



25 October 2023

National and International News

Bhutan and China make progress in border talks



Context

- Chinese Foreign Minister **Wang Yi** met Bhutanese Foreign Minister **Tandi Dorji**.
- 25th round of discussions was held recently (previous round was held in 2016)
- Beijing pushes for diplomatic ties with Thimphu
- Both sides want a deal on **demarcating the boundaries** “soon”.

Impact on India

- Any deal between China and Bhutan that accedes to a “swap arrangement” between **areas to the north (Jampalung and Pasamlung valleys) with Doklam to the west** would be of concern to India, given the proximity to India’s narrow “**Siliguri corridor**” that connects the northeastern States with the rest of India.

Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra

Context

The Centre has asked all departments to deploy officers to showcase its achievements across the country down to the village level, through a roadshow titled **Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra**

Key points

- The yatra will **publicize the government’s welfare schemes** across the country and is targeted at the “lower middle class”.
- It is scheduled from **November 20 to January 26**.

eSIM card

Context

- Over the years, the SIM card has shrunk from the SIM to the mini SIM to the micro SIM to the nano SIM.
- The latest on this path is the eSIM, with specifications defined by the **Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) Association**

Key points

- ‘SIM’ stands for ‘**subscriber identification module**’.
- Specifically, it is an integrated circuit, or a microchip, that identifies the subscriber on a given network.



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- In the eSIM paradigm, the SIM software is loaded on to a UICC that is permanently installed in the mobile equipment in the factory itself, that it can't be removed. **(This is called the eUICC.)**

Advantages of eSim

- It is considered to be **environmentally friendlier than a physical SIM**: its reprogrammability means no need for more plastic and metal for a new SIM.
- If a malicious person gains access to your phone, they won't be able to separately access the SIM application nor be able to duplicate it.

Disadvantages of eSim

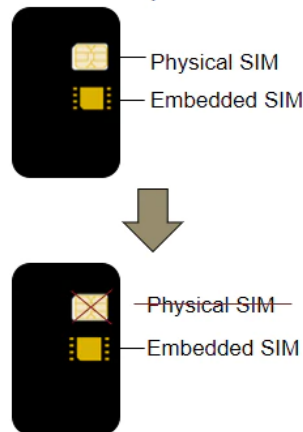
- In some countries, including the U.S., eSIMs can be programmed by subscribers themselves. But this process might be **difficult for those with low digital literacy**, such as the elderly.
- An eSIM can in theory **allow network operators to track subscribers' data**, including inside apps on the device, especially in the absence of data privacy laws.

Embedded SIM (eSIM) technology: Consumer mobile devices

Embedded SIMs will be smaller, and increasingly built-in to mobile devices

- 1 Physical eSIM (e.g. Apple SIM)
- 2 Embedded SIM chip
- 3 CPU with eSIM capabilities

Mobile phones are likely to be dual SIM-enabled in the interim (physical and embedded SIM)



The immediate option for downloading eSIMs will be QR codes – browse-able eSIM marketplaces are expected to be introduced next



Source: Strategy & analysis



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Esim	SIM card
It is not removable.	It is removable.
Can use multiple carriers.	Cannot use multiple carriers.
Can activate the plan and carrier from your phone.	User needs to order a new SIM card every time they want to change carrier.
Comes embedded in phone or motherboard.	Comes in various sizes (Standard size, Micro size, Nano size)

DNA and face-matching systems at police stations

Context

The Centre is all set to roll out “DNA and face-matching” systems at 1,300 police stations across the country.

Key points

- It will be implemented under the **Criminal Procedure Identification Act** which was passed last year.
- The law enables police and Central investigating agencies to collect, store, and analyse physical and biological samples, including retina and iris scan of arrested persons.
- **NCRB** is to prepare the SOPs

National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)

- NCRB was **set-up in 1986** to function as a repository of information on crime and criminals to assist the investigators in linking crime to the perpetrators.
- It was recommended by **Tandon Committee, National Police Commission (1977-1981) and the MHA’s Task force (1985)**.
- NCRB is entrusted with the responsibility for monitoring, coordinating, and implementing the **Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS) project**.
- It is headquartered in **New Delhi** and is part of the **Ministry of Home Affairs**.
- Its publications include:
 - a. Accidental Deaths & Suicides in India
 - b. Prison Statistics India



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. Fingerprints in India d. Report on missing women and children in India
Food labels to have QR code	<p>Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has recommended the use of quick response (QR) codes on food products for accessibility by persons with visual disabilities • This would ensure access to safe food for all, including those with special needs. <p>About FSSAI</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is a statutory body established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 (FSS Act). • FSS Act, of 2006 consolidated various acts & orders that had earlier handled food-related issues in various Ministries and Departments. • Nodal ministry: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
Sri Lanka announces free visas for Indians	<p>Context</p> <p>Sri Lanka waived visa fee for Indians and tourists from six other countries, as part of its efforts to boost tourist arrivals and help rebuild the island nation's battered economy</p> <p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India has remained Sri Lanka's top source market for many years. This year, over 2 lakh Indian tourists — constituting 20 % of the total tourist arrivals — have visited the island nation until September 2023. • The Cabinet announced implementation of a pilot project to issue free tourist visas to tourists from China, India, Russia, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Japan until March 31, 2024.

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