

SANCHAR SAATHI PORTAL

In order to reduce cyber frauds performed through fraudulently acquired SIM cards, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) will now require police verification for SIM dealers, the enforcement move follows the launch of the Sanchar Saathi portal.



About Sanchar Saathi portal:

- The portal aims to provide various reforms and **services related to mobile connections** and telecommunications.
- It has been developed by **C-DoT** under the **Department of Telecommunications** (DoT) to prevent frauds such as identity theft, forged KYC, banking frauds etc.
- The **portal allows mobile phone** users to:
 - **Check the connections** registered on their names.
 - **Report fraudulent** or unrequired connections.
 - Block the mobile phones which are stolen/lost
 - **Check IMEI** genuineness before buying a mobile phone.
- The **three reforms are being introduced** as part of the portal's framework:
 - **CEIR** (Central Equipment Identity Register): It enables the tracking and blocking of lost or stolen phones anywhere in the country.
 - **Know your mobile connections**: It allows users to check the number of mobile connections issued in their name by logging in using their mobile number. This feature helps identify any unauthorized or unwanted connections, which can be blocked immediately.
 - **ASTR** (**Artificial Intelligence and Facial Recognition** powered Solution for Telecom SIM Subscriber Verification): This AI-based technology facilitates mobile connection analysis and includes features such as IMEI-based phone theft information messaging to law enforcement agencies and the owner. It also enables blocking of any number associated with a particular IMEI and the tracking of stolen mobile devices.
- The portal and its reforms aim to enhance transparency, security, and accountability in the telecom sector.

PRADHAN MANTRI JAN DHAN YOJANA (PMJDY)

The finance ministry recently said the total number of Jan Dhan accounts in the country has crossed the 50 crore mark, with 56 per cent of the accounts belonging to women.



About Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY):

PMJDY is a National Mission for Financial Inclusion launched in August 2014 to ensure access to financial services, namely, Banking/ Savings & Deposit Accounts, Remittance, Credit, Insurance and Pension, in an affordable manner.

- It envisages universal access to banking facilities with at least one basic banking account for every household, financial literacy, access to credit, insurance and pension.
- The plan also envisages channelling all Government benefits (from Centre / State / Local Body) to the beneficiary's accounts and pushing the Direct Benefits Transfer (DBT) scheme of the Union Government.

Eligibility:

- The applicant should be an **Indian National**.
- Any individual above **10 years** can open a bank account.
- **If minors above ten years apply**, they will require support from their legal guardians to administer their PMJDY account.
- **Jan Dhan Account:**
 - An individual can consider opening an account under this scheme with any bank branch or **Business Correspondent (Bank Mitr) outlet**.
 - Further, accounts opened under PMJDY can be opened with **zero balance**.
 - However, if the account holder wishes to get a **chequebook**, he/she will have to fulfil the **minimum balance criteria**.
 - The account holders under this scheme will be given a **RuPay debit card** which can be used across all ATMs for cash withdrawal.

- Individuals opening a Jan Dhan account are **subject to be recipients of certain benefits. They are**
 - **Accidental Insurance Cover:**
 - It provides accidental insurance of ₹1,00,000 to the holders of non-premium cards, while those with premium cards can avail up to ₹2,00,000.
 - People holding a RuPay Debit Card under PMJDY will be eligible for this insurance.
 - **Life Cover Insurance:**
 - The holders of a RuPay Debit Card under the scheme can also receive life cover insurance up to ₹30,000.
 - It will only apply to people opening bank accounts for the first time under Jan Dhan Yojana with a debit card.
 - The person should also be the head of the family or a major earning member.
 - This scheme will be liable to a single payment of ₹30,000 upon the death of a beneficiary.
 - State or Central Government employees, public sector employees, and people with taxable income will not be eligible for life cover insurance under Jan Dhan Yojana.
 - **Overdraft Facility:** Beneficiaries can avail of an overdraft facility for up to ₹10,000. However, this is only available against one account per household.
 - This scheme also provides loans of up to ₹5,000 to beneficiaries after completing six months of account transactions.

WHAT IS THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT (ICC)?

Russia recently announced sanctions on the International Criminal Court (ICC) prosecutor and British ministers.



About International Criminal Court (ICC):

- It is the **only permanent international criminal tribunal.**
- **Background:** It was created by the 1998 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (its founding and governing document), and **began functioning on 1 July 2002** when the Statute came into force.

- **Mandate:** It investigates and, where warranted, tries individuals charged with the gravest crimes of concern to the international community: genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and the crime of aggression.
- **HQ:** Hague, Netherlands.
- **Members:** 123 nations are States Parties to the Rome Statute and recognize the ICC's authority; the notable exceptions being the US, China, Russia, and India.
- **Funding:** The Court is funded by contributions from the States Parties and by voluntary contributions from Governments, international organizations, individuals, corporations, and other entities.
- **Composition:**
 - **Judges:** The Court has eighteen judges, each from a different member country, elected to non-renewable nine-year terms.
 - **The Presidency:** Consists of three judges (the President and two Vice-Presidents) elected from among the judges. It represents the Court to the outside world and helps with the organization of the work of the judges.
 - **Judicial Divisions:** 18 judges in 3 divisions, the Pre-Trial Division, the Trial Division, and the Appeals Division.
- **Jurisdiction of ICC:**
 - Unlike the International Court of Justice, which hears disputes between states, the ICC handles prosecutions of individuals.
- **Relation with UN:**
 - While not a United Nations organization, the Court has a cooperation agreement with the United Nations.
 - When a situation is not within the Court's jurisdiction, the United Nations Security Council can refer the situation to the ICC, granting it jurisdiction.

[SOLAR ENERGY CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED \(SECI\)](#)

The Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) recently invited bids for developing more than 4 gigawatts (GW) of renewable energy, including wind power.



About Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI):

- SECI is a Central Public Sector Undertaking (CPSU) under the administrative control of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).

- It was set up on 20th September 2011 to facilitate the implementation of the National Solar Mission (NSM) and the achievement of targets set therein.
- It is the only CPSU dedicated to the renewable energy sector.
- **Vision:** To build 'Green India' through harnessing abundant solar radiation and to achieve energy security for the country.

Mission:

- To become the leader in the development of large-scale solar installations, solar plants and solar parks and to promote and commercialize the use of solar energy to reach the remotest corner of India.
- To become a leader in exploring new technologies and their deployment to harness solar energy.
- It was originally incorporated as a section-25 (not-for-profit) company under the Companies Act, 1956.
- However, through an amendment by the Government of India, the company was converted into a Section-3 company, in 2015, under the Companies Act, 2013.
- The mandate of the company has also been broadened to cover the entire renewable energy domain.
- The company is one of the nodal agencies for the implementation of a number of schemes of MNRE. In addition, SECI has ventured into solar project development on a turnkey basis for several PSUs/Government departments.
- The company also has a power trading license and is active in this domain through trading of solar power from projects set up under the schemes being implemented by it.

GOVT, WHO CHIEF STRESS IMPORTANCE OF TRADITIONAL MEDICINE, CITE GROWING DEMAND

Why in news?

- A year after the WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine was set up in India, the country is hosting the **first global summit** with an aim to help identify areas of collaboration in traditional medicine.
- This summit was hosted alongside the ongoing G20 ministerial meeting of the health track in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- The Global Summit was co-hosted by the **WHO and the Government of India**.

Traditional Medicines

- Traditional medicine, as defined by the WHO, is the sum total of the knowledge, skills, and practices based on the theories, beliefs, and experiences indigenous to different cultures.
- These skills are used in the maintenance of health as well as in the prevention, diagnosis, improvement, or treatment of physical and mental illness.
- Some traditional medicine systems are supported by huge volumes of literature and records of the theoretical concepts and practical skills.
 - Others pass down these skills from generation to generation through verbal teaching.
- The most widely used traditional medicine systems today include those of China, India, and Africa.

India & Traditional medicine

- India has been known to be rich repository of medicinal plants.
- The forest in India is the principal repository of large number of medicinal and aromatic plants.
- About 8,000 herbal remedies have been codified in AYUSH systems in INDIA.
- Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha and Folk (tribal) medicines are the major systems of indigenous medicines.

Steps taken by India to Promote AYUSH

- **National AYUSH Mission**

- Department of AYUSH, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare had launched National AYUSH Mission (NAM) during 12th Plan.
- The basic objective of NAM is to promote
 - AYUSH medical systems through cost effective AYUSH services, strengthening of educational systems,
 - facilitate the enforcement of quality control of Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani & Homoeopathy (ASU &H) drugs
 - sustainable availability of ASU & H raw-materials.
- **New Ministry Formed**
- In 2014 Department of AYUSH, was made into a separate Ministry of AYUSH, a dedicated to traditional medicine and treatment.
- **Recent Steps**
- The new category 'AYUSH Aahar' introduced by the FSSAI in its regulations will help the producers of herbal nutritional supplements.
- The AYUSH Export Promotion Council has been set up to encourage exports and help find foreign markets.
- The government is going to create a network of AYUSH Parks to encourage research and provide a new direction to AYUSH manufacturing.
- An incubation centre developed by the All-India Institute of Ayurveda was inaugurated by the Ministry of AYUSH.
 - This will encourage start-up culture in the field of traditional medicine.

INDIA'S FIRST 3D-PRINTED POST OFFICE INAUGURATED

Why in news?

- India's first 3D-printed post office was virtually inaugurated by Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw in Bengaluru's Cambridge Layout.
- Its construction was completed in just 43 days — two days ahead of the deadline.
- Multinational company Larsen & Toubro Limited built the post office with technological support from IIT Madras.

What is 3D printing?

- **Background**

- Invented in the 1980s, 3D printing burst into the mainstream around the 2010s, when many thought it would take over the world.
- The technology, however, at the time was expensive, slow and prone to making errors.
- In recent years, some of these flaws have been done away with, making 3D printing more prevalent than ever before.

- **About**

- 3D printing, also known as **additive manufacturing**, is a process of creating three-dimensional objects from digital models by adding material layer by layer.
- It is an additive process, in which layers of a material like plastic, composites or bio-materials are built up to construct objects that range in shape, size, rigidity and colour.
- This process allows for more efficient and customized production compared to traditional subtractive manufacturing methods.

- **Requirement**

- To carry out 3D printing, one needs a personal computer connected to a 3D printer.
- All they need to do is design a 3D model of the required object on computer-aid design (CAD) software and press ‘print’.
- The 3D printer does the rest of the job.

KALKA-SHIMLA RAILWAY LINE

Heavy rain and floods in Himachal Pradesh have battered the 94-km-long Kalka-Shimla railway line, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



About Kalka-Shimla Railway line:

- This railway was declared a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** on July 8, 2008.

- It is located at an elevation of 2,152 ft above sea level in Haryana, to the capital of Himachal Pradesh, at 6,808 ft.
- The **narrow gauge “toy train”** passes through 18 stations, 102 tunnels, and over 988 bridges.
- It offers majestic views for most of the route. Passengers see breathtaking valleys, covered with pine, oak, and deodar trees.

Key facts about UNESCO

- UNESCO stands for United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.
 - It is **specialized agency of the United Nations (UN)**.
 - The constitution, which entered into force in 1946, called for the promotion of international collaboration in education, science, and culture.
 - **Headquarters:** Paris, France.
 - **Parent Organisation:** United Nations Economic and Social Council
 - **Goal:** The primary goals of UNESCO are to contribute **to peace and security by promoting collaboration among nations through education**, science, and culture, and to promote sustainable development and intercultural dialogue.
 - UNESCO believes that these areas are crucial for building a more just, peaceful, and inclusive world.
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