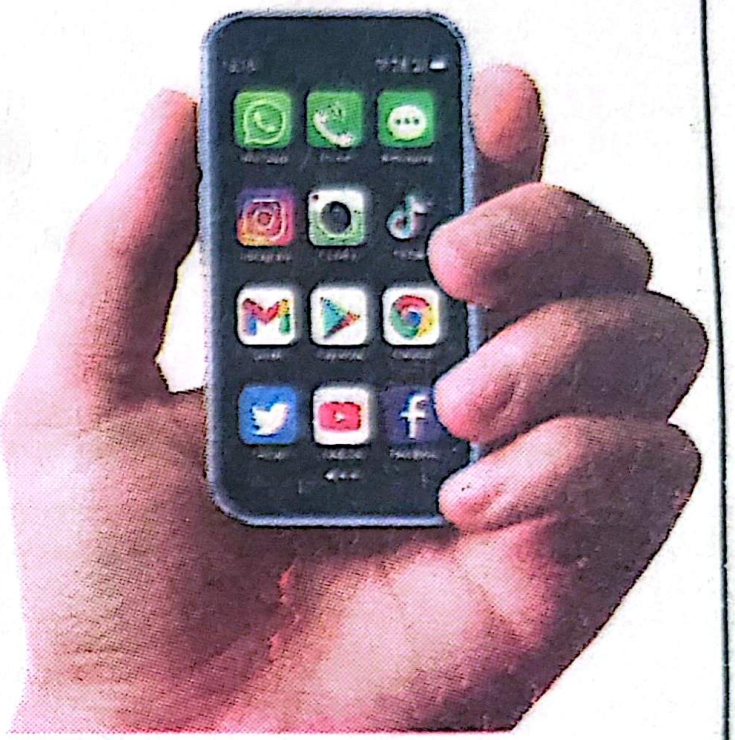
EU considering social media 'delay' for children



COPENHAGEN

The European Union should explore limiting children's access to social media with possible new rules proposed within months, EU chief Ursula von der Leyen said yesterday.

The European Commission president has tasked an expert panel to report back by July on what steps the EU should take to protect minors online, including a potential social media ban.

"Without pre-empting the panel's findings, I believe we must consider a social media delay. Depending on the results, we could come with a legal proposal this summer," von der Leyen said during a summit on AI and children in Copenhagen.

"The discussions about a minimum age for social media can no longer be ignored," she said, pointing to Denmark and nine other member states, including France, seeking to ban social media for teenagers under a certain age.

"The commission is the EU's digital watchdog and has already launched several probes into the world's biggest online platforms including TikTok and Meta's Facebook and Instagram over whether they are doing enough to protect children.

Von der Leyen defended the law used to launch the investigations, known as the Digital Services Act, which has been fiercely criticised by the US administration under President Donald Trump.

AFP

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