

Instagram to require users to share their birthday amid youth safety push

Instagram will begin requiring users to confirm their birthdays as part of an effort to create new safety features for young people, the Facebook Inc.-owned social media app said Monday.

Instagram has explored building a version of its app for kids under the age of 13, prompting lawmakers to urge Facebook to drop the plans, saying the social media company "has a clear record of failing to protect children on its platforms." Instagram said in a blog post it will use the information to "ensure we provide the right experiences to the right age group."

Last month, the company said it would default users under 16 to a private account when they join the platform.

The app said it will ask users for their birthdays when they open Instagram and then show several pop-up notifications if the user does not enter their birthday. At some point, users will be required to submit their birth date to continue using the app, Instagram said.

The changes will only affect Instagram users who have not previously shared their birthday on the app.

Instagram added it was aware that some users might enter a false birth date and said it was developing new technology to address such issues.



OPPO introduces the A16

Global smart device brand OPPO has launched its new smartphone from the A series – OPPO A16 – in the Bangladeshi market.

Accompanied by MediaTek Helio G35 octa-core processor, 3GB RAM and 32GB ROM, a large battery and AI Triple Camera setup, OPPO A16 is also equipped with a screen refresh rate of 60 HZ, a touch sampling rate of 120 HZ and a 6.5-inch water-drop display. Combining vacuum plating, laser engraving process and a thickness of 8.4 mm, A16 is designed to be slim with a silver finishing.

The phone comes with a side-mounted fingerprint unlocking system that enables the users to reach out for the lock sensor without holding the

phone upright.

OPPO A16 also features AI Triple Camera setup with a 13MP main camera, 2MP Macro camera, and 2MP Portrait mode. The phone features an 8MP selfie camera as well. Available in Crystal black and pearl blue, the phone also supports ColorOS 11 that comes with features like FlexDrop and low battery messages.

OPPO A16 is available at BDT 12,990. On the occasion of the first sale of OPPO A16, OPPO has also announced to buy a smartphone for BDT 16 only by participating in a lottery. The offer is available from September 6 to September 12. OPPO A16 is now available in all outlets and online marketplaces.



Following backlash, Sony will offer a free PS4 to PS5 upgrade for Horizon Forbidden West

Sony is now planning to offer a free PS4 to PS5 upgrade for Horizon Forbidden West. The U-turn comes after the company faced widespread backlash after announcing that there would be no upgrade path for Horizon Forbidden West PS4 players, despite an earlier promise of a free upgrade to the PS5 version.

To get access to both the PS4 and PS5 versions of Horizon Forbidden West, Sony had planned to force PS4 players

to buy the \$79.99 Digital Deluxe edition, \$199.99 Collector's edition, or \$259.99 Regalla edition.

Sony has also announced a \$10 digital upgrade for both digital and physical versions of PlayStation first-party exclusive cross-gen titles. That means that the next God of War, Gran Turismo 7, and other Sony first-party cross-gen games will have a \$10 digital upgrade option for PS4 owners who want to upgrade to the PS5 version.

Nissan develops technology to halve recycling cost of rare earths

Japan's Nissan Motor Co Ltd has developed a new technology to halve the cost of recycling rare earths used in magnet motors for electric vehicles (EVs), the company said on Friday.

With tension simmering between China and the United States, automakers are trying to reduce their reliance on a key driver of the EV revolution - permanent magnets that power electric engines, as most are made of rare earth metals from China.

Automakers are also concerned about huge price swings of the metals and environmental damage in the supply chain.

Nissan, collaborating with Katsunori Yamaguchi, a professor at Waseda

University, established a new recycling technology to recover rare earth compounds in high purity and efficiency without dismantling the motor, which is the conventional way.

Permanent magnet motors - using rare earths such as neodymium and dysprosium - naturally have magnetic force. These are at the heart of many electric motors, powering the rotor of the drivetrain.

With the new technology in a dry refining method, Nissan melts the rotors in a furnace above 1,400 Celsius, extracts them as an oxide liquid, and then separates them to extract the rare earths.

The new method will shorten the processing time to about 4 hours from

EDITOR'S NOTE

Time to get back in the world

This new normal is here to stay, that much we know for sure. But as the world around us slowly starts to open up following mass vaccination drives and whatnot, it's time to prepare ourselves to get back into the world. We, as much as you lot, missed travelling the most during the last one and a half years. So we thought, this week, we'll start with that. Turn to the centrefold to see our new normal travelling guide. In Next Step, we aim to help out fresh graduates and young professionals. As for the rest, keep reading to find out!

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