

SHORTNEWS

1. One Freezone Passport

Dubai has launched the “One Freezone Passport”, a single business licence system enabling companies to operate across all 30+ free zones seamlessly.

About the One Freezone Passport

The initiative, introduced by the Dubai Free Zones Council (DFZC), eliminates the need for multiple permits by consolidating operations under one licence. It aims to simplify business expansion, cut administrative costs, and enhance investor confidence, in line with the Dubai Economic Agenda D33 that targets doubling GDP by 2033.

Benefits of the One Freezone Passport

Faster Setup and Expansion: Businesses can expand across multiple zones in as little as five days, removing redundant licensing barriers.

Operational Efficiency: The unified system prevents duplication of compliance checks, creating a streamlined business ecosystem.

Cost Savings: By eliminating multiple legal and administrative fees, firms benefit from lower operational costs.

Global Competitiveness: This initiative positions Dubai as an agile, investor-friendly economy, strengthening its role as a global business hub.

What Is a Free Zone?

Free zones in the UAE are special economic areas designed to attract investment by providing autonomy and flexibility. They focus on industries such as technology, logistics, healthcare, fintech, and luxury retail.

Benefits of Free Zones

100% foreign ownership and full repatriation of capital and profits. Tax exemptions with no corporate or personal income tax. Customs benefits with duty-free import and export. Simplified regulations with fast-track business setup procedures. World-class infrastructure offering access to regional and global markets.

2. Mobilab

The Technology Development Board (TDB) has partnered with Primary Healthtech Pvt. Ltd. to support the development of Next-generation Mobilab under a joint project.

About Mobilab

Mobilab, is a portable AI-Powered Blood Testing Device. It is a battery-operated clinical chemistry analyzer, designed to provide low-cost, rapid, and accessible diagnostics at the primary healthcare level. Developed By: Primary Healthtech Pvt. Ltd founded by IIT Guwahati alumnus.

Features of Mobilab Device

IoT-enabled and AI/ML-powered, ensuring accuracy and real-time data management. Capable of testing 25+ parameters related to kidney, liver, heart, vitamins, and cancer markers. Operates in resource-limited settings, being portable and battery-operated. Successfully tested on 10,000 patients and secured a CDSCO (Central Drugs Standard Control Organization) manufacturing license.

Patents and Innovations

Holds a patent for a “Transmittance-based system/kit for point-of-care quantification” transferred from IIT Guwahati.

3. Press Sewa Portal

Recently, the Press Registrar General launched ‘Press Sewa’ Portal to simplify the registration process for newspapers and periodicals.

Objective of the Portal

Single-Window Solution: To simplify and streamline the registration process for newspapers and periodicals.

Key Goals:

1. Enhance transparency in the registration process.
2. Speed up approvals for publishers.

Broader Impact: Improve the ease of doing business for the print media sector.

Salient Features & Process

Fully Online: The entire registration process has been digitalized since March of the previous year.

Deemed Approval: A crucial provision where applications will be automatically approved if no response is given within 60 days.

Direct Access: Publishers are advised to use the portal directly and avoid agents to ensure efficiency and transparency.

Associated Legislative Change

The new Registration of Periodicals Act (RPP Act) has replaced the old Press and Registration of Books (PRB) Act, 1867. Moves away from a colonial-era law to a modern, simplified legal framework suited for the digital age.

4. Primary Amoebic Meningoencephalitis (Pam)

The Health Department in Kozhikode, Kerala, has issued an alert against primary amoebic meningoencephalitis (PAM) after three cases and one death were reported recently.

About Primary Amoebic Meningoencephalitis (PAM)

Cause - PAM is a rare brain infection caused by *Naegleria fowleri*. *N. fowleri* is a free-living amoeba. An amoeba is a single-celled living organism that is too small to be seen without a microscope. *Naegleria fowleri*, are found in warm freshwater bodies such as lakes, ponds, and rivers.

Why "Brain-eating amoeba"?

Once it enters the body through the nose, it travels to the brain, destroys tissues, and causes swelling.

Spread - Most *Naegleria* infections occur after people swim or submerge their heads underwater.

Fatality - Extremely rare but highly fatal — about 97% of patients do not survive.

Not contagious - The infection does not spread from person to person and does not occur by swallowing water containing the amoeba.

Vulnerable group - Children are more vulnerable due to porous openings in the cribriform plate (separates nasal cavity and skull).

Diagnosis and Treatment

1. **Diagnosis** - Confirmed through PCR testing of cerebrospinal fluid (CSF).
2. **Challenges** - Rare occurrence makes it difficult to detect; often misdiagnosed as bacterial meningitis.
3. **Treatment** - No standard cure. Current protocols rely on CDC guidelines.