

September - 20

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Anandkumar Velkumar won India's first-ever gold medal at the Speed Skating World Championships held in Beidaihe, China.
- ❖ China defeated India 4–1 in the Women's Hockey Asia Cup 2025 final held in Hangzhou, clinching their third title.
- ❖ Sarvesh Kushare becomes the first Indian high jumper to reach a World Championships final, securing a historic sixth-place finish.
- ❖ Indian Navy's indigenously built Diving Support Vessel INS Nistar is participating in the multinational Exercise Pacific Reach 2025 in Singapore.
 - It serves as the mothership for Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicles, and will take part in multinational submarine rescue drills and expert exchanges.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

New Industrial Estates in Tamil Nadu



- ❖ The Chief Minister virtually inaugurated four industrial estates in Tamil Nadu at a total cost of ₹67 crore.
- ❖ The industrial estates are located in Kaverirajapuram (Tiruvallur), Muthur (Tirunelveli), Kadambadi (Chengalpattu), and Korukkai (Tiruvarur).
- ❖ Mr. Stalin also inaugurated two private industrial estates in Cuddalore (Maruthadu) and Coimbatore (Kittampalayam).
- ❖ A common effluent treatment plant was virtually inaugurated at Thirumudivakkam in Kancheepuram district.

- ❖ A common facility centre was inaugurated in the food processing cluster at Thiruchencode in Namakkal district.

Grants to Tamil Nadu rural bodies



- ❖ The Union government has released ₹127.586 crore to Tamil Nadu as the first instalment of grants for rural local bodies for the financial year 2025–26.
- ❖ This amount is part of the Fifteenth Finance Commission Grants recommended for Panchayati Raj Institutions.
- ❖ The grants cover 2,901 eligible gram panchayats, 74 eligible block panchayats, and nine eligible district panchayats in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The Ministry of Panchayati Raj and the Ministry of Jal Shakti recommend the grants to the Ministry of Finance.
- ❖ The grants are released by the Ministry of Finance in two instalments during a financial year.
- ❖ The untied grants are meant for location-specific felt needs under the 29 subjects listed in the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution.
- ❖ These grants cannot be used for salaries or other establishment-related costs.

NATIONAL NEWS

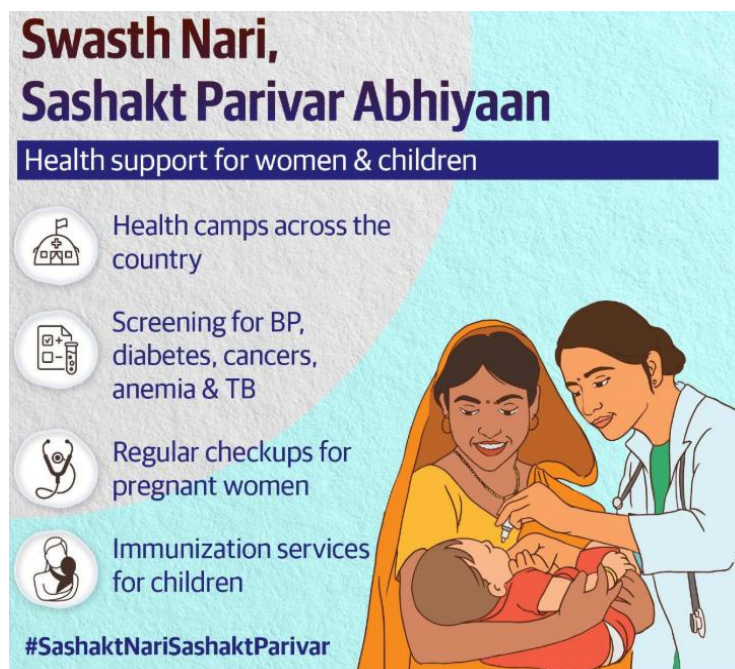
Defense Procurement Manual 2025

- ❖ The defence minister has approved the Defence Procurement Manual (DPM) 2025, updating the last version from 2009.
- ❖ The new manual aims to expedite revenue procurement worth around ₹1 lakh crore in the current financial year.

- ❖ It introduces industry-friendly measures like easing working capital issues, capping penalties at 5-10%, and waiving liquidated damages during development.
- ❖ It promotes self-reliance through indigenisation, innovation, and collaboration among private industry, Defence PSUs, and premier institutes like IITs and IISc.



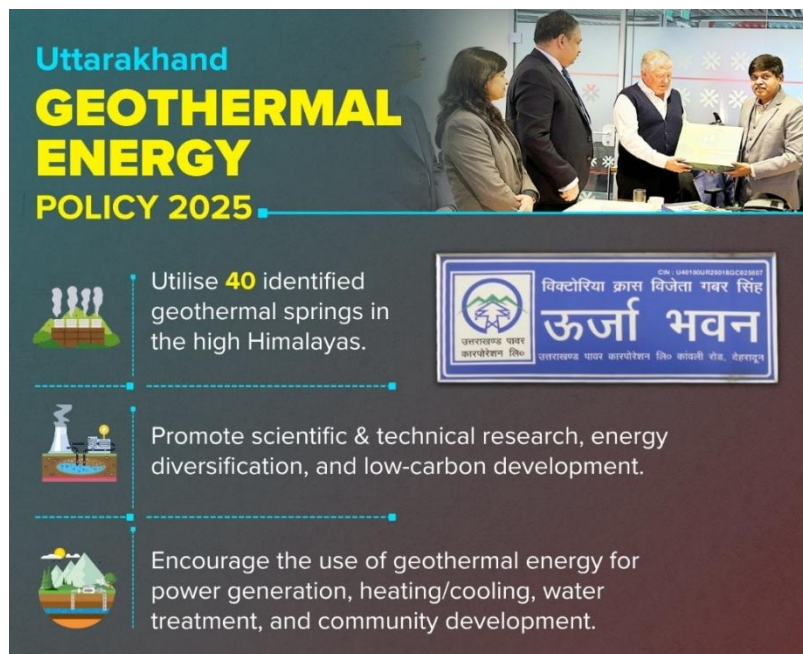
Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan initiative



- ❖ The Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan was launched on September 17, 2025.
- ❖ The campaign will run till October 2, 2025, coinciding with Gandhi Jayanti.

- ❖ It aims to organise more than one lakh health camps across Ayushman Arogya Mandirs and Community Health Centres.
- ❖ The Abhiyaan provides screenings for anaemia, hypertension, diabetes, breast and cervical cancer, tuberculosis, and sickle cell disease.
- ❖ Maternal and child care is supported through antenatal check-ups, immunisation, and distribution of MCP cards.
- ❖ Real-time tracking and data reporting will be done through the SASHAKT portal for transparency.
- ❖ The initiative aims to reduce maternal and child mortality and improve health access in underserved regions.

National Geothermal Energy Policy 2025



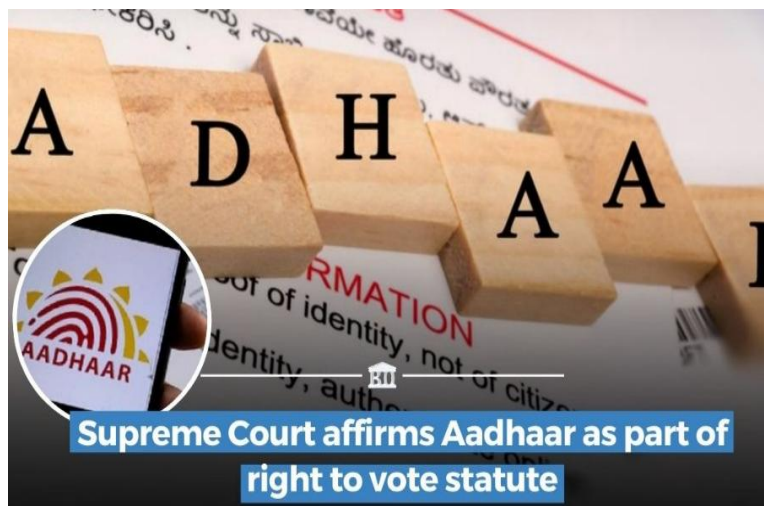
- ❖ India has launched its first national policy on geothermal energy in 2025.
- ❖ The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) will regulate and oversee the geothermal energy development.
- ❖ The policy aims to promote research, inter-ministerial coordination, and adoption of global best practices.
- ❖ Ten geothermal provinces have been identified, including the Himalayas, Cambay Basin, Aravalli, Mahanadi Basin, and Godavari Basin.
- ❖ India's estimated geothermal energy potential is around 10 gigawatts.
- ❖ The policy encourages hybrid geothermal-solar plants and the retrofitting of abandoned oil and gas wells.

India-ISA on PMS Pact

- ❖ India has signed a 15-year contract with the International Seabed Authority (ISA) for exploration of polymetallic sulphides (PMS) in the Carlsberg Ridge.
- ❖ This is India's third exploration contract with ISA and second for PMS.
- ❖ The Carlsberg Ridge lies in the Arabian Sea and spans an area of 3,00,000 square kilometres.
- ❖ It forms a tectonic boundary between the Indian and Arabian plates and extends to the Owen fracture zone.
- ❖ This is the first global licence granted for PMS exploration in the Carlsberg Ridge.
- ❖ PMS are ocean-floor deposits rich in copper, zinc, gold, and silver, formed by hydrothermal activity.



Aadhaar for Voter Authentication





- ❖ The Supreme Court stated that Aadhaar is part of the statute governing electoral rolls under Section 23(4) of the Representation of the People Act, 1950.
- ❖ The Court confirmed that Aadhaar can be used by voters as identity proof to the extent permitted by law.
- ❖ Aadhaar was declared the 12th document valid for inclusion or objection in Bihar's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.
- ❖ The Court responded that the Election Commission of India (ECI) can distinguish between citizens and infiltrators.

Opium Licensing Policy for 2025–26 Crop Year

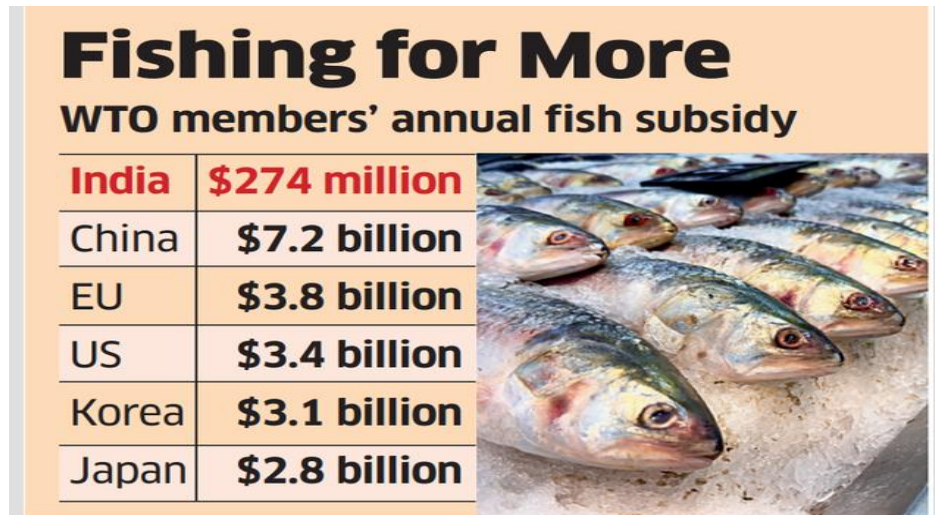
GOVERNMENT

- Announces annual licensing policy for opium poppy cultivation
- A licensing policy has been announced for the crop year 2025–26, covering Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh
- Nearly 1.2 lakh farmers eligible to receive license

- ❖ The annual licensing policy for opium poppy cultivation in 2025–26 covers Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ Around 1.21 lakh farmers are eligible, marking a 23.5% increase with 15,000 new farmers added this year.
- ❖ Farmers with morphine yield (MQY-M) ≥ 4.2 kg/hectare can retain opium gum cultivation licenses.
- ❖ Those with MQY-M between 3.0–4.2 kg/hectare can switch to the Concentrate of Poppy Straw (CPS) method with a five-year license.
- ❖ Licenses of CPS farmers with yields below 800 kg/hectare in 2024–25 will be suspended.
- ❖ Digitized records since 1995–96 have enabled wider inclusion of marginal farmers in licensing.
- ❖ The policy aims to secure alkaloid supply, boost self-reliance, and support Indian pharma under the “Make for World” vision.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies

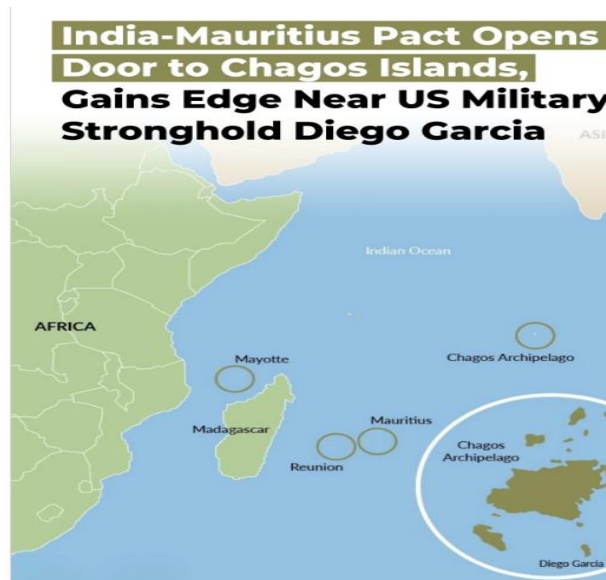


- ❖ The WTO (World Trade Organization) Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies is the first WTO deal focused on environmental sustainability, targeting harmful fishing subsidies.
- ❖ It entered into force after over two-thirds of WTO members, including Brazil, Kenya, Viet Nam, and Tonga, ratified it.
- ❖ The Agreement bans subsidies for illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing and fishing on overfished stocks or unregulated high seas.
- ❖ It aims to prevent overfishing, promote fair trade, and ensure food security for millions dependent on fisheries.
- ❖ Over 35% of global fish stocks are currently overfished, making this Agreement critical for marine resource protection.
- ❖ The Agreement was adopted at the WTO's 12th Ministerial Conference in June 2022 in Geneva.
- ❖ WTO members are urged to ratify the Agreement before the 14th Ministerial Conference in March 2026 for full implementation.

India-Mauritius Pact

- ❖ India and Mauritius have agreed to establish a satellite tracking station near Diego Garcia, a key US-UK military base in the Indian Ocean.
- ❖ The agreement was signed during Mauritius Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam's visit to India.
- ❖ It will enhance India's satellite data tracking capabilities.

- ❖ India has also reaffirmed Mauritius' sovereignty over the Chagos Islands, which include the Diego Garcia base.
- ❖ A \$680 million development package has been announced for Mauritius, focusing on maritime security, infrastructure, and economic cooperation.
- ❖ Both nations have strengthened their ties with enhanced maritime security cooperation, including joint hydrographic surveys and capacity-building for Mauritius' Coast Guard.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Cardiac Drug Vymada

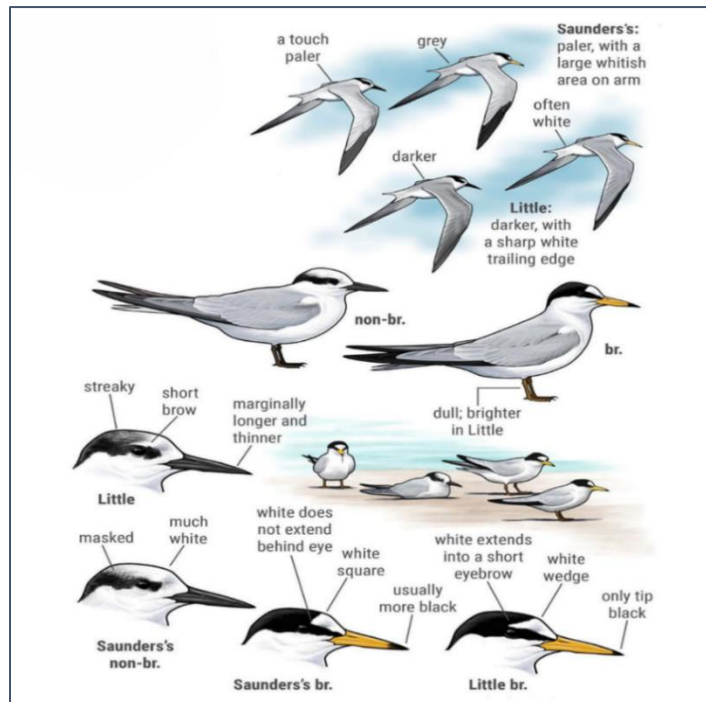
Drugmaker May Challenge Ruling	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Industry body Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance made a rare move to oppose the patent granted to Novartis➤ It cited violation of Section 3(d) of the Indian Patent Act. This provision, under which Novartis also lost patent on its blockbuster cancer drug Glivec in 2013, is aimed at	<p>preventing evergreening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ No experimental data, comparative studies or technical rationale have been provided to substantiate any enhanced efficacy, says D Usha Rao, deputy controller of patents and designs➤ Novartis may challenge the ruling by the patent office

- ❖ India has revoked the patent for Novartis' cardiac drug Vymada under Section 3(d) of the Patents Act.

- ❖ The decision was based on a lack of novelty, inventive step, and therapeutic efficacy.
- ❖ Vymada, sold globally as Entresto (sacubitril + valsartan), recorded \$7.8 billion in global sales last year.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Saunders's tern



- ❖ Saunders's tern was spotted at Adyar Estuary on September 12, 2025.
- ❖ This marks the first recorded sighting of the Saunders's tern in Chennai.
- ❖ The species is also known as the black-shafted tern and is usually associated with north-western Indian Ocean regions.
- ❖ The *Sternula saundersi* are a small, ground-nesting marine bird species.
- ❖ Its IUCN Red List status is Least Concern.
- ❖ The Adyar Estuary is formed by the Adyar River at the point at which the river meets the Bay of Bengal.

Garra nambashiensis

- ❖ A new species of freshwater fish named *Garra nambashiensis* was discovered in the Taretlok River in Manipur's Kamjong district.

- ❖ Garra nambashiensis measures 9–14 cm and is locally known as Nutungnu in the Anal tribe dialect.
- ❖ It belongs to the ‘proboscis species group’.



STATES' NEWS

Manki-Munda System

- ❖ The Manki-Munda System is a traditional self-governance model of the Ho tribe in Jharkhand's Kolhan region.
- ❖ It is led by village heads called Mundas and cluster heads called Mankis.
- ❖ The system resolves disputes and maintains order through customary laws.
- ❖ It originated before British rule, with no land tax or external control.
- ❖ In 1833, Captain Wilkinson codified it into 31 rules under British administration.
- ❖ Mundas and Mankis acted as intermediaries between the British and local communities.
- ❖ A Munda heads a single village, while a Manki oversees 8–15 villages (a pidh).
- ❖ Leadership roles are hereditary, passed from father to son.
- ❖ The system functions like a decentralized Gram Sabha for local governance.
- ❖ It protects the Ho tribal identity, traditions, and land rights.
- ❖ Courts have upheld Wilkinson's Rules due to a lack of legal alternatives.

Did you know the **Ho tribe's Manki-Munda system** is one of India's oldest models of self-rule? No kings, no zamindars — just people's own leaders.

Munda: village head, settles disputes
Manki: head of 8-15 villages (pidh)




Semen Facility in Purnea – Bihar

पशुपालन और डेयरी विभाग
Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying

#AatmanirbharGaupalak

**PURNEA SEMEN STATION
UNDER RASHTRIYA GOKUL MISSION**

Established with an outlay of **INR 84.27 Cr**, this semen station will rapidly **enhance milk productivity** of bovines in the state.



- ❖ The Prime Minister inaugurated a ₹10-crore Sex Sorted Semen facility at Semen Station, Purnea, Bihar.
- ❖ The facility is established under the Rashtriya Gokul Mission by the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying.
- ❖ It uses indigenous 'Gausort' technology developed under 'Make in India' and 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiatives.

- ❖ The unit can produce 5 lakh sex-sorted semen doses annually for farmers in Eastern and North-Eastern India.
- ❖ Purnea Semen Station, set up with ₹84.27 crore central support, is one of India's largest government semen stations.
- ❖ Sex-sorting technology ensures 90% female calf births, aiding dairy farmers with higher income and reduced costs.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

INSPIRE Awards 2025

inspire awards - manak
million minds augmenting national aspiration and knowledge

Who can apply?
Any student enrolled in **Class 6th to 10th** at any recognised school, government or private, aided or unaided.

www.inspireawards-dst.gov.in

INSPIRING
INNOVATORS OF TOMORROW

INSPIRE Awards-MANAK is an initiative to foster a culture of innovation and creative thinking amongst school students to address societal needs through Science and Technology.

- ❖ Muzaffarpur district in Bihar secured first place nationally in the INSPIRE Award MANAK Scheme with 7,403 student idea submissions.
- ❖ The INSPIRE scheme, under the Department of Science and Technology, promotes innovation among students of classes 6 to 10.
- ❖ Muzaffarpur overtook Bengaluru Urban (7,306 ideas) and Bagalkot, Karnataka (6,826 ideas) to claim the top spot.
- ❖ Vaishali district of Bihar also featured in the top ten, securing sixth place with 5,805 student idea submissions.

