

SHORTNEWS:

1. EU'S AGE VERIFICATION APP TO PROTECT CHILDREN ONLINE

Context: The European Commission **has introduced a prototype age verification app to protect children from harmful online content**, sparking debate over adult privacy and implementation challenges.

- The **prototype app** is designed to work on the same technical specifications as the **European Digital Identity Wallet (eID)**, expected by 2026.

About European Commission's Age Verification Initiative

- **Aim:** To **prevent children from accessing unsafe or explicit content online** while maintaining adult privacy.
- It was announced under the **Digital Services Act (DSA)**, alongside guidelines for the protection of minors on digital platforms.

European Digital Identity Wallet

- The **EU Digital Identity Wallet** is a secure mobile app being developed by the European Union to allow citizens and residents to **store and share their official digital documents and identity** in a convenient and trustworthy way.

What Is the Digital Services Act (DSA)?

- The DSA is a comprehensive regulation targeting **online platforms that offer goods, services, or content** to users in the EU.
- It applies to platforms like **social media, e-commerce, and cloud services**, requiring them to **remove illegal content such as:** Hate speech, Terrorism-related material, Child abuse content, Promotions of illegal goods

2. MANGAL PANDEY

Context: PM Modi **paid tribute to Mangal Pandey**, calling him a **symbol of courage and patriotism** on his **198th Birth anniversary** on July 19, 2025.

About Mangal Pandey

- Mangal Pandey is widely regarded as the hero of the **First War of Indian Independence in 1857**.
- He played a pioneering role in sparking the revolt against British colonial rule through his **defiance at Barrackpore**.

Early Years

- Mangal Pandey was born on **July 19, 1827, in Nagwa village, Ballia district**, in present-day **Uttar Pradesh**.
- In **1849**, he joined the **British East India Company's army** as a **sepoy** in the **34th Bengal Native Infantry**.

Role in the 1857 Revolt

- Pandey rebelled against the British for introducing **Enfield rifle cartridges allegedly greased with cow and pig fat**, offending **Hindu and Muslim**

religious sentiments.

- **On March 29, 1857**, he attacked British officers at the **Barrackpore cantonment**, marking **one of the first acts of defiance**.
 - He was arrested, **court-martialled**, and **executed by hanging on April 8, 1857**.
- His actions triggered widespread mutinies and inspired the mass uprising known as the **Sepoy Mutiny or India's First War of Independence**.
- His sacrifice contributed to the eventual transfer of power from the **East India Company** to the **British Crown** through the **Government of India Act, 1858**.

3. INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT (ICC)

Context: Recently , **Ukraine** was formally welcomed as the **125th State Party** to the **Rome Statute of the ICC**.

About the International Criminal Court (ICC)

- **Introduction:** The ICC is the **world's first permanent international court** established to prosecute individuals for the gravest crimes of concern to humanity.
- **Establishment:** The ICC was established by the **Rome Statute**, which was adopted in 1998 and **came into force on July 1, 2002**.
- **Membership:** As of July 2025, the ICC has 125 State Parties.
 - **Palestine** became the **123rd member (2015)** and **Malaysia** became **124th State party (2019)**.
 - India, Israel, the US, Russia and China are not parties to the Rome Statute.
- **Working Language:** The working languages of the International Criminal Court (ICC) are **English and French**.
 - While the ICC has **six official languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, and Spanish)**, only **English and French are used for day-to-day operations** and proceedings.
- **Structure**
 - The ICC includes a **Presidency, Chambers (Judges), Office of the Prosecutor, Registry**, and other bodies like the **Trust Fund for Victims** and **Detention Centre**.
 - The **Assembly of States Parties (ASP)**, comprising **one representative from each member state**, exercises legislative and managerial oversight.
- **Jurisdiction of the ICC**
 - **Core Crimes:** The ICC can prosecute four major crimes: **Genocide, Crimes against Humanity, War Crimes, and the Crime of Aggression**.

- **Territorial and Personal Jurisdiction:** The Court can try crimes committed on the territory of a State Party or by nationals of a State Party.
 - It also has jurisdiction over crimes referred to by the **UN Security Council**, even if they involve non-State Parties.
- **Complementarity Principle:** The ICC acts only when national judicial systems are unwilling or unable to genuinely prosecute the crimes.

4. ADFALCIVAX

Context: ICMR announced the development of a **novel indigenous malaria vaccine, AdFalciVax**, aiming to support India's malaria elimination goals under the Make in India initiative.

About AdFalciVax

- **Dual-Stage Vaccine Design:** AdFalciVax is a **recombinant multistage malaria vaccine** targeting both the **pre-erythrocytic and sexual stages** of *Plasmodium falciparum*, the deadliest malaria parasite.
 - This two-pronged approach is expected to **prevent infection and interrupt transmission** by mosquito vectors.
- **Indigenous Production:** The vaccine is being developed by **ICMR** in collaboration with **RMRC Bhubaneswar, NIMR, and DBT-NII**,
- **Derived from:** They used **Lactococcus lactis**, a **safe, food-grade bacterium**, as the expression platform.
- **Promising Preclinical Results:** Preclinical studies of AdFalciVax have demonstrated **broad immune protection**, lower chances of immune evasion, and **potential long-term immunity**.
 - It has also shown **thermal stability**, remaining effective at room temperature for over nine months.
- **Development and Licensing Plans:** Although AdFalciVax is still in early development and **not approved for clinical use**, ICMR plans to **license the technology non-exclusively** for further development and commercialization, under its **IP policy guidelines**.

5. TYPHOON WIPHA

Context: Hong Kong gave its **highest storm warning** as **Typhoon Wipha** hit with **strong winds** over **167 km/h**, bringing **heavy rain** and causing over **200 flight cancellations** across the city.

About Typhoon Wipha

- Formed in the **Philippine Sea** on **July 16, 2025**.
- It became a **Tropical Storm** on **July 19**, passing **Northern Luzon**.
- Upgraded to **Typhoon (Category 1)** on **July 20**, with winds **~120 km/h**.

- **Made landfall in Taishan, Guangdong (China) on July 20**, then weakened moving towards **Vietnam**.

About Typhoon

- **Refers:** A **typhoon** is a type of **tropical cyclone**—a rotating, organized system of **clouds and thunderstorms** that forms over **warm tropical or subtropical waters** and features a **closed low-level circulation**.
- **Classification:** It is classified as a **severe tropical cyclone**, but the terminology varies by region:
 - **Typhoon:** Used in the **Northwest Pacific Ocean** (e.g., affecting East and Southeast Asia).
 - **Hurricane:** Used in the **North Atlantic, central, and eastern North Pacific**.
 - **Tropical Cyclone:** Commonly used in the **South Pacific and Indian Ocean** regions.
 - Despite the different names, all these terms describe the **same weather phenomenon**—a powerful storm system fueled by the energy of warm ocean waters.
- **Favourable Conditions for the Formation of Tropical Cyclone**
 - Large sea surface with **temperature > 27° C**;
 - Presence of the **Coriolis force**;
 - **Small variations in the vertical wind speed**;
 - A **pre-existing weak low-pressure area** or low-level-cyclonic circulation and
 - **Upper divergence above the sea level system**.
 - *In the South Atlantic and South-Eastern Pacific regions in tropical latitudes, cyclones do not originate because of low sea surface temperatures.*