

30 November 2024

Indian Army Launches Online Learning Platform Eklavya

Key Points:

To modernise and upskill its Officers and prepare them for future battles, the Indian Army has launched an online learning platform named 'Eklavya'. The platform is expected to decongest the existing physical courses, impart flexibility in the content of the training with constant updates, and prepare officers for the changing character of warfare.



Who has designed the Eklavya Software Platform?

The Eklavya platform was developed by the Bhaskaracharya National Institute of Space Applications and Geoinformatics" (BISAG-N), Gandhinagar, Gujarat, for the Indian Army.

- ❖ The Headquarters Army Training Command and Army War College are sponsor agencies for the Eklavya platform.
- ❖ The platform has been hosted on the Army Data Network of the Headquarters Army Training Command.

Who inaugurated the Eklavya Online Platform?

The Chief of Army Staff, General Upendra Dwivedi, inaugurated the online platform Eklavya at a function in New Delhi. The launch is part of the Indian Army's Decade of Transformation initiative.

Indian Army's Decade of Transformation Initiative

While addressing the National Defence College, New Delhi, in November 2024, General Upendra Dwivedi announced the 'Decade of Transformation' initiative to modernise and prepare the Indian Army for future combat.

- ❖ The initiative seeks to transform the Indian Army into a technologically advanced, adaptive, and self-reliant force capable of addressing complex future challenges. Human Resource Management is a key part of the initiative, which focuses on developing a skilled and inclusive force.
- ❖ Army officers will receive training that keeps them in touch with the evolving nature of modern warfare, such as integrated warfare, cyber warfare, and drone warfare.

Usefulness of the Eklavya Platform

In the physical training, the participant's Army officers must be physically present at the location where the training is being provided.

- ❖ Constant change and updation in the physical courses at short notice is not possible. ▪ In the online mode, the Officers can participate in the training from any corner of India where they are posted.
- ❖ It will be easy to constantly update the content of the course and devise a new course module online.
- ❖ It will also offer officers flexibility to choose a course that will enhance their skills in a special domain, as the Eklavya platform will host a wider variety of courses on information warfare, financial planning, defence land management, discipline and vigilance, work, etc.

Australia passes law to ban the use of Social Media for Minor below 16

The Australian Parliament has passed a law banning children under 16 years from using social media such as Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, etc.

- ❖ The law provides a fine of up to Australian \$ 50 million (US\$32.5 million) on social media platforms if they fail to stop minors below 16 years of age from logging in on their platform.

- ❖ The law will not be implemented immediately, as the government has to work out the details. It is expected to come into force in a year, but the government intends to start the trial of the enforcement methods in January of next year.
- ❖ Australia is the first country in the world to impose a blanket ban on the use of social media by children under 16 years of age.
- ❖ The Australian law comes at a time when there is increasing concern across the world about social media platforms, their addictive features and their role in teens' mental health crises.
- ❖ The Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese supported the legislation and said that social media was "a platform for peer pressure, a driver of anxiety, a vehicle for scammers and, worst of all, a tool for online predators".

Australia First Country in the World

Australia is the first country in the world to impose a blanket ban on the use of social media by children under 16.

- ❖ In many countries of the world, minors are allowed to use social media with the necessary consent from their parents.
- ❖ The 27-member European Union permits the use of social media by minors under 16 years old with the consent of their parents. However, the European Union permits its member countries to lower the parental consent to 13 years. In France, parental consent is mandatory for minors below 15 years.
- ❖ In Germany, minors between 13 and 16 years old are allowed to use social media only with their parents' consent.
- ❖ Florida, a state in the United States, has passed a law banning the use of social media by minors under 14 years of age. However, the law has been challenged in court and is yet to be enforced.

Status in India

There is no specific law in the country that regulates minors' use of social media. However, the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act 2023 requires verifiable consent from a legal guardian by the social media platform to process data on children under 18.

Social media's self-regulation

Certain social media platforms, such as Facebook, Snapchat, and TikTok, restrict access to their sites to minors under 13 years of age. However, it is virtually impossible to enforce the regulations. Children can circumvent the ban by using a VPN (Virtual Private Network) and faking their age to log on to these sites. Many people oppose the law because it violates freedom of speech and the right to privacy.

Amit Shah inaugurate 59th All India Conference of DGP/IG in Odisha

The Union Minister for Home Affairs, Amit Shah, inaugurated the 59th All India Conference of Director Generals (DGP)/ Inspector General (IG) of Police in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, on 29th November 2024. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend and address the All India Conference on 30th November and 1st December, 2024.



The three-day conference will be held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, from 29 November to 1 December 2024. For the first time, the state of Odisha is hosting the All India Conference of Director Generals/ Inspector Generals of Police. The 58th All-India Conference of Director Generals/ Inspector Generals of Police was held in Jaipur, Rajasthan, on January 6 and 7, 2024.

Who is attending the Conference?

The 59th All India Conference of Director Generals/ Inspector Generals of Police will bring together the central government and the state government apparatus responsible for the country's internal security.

- ❖ The conference will be attended by the Prime Minister, the Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar, and National Security Advisor Ajit Kumar Doval.
- ❖ The Union Home Secretary, Govind Mohan, the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, P.K. Mishra, and the head of the Intelligence Bureau, Tapan Deka, are also participating.
- ❖ The head of the Central Armed Police Forces (CRPF, SPG, etc), State and Union Territories Director General of Police/Inspector General of Police are also participating.

Agenda of the All India Conference

The All India Conference of Director Generals/ Inspector Generals of Police provides a platform for brainstorming about the internal security challenges facing the country.

- ❖ The Conference will discuss issues related to left-wing extremism, coastal security, three new criminal laws, counter-terrorism strategies, cyber crimes and challenges posed by emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence and drones.
- ❖ During the last day of the Conference, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to confer the President's Police Medal for distinguished service on meritorious police officers, as announced by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.

Amiya Kumar Bagchi, Renowned Economic Historian, Dies

Professor Amiya Kumar Bagchi, a prominent economic historian and macroeconomist, passed away on November 28, 2024.

- ❖ Renowned for his revolutionary contributions to economic history and his commitment to Left politics, Bagchi's scholarship bridged economic theory and historical data.
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Renowned for his revolutionary contributions to economic history and his commitment to Left politics, Bagchi's scholarship bridged economic theory and historical data, influencing both economists and historians alike.

- ❖ His work continues to shed light on India's colonial economic history, development, and underdevelopment, providing profound insights into the impact of imperialism.

Kaziranga Hosts 12th International Tourism Mart, Spotting Northeast India's Riches

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- ❖ Organized annually by the Ministry of Tourism, the event serves as a key platform for both domestic and international audiences to explore the diverse cultural, natural, and biodiversity-rich offerings of the region.

Sex during consensual extramarital affair not rape: Supreme Court

Flagging a worrying trend of criminalisation of a soured consensual physical relationship, the Supreme Court has said a woman in an extramarital relationship for years cannot level rape charges against the man claiming that he had sex with her on the false promise of marriage.

- ❖ Quashing a seven-year-old FIR lodged by one Vanita S Jadhav against Mahesh Damu Khare at Kharghar police station in Mumbai, a bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and N Kotiswar Singh said, "There is a worrying trend that consensual relationships going on for prolonged periods, upon turning sour, have been sought to be criminalised..." SC said a complaint of breach of promise to marry, based on consent for sexual relationship was obtained, must be lodged by the deceived woman with promptitude and not after continuing the physical relationship for years.
- ❖ The affair between Khare, a married man, and Jadhav, a widow, started in 2008. Jadhav said they had intercourse after the man promised to marry her. Khare's wife had lodged extortion complaints against Jadhav.
- ❖ In March 2017, Jadhav lodged rape complaint against Khare. SC said, "In a situation where a physical relationship is maintained for a prolonged period knowingly by the woman, it cannot be said with certainty the said physical relationship was purely because of the alleged promise made by Khare to marry her."

Masato Kanda elected as new President of ADB

Masato Kanda, former top currency diplomat for Japan, was elected as 11th president of the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

- ❖ Kanda, 59, currently serves as special advisor to Japan's prime minister and minister of finance. He will assume office on Feb 24, 2025, succeeding Masatsugu Asakawa, who will leave office on Feb 23 next year. Kanda will complete the unexpired term of Asakawa, which ends on Nov 23, 2026.



Appointments

Masato Kanda

Elected new President
of Asian Development Bank

About Asian Development Bank (ADB)

- ❖ Founded – 19 December 1966
- ❖ Headquarters – Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines
- ❖ President – Masato Kanda (replace Masatsugu Asakawa) effect from 24 Feb 2025
- ❖ Vice President – Ashok Lavasa
- ❖ Director of ADB for India – Mio Oka (replace Takeo Konishi)
- ❖ Executive Director – Vikas Sheel
- ❖ Adviser to the Executive Director – Smita Sarangi
- ❖ Member Countries – 69 (Israel)

Recent Appointments in Foreign

- ❖ Secretary General of Interpol – Valdecy Urquiza (Brazil's Federal Police Commissioner)
- ❖ Chairperson of 77th Session of WHO Regional Committee – JP Nadda
- ❖ President of the 68th General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) – Sang Wook Ham
- ❖ First Indian President of Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) – Raja Randhir Singh
- ❖ First Female Government Spokesperson of Iran – Fatemeh Mohajerani
- ❖ CEO of Nestlé – Laurent Freixe (replace Mark Schneider)

DRA signs up Rashmika Mandanna as brand ambassador

Chennai-based real estate developer, DRA has signed actress Rashmika Mandanna, as its brand ambassador.

- ❖ The company, which has so far developed 10 million sq ft of (mostly) residential space in Chennai, expects to add 2.7 m sq ft from its nine ongoing and six upcoming projects. Rashmika, who co-starred with Amitabh Bachchan, Goodbye, will help in this effort.
- ❖ The actor has endorsed many brands and products, such as McDonald's, Kalyan Jewellers, Bisk Farm, Cashify and Dabur Honey and in 2023 was the first Indian ambassador to the Japanese fashion brand Onitsuka Tiger.

Recent Brand Ambassador

- ❖ Sonu Sood – Brand Ambassador and Honourary Tourism Advisor for Thailand
- ❖ Harbhajan Singh & Sania Mirza – Dubai Sports Council brand ambassador
- ❖ Shreyanka Patil – BOBCARD Limited
- ❖ Rashmika Mandanna – National Ambassador for Promoting Cyber Safety
- ❖ Rahul Dravid – Shriram Finance Ltd,
- ❖ Manu Bhaker – Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW)

International Jaguar Day

International Jaguar Day is celebrated every year on November 29, aims to highlight the growing dangers to jaguars and the urgent need for their protection.

- ❖ These big cats, known as the largest in the Americas and key to preserving biodiversity and cultural heritage in Central and South America, are also crucial to the Amazon Rainforest and the third largest cat predator globally.

