

Around The WORLD

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FRANCE

Louvre ticket hike



The Louvre Museum in Paris will raise ticket prices by 45% for non-EU visitors

starting Jan'26. Approved by the museum's board, the hike targets tourists from countries including the US, the UK, and China. It aims to generate revenue for modernisation projects and address the long-standing challenge of managing overwhelming crowds. The decision underscores the museum's effort to balance accessibility with sustainability as it adapts to growing global demand.



UK

A rage-baited 2025

Oxford University Press has chosen 'rage bait' as its 2025 Word of the Year, highlighting the growing influence of online content designed to provoke anger and rage. Defined as deliberately frustrating someone or uploading offensive posts, the term reflects concerns about digital manipulation and the emotional tone of social media discourse. Based on Oxford's 30-billion-word corpus, usage of 'rage bait', first coined in 2002, has tripled, underscoring rising outrage with platforms and the manipulation shaping online conversations.



INDIA

Mandate withdrawn

The government has withdrawn its mandate requiring all new devices sold from March 2026 to pre-install the state-owned cybersecurity app, Sanchar Saathi. Issued earlier by the Department of Telecommunications, the order faced strong criticism from opposition parties and digital rights groups over privacy and surveillance concerns, as companies were to ensure the app's features could not be disabled. Sanchar Saathi, designed to combat online scams, identity theft, and digital fraud, will remain voluntary for users.



USA

Trump-Costco legal clash

Costco has filed a lawsuit against the Trump administration in Washington, seeking refunds on tariffs imposed under Trump-era trade policies. It argues the duties unlawfully inflate consumer prices nationwide, joining other corporations challenging their trade actions. The case hinges on whether the administration misused the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) to justify the tariffs.



ITALY

Luxe takeover

Prada has officially acquired Versace in a 1.3 billion EUR deal announced this week in Milan. The move unites Prada's minimalist heritage and Versace's bold glamour under one umbrella while preserving their distinct identities. The acquisition strengthens Prada's global portfolio and positions it more competitively against luxury giant LVMH, marking a significant shift in the high-fashion landscape.



NEW ZEALAND

Hard egg to swallow

A 32-year-old man has been charged after allegedly stealing and swallowing a Fabergé James Bond Octopussy 18-karat yellow gold egg locket. The theft occurred at Partridge Jewellers in central Auckland, with police confirming the pendant, valued at more than 33,500 USD, has not yet been recovered. Authorities say they cannot provide images of the rare piece until it is retrieved, highlighting the unusual circumstances surrounding the case.



SOUTH KOREA

First multi-fold phone

Samsung Electronics has launched its 'Galaxy Z TriFold,' the first multi-folding smartphone, marking a new beginning in premium foldable technology. Launched in Dec'25, the device features three-fold panels that expand into a 10-inch display, enabling users to run three apps side by side in a desktop-like mode. Analysts view this as a strategic pilot to reinforce Samsung's technology leadership against rising competition.