystem.

Key features of the plant:

- **Production Capacity:** The Morigaon facility is expected to produce up to 48 million semiconductor chips per day, utilizing advanced packaging technologies such as flip chip and Integrated System in Package (ISIP).
- **Sector Focus:** The facility will primarily serve sectors including automotive, electric vehicles (EVs), telecommunications, and consumer electronics, all of which rely heavily on semiconductor components.



About semiconductor:

- A semiconductor is a material that has electrical conductivity between that of a conductor (like metals) and an insulator (like rubber or glass). It can conduct electricity under certain conditions but not others, making it essential for modern electronic devices. The most common semiconductor materials are silicon and germanium.
- Semiconductors are used to create electronic components like diodes, transistors, and integrated circuits (ICs), which form the foundation of most modern electronic devices such as smartphones, computers, televisions, and automobiles. Their ability to control the flow of electricity is crucial for amplifying signals, switching electronic signals, and storing data.

India's Semiconductor Ambition:

- The Morigaon facility is part of India's broader semiconductor strategy, guided by the India

Semiconductor Mission (ISM). This initiative aims to build a comprehensive, sustainable semiconductor ecosystem that spans design, fabrication, assembly, testing, and packaging.

- Indian semiconductor market is projected to grow from \$38 billion in 2023 to \$109 billion by 2030, highlighting the urgent need for robust domestic production.

Key Initiatives:

- **Semicon India Program:** Launched in 2021 with a financial outlay of ₹76,000 crore, this program provides incentives to foster the semiconductor ecosystem across India. It includes initiatives for setting up semiconductor fabrication plants (fabs), packaging facilities, outsourced semiconductor assembly and testing (OSAT), and other critical infrastructure.
- **Expanding Semiconductor Production:** In addition to Morigaon, other semiconductor projects are underway across India, such as Tata Electronics' facility in Dholera, Gujarat, and CG Power's plant in Sanand, Gujarat.

Government Support

- **Financial Incentives:** In addition to Semicon India, the Indian government has implemented various schemes such as the Scheme for Promotion of Manufacturing of Electronic Components and Semiconductors (SPICES) and the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Large-Scale Electronics. These programs incentivize the establishment of semiconductor manufacturing units and components.

India's Growing Role in the Global Semiconductor Ecosystem:

- **Global Semiconductor Demand:** The worldwide demand for semiconductors is surging due to applications in 5G, Artificial Intelligence (AI), automotive electronics, and consumer electronics.
- **Addressing Global Shortages:** India's growing semiconductor infrastructure is poised to play a critical role in mitigating the global semiconductor shortage and ensuring a diversified, secure supply chain.
- **Digital Economy:** India's semiconductor industry aims to secure a significant position in the global digital economy, driving innovation, economic growth, and new opportunities for international trade and investment.

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India's First Direct-to-Device Satellite Internet Service

Context: BSNL (Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited), India's state-owned telecom operator, has officially launched the country's first direct-to-device satellite internet service. This pioneering initiative is set to revolutionize internet connectivity, especially in remote, underserved regions where traditional broadband infrastructure has been difficult to deploy.

Key Features of BSNL's Satellite Internet Service:

- The service offers fast internet access, enabling users to browse websites, stream videos, engage in social media, and carry out other online activities without interruptions.
- The satellite network ensures extensive coverage, reaching areas that traditional broadband services often fail to cover, particularly in remote and rural regions of the country.
- The service allows users to make emergency calls and send SOS messages when cellular or Wi-Fi networks are unavailable. Additionally, users can make UPI payments in such emergency situations, which is particularly crucial in remote areas where no alternative network options exist.

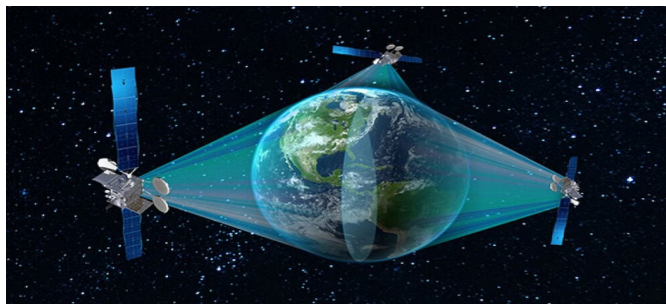
What is D2D Satellite Internet?

- D2D satellite internet provides internet connectivity directly to user devices (smartphones, laptops, tablets) via satellites in orbit.
- It bypasses traditional terrestrial infrastructure like cell towers and fiber-optic cables, enabling internet access in remote and underserved regions.

Key Characteristics of D2D Satellite Internet:

- **Satellite-based:** Uses satellites in Geostationary Orbit (GEO), Low Earth Orbit (LEO), or Medium Earth Orbit (MEO) to transmit data.
- **Direct-to-device:** No need for satellite dishes or receivers; connects directly to user devices.
- **Wireless:** Operates wirelessly using radio frequency (RF) signals for data transmission, similar to cellular or Wi-Fi networks.
- **Global Coverage:** Provides internet access in remote,

rural, and disaster-stricken areas, where traditional broadband infrastructure is unavailable.



How D2D Satellite Internet Works:

- **Device-Satellite Communication:** User devices communicate wirelessly with satellites in orbit using advanced signal optimization technologies like beamforming.
- **Data Relay to Network Operations Center (NOC):** Satellites relay data to a central hub (NOC), which monitors and manages the network traffic.
- **Connection to the Internet Backbone:** The NOC connects to the global internet backbone, facilitating data exchange across the internet.
- **Data Transmission Back to the Device:** Data is sent back from the NOC to the satellite, then downlinked to the user's device.

Benefits of D2D Satellite Internet:

- **Remote Coverage:** Provides connectivity in areas with no traditional broadband infrastructure, such as rural and mountainous regions.
- **Reliable Connectivity:** Less affected by natural disasters or geographical barriers compared to ground-based networks.
- **Mobility:** Enables connectivity even while traveling, whether on the move, in-flight, or on ships.
- **Quick Deployment:** Faster to deploy than traditional broadband infrastructure, making it ideal for emergency situations and remote regions.

Examples of D2D Satellite Internet Services:

- BSNL's satellite internet service (India)
- SpaceX's Starlink (Global)
- Amazon's Kuiper Systems (Global)
- OneWeb (Global)
- Apple's Emergency SOS via Satellite

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Power Packed News

Prime Minister Modi Honoured with Nigeria's Prestigious Award

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was recently conferred with the Grand Commander of the Order of the Niger (GCON) by Nigeria, marking a historic moment as he became the second foreign dignitary to receive this prestigious award.
- The GCON is Nigeria's second-highest national distinction, with Queen Elizabeth being the first foreign recipient in 1969. Prime Minister Modi accepted the honour with humility, dedicating it to the 140 crore people of India and the strong friendship between India and Nigeria.
- This award marks the 17th international recognition Prime Minister Modi has received, reflecting the growing global appreciation for his leadership.
- During his visit, Prime Minister Modi was also presented with the 'Key to the City' of Abuja by Minister for Federal Capital Territory Nyesom Ezenwo Wike.
- Modi's visit to Nigeria is the first by an Indian Prime Minister in 17 years. After concluding his trip to Nigeria, he will proceed to Brazil to attend the G20 summit and then to Guyana, as part of his three-nation visit at the invitation of Nigerian President Bola Ahmed Tinubu.



Manoj Bajpayee's 'The Fable' Wins Best Film at Leeds International Film Festival

- At the 38th Leeds International Film Festival (LIFF) in the UK, Manoj Bajpayee's film, The Fable, won the prestigious Best Film award in the Constellation Feature Film Competition.
- The competition celebrates pioneering cinema from around the world, and The Fable was recognized for its creative storytelling and cinematic excellence.
- Directed by Ram Reddy, The Fable has already gained significant attention, having had its world premiere at the Berlinale Film Festival 2024.
- The film's success at the LIFF follows a series of accolades, including winning the Special Jury Prize at the 2024 MAMI Mumbai Film Festival.

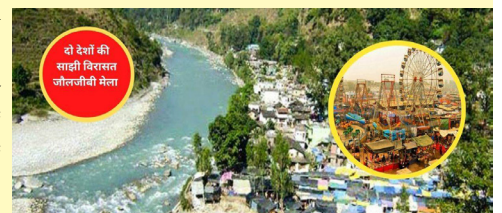


About Leeds International Film Festival:

- The Leeds International Film Festival, which is one of the largest film festivals in England outside London, is a significant platform for filmmakers, with a focus on showcasing new and innovative films. The Fable's recognition at such a prestigious festival highlights the growing international reputation of Indian cinema.

Jauljibi Mela of Uttarakhand

- The Jauljibi Mela, a significant cultural event in Uttarakhand, was inaugurated by Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami recently in Pithoragarh.
- Held at the scenic confluence of the Goriganga and Kali rivers in the Dharchula Tehsil, Jauljibi has a rich historical legacy as a former hub for animal trade fairs. Today, it serves as a border town with a modest bazaar marking the Indo-Nepal border, and it remains a key site for trade and cultural exchange.
- The fair is celebrated as a "priceless heritage" of the state, promoting mutual



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harmony between India, Tibet, Nepal, and border areas. The fair provides a platform for small traders, farmers, and artisans to showcase their products, contributing to the local economy and promoting cultural exchanges.

- During the inauguration, Chief Minister Dhamei laid the foundation stone for 18 development schemes worth Rs 64.47 crore, which aim to enhance infrastructure and economic growth in the region.
- Additionally, the government has launched the State Millet Mission to promote local crops like Mandwa and Jhingoora. The Chief Minister also emphasized the development of mythological temples under the Manaskhand Temple Mala Mission, which will further attract visitors and support tourism in the area.

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