

July - 08

TNPSC BITS

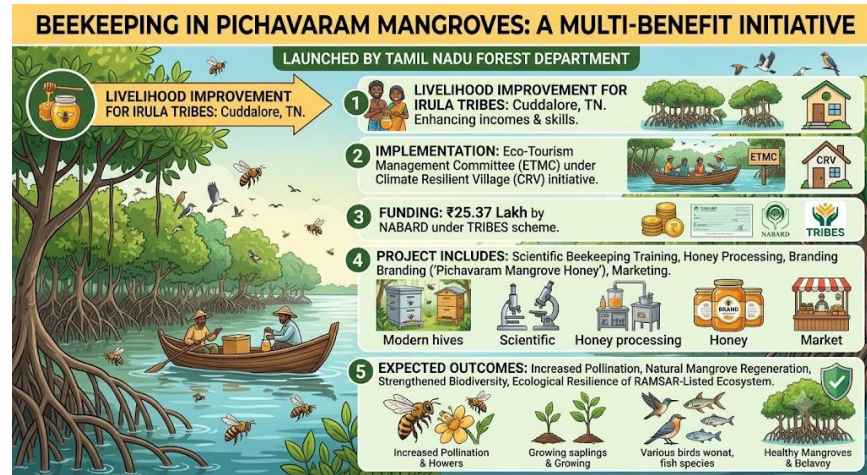
- ❖ General Dhiraj Seth took charge as the 31st Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) on June 30, 2026, succeeding General Upendra Dwivedi.
- ❖ Skyroot Aerospace announced the launch window for Mission Aagaman, the maiden test flight of Vikram-1, India's first private orbital rocket.
 - Vikram-1 is a multi-stage launch vehicle designed to place up to 350 kg of payload into Low Earth Orbit (LEO) at an altitude of 450 km.
- ❖ ACME Green Molecules Business signed India's first long-term global agreement to supply 100,000 tonnes of green methanol per year to Mitsubishi Gas Chemical Company of Japan.
 - Green methanol is a low-carbon fuel produced from renewable feedstocks and is used in industries and maritime transport.
- ❖ The World Health Organization (WHO) added the first molecular diagnostic test for the Bundibugyo Ebola virus to its Emergency Use Listing (EUL).
 - The Bundibugyo Ebola virus is one of the species that causes Ebola virus disease (EVD) and differs from the more common Zaire Ebola virus.
- ❖ World Zoonoses Day is observed every year on 6 July to raise awareness about diseases that spread between animals and humans.
 - The theme for the year 2026 is "One World, One Health: Prevent Zoonoses."

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Beekeeping in Pichavaram Mangroves

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Forest Department has launched a beekeeping initiative in the Pichavaram mangroves, Cuddalore, to improve the livelihood of the Irula tribal community.
- ❖ It is implemented through the Eco-Tourism Management Committee (ETMC) under the Climate Resilient Village (CRV) initiative.
- ❖ The project is funded with ₹25.37 lakh by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) under the TRIBES scheme.
- ❖ The project includes training in scientific beekeeping, honey processing, branding, and marketing under the "Pichavaram Mangrove Honey" brand.

- ❖ The initiative is expected to increase pollination, support natural mangrove regeneration, strengthen biodiversity, and improve the ecological resilience of the Ramsar-listed Pichavaram mangrove ecosystem.



Pidari Ekaveeri Inscription



- ❖ A rediscovered inscription at the Sadaimudinathar Temple in Tiruvalanchuzhi has revealed a Chola-era royal grant to the goddess Pidari Ekaveeri.
- ❖ The inscription states that Kunthanan Amuthavalliyar, mother-in-law of Raja Raja I, donated 40 gold coins to support the Avapala Anjanai ritual for the goddess.
- ❖ The endowment provided an annual interest of 30 kalam of paddy through six Brahmins for temple lamps and offerings.

- ❖ During the reign of Rajendra II, the endowment was continued with an annual allocation of 15 kalam of paddy, ensuring uninterrupted worship.
- ❖ The inscription highlights the Chola practice of using royal endowments to support temples and preserve religious traditions.

NATIONAL NEWS

Modified UDAN Scheme



- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved the Modified UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) Scheme for 2026–27 to 2035–36 with an outlay of ₹28,840 crore.
- ❖ The scheme aims to improve regional air connectivity by developing 100 existing airstrips into UDAN airports.
- ❖ It also proposes the construction of 200 modern helipads in remote and difficult areas.
- ❖ Viability Gap Funding (VGF) support for airlines has been extended from 3 years to 5 years to improve regional flight operations.
- ❖ The scheme promotes the use of indigenous aircraft and helicopters, including HAL (Hindustan Aeronautics Limited) Dhruv and Dornier aircraft, under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative.

LokOS - People Operating System

- ❖ The Ministry of Rural Development has launched LokOS (People Operating System), a digital platform for the end-to-end digitisation of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and Community-Based Organisations (CBOs).

- ❖ LokOS is implemented under DAY-NRLM (Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission) to improve transparency, financial inclusion, and rural governance.
- ❖ The platform digitises SHG member records, savings, loans, repayments, financial transactions, and livelihood details.
- ❖ It provides Aadhaar- and bank-linked digital identities, real-time analytics, and monitoring dashboards from the village to the national level.
- ❖ LokOS supports the Lakhpati Didi initiative by enabling beneficiary tracking and outreach.
- ❖ SHE-LEAPS, launched under LokOS in June 2026, is a digital platform to promote rural women's entrepreneurship through SHGs.

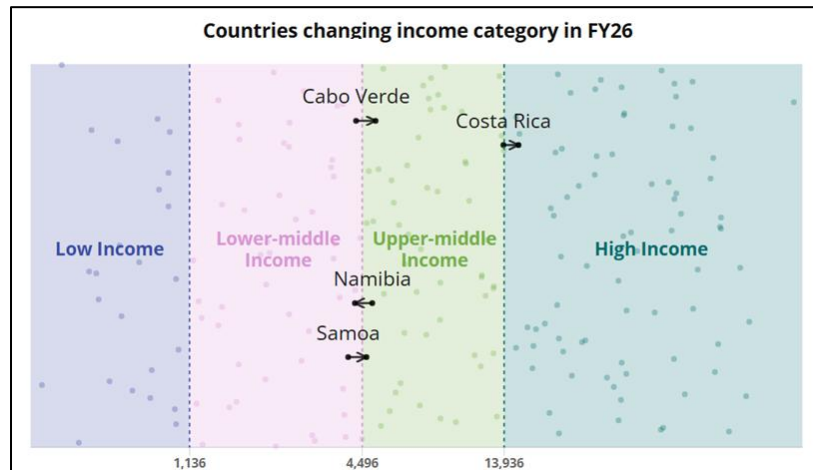


INTERNATIONAL NEWS

World Bank Income Classification 2026

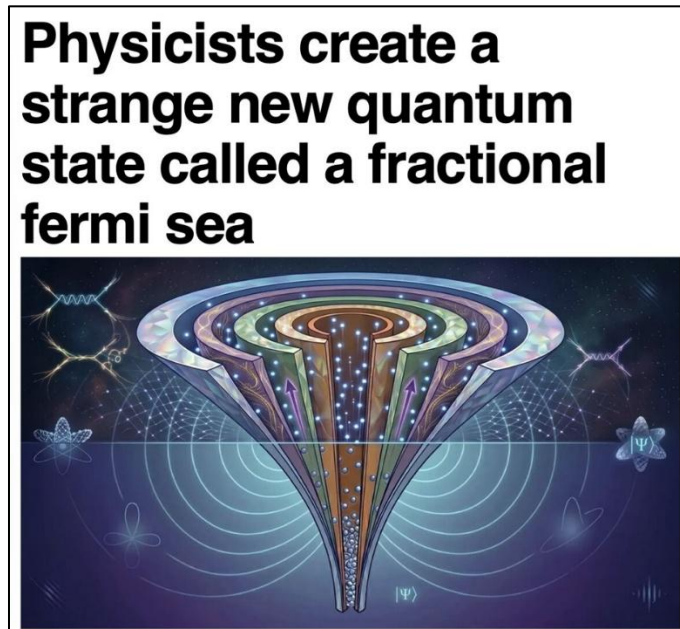
- ❖ The World Bank Group (WBG) released its annual Country Income Classifications for 2026–27 based on Gross National Income (GNI) per capita data for 2025.
- ❖ The World Bank classifies countries into four categories: Low Income, Lower-Middle Income, Upper-Middle Income, and High Income.
- ❖ India remains in the Lower-Middle Income category with a GNI per capita range of USD 1,176 to USD 4,635.

- ❖ The classification uses the Atlas Method, which applies a three-year moving average of exchange rates to reduce short-term currency fluctuations.
- ❖ Six countries moved to higher income categories, including Jordan, Micronesia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, and Togo.
- ❖ The share of low-income economies declined from 30% to 11% in 2026, affecting access to concessional finance and development assistance.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Fractional Fermi Sea



- ❖ Scientists at the University of Innsbruck created a new exotic quantum state of matter called the fractional Fermi Sea.

- ❖ The experiment used around 70,000 caesium atoms cooled to a few nanoKelvin and trapped in one-dimensional tubes to control particle movement.
- ❖ A fractional Fermi Sea is a quantum state formed under ultracold conditions, where particles show unusual collective behaviour.
- ❖ The discovery explores quantum behaviour beyond the Tomonaga–Luttinger liquid theory, which describes interacting particles in one dimension.
- ❖ Caesium (Cs), used in the experiment, is an alkali metal with atomic number 55.

SOLVE Ground Test – Gaganyaan

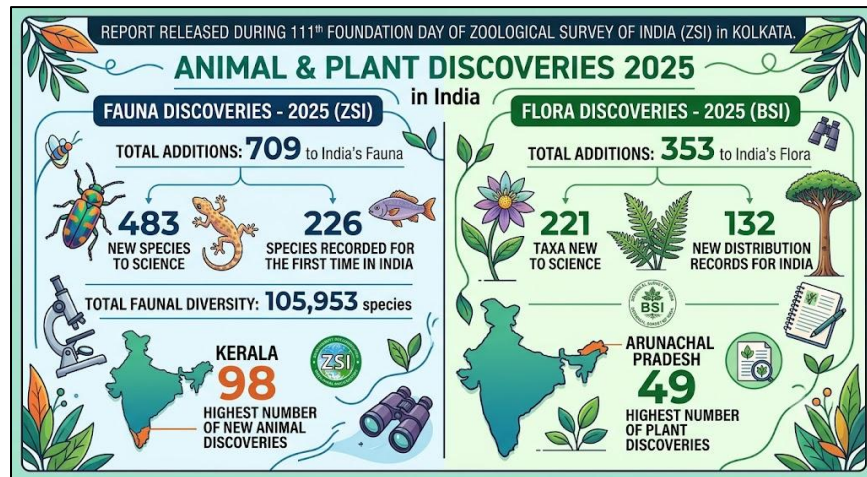


- ❖ ISRO successfully tested the SOLVE (Sub-Orbital Launch Vehicle for Experiments) solid motor at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), Sriharikota.
- ❖ SOLVE is being developed as a test platform to validate the parachute-based deceleration system of the Gaganyaan Mission Crew Module.
- ❖ The solid motor used in SOLVE is derived from the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) Strap-on Motor with modifications.

- ❖ Gaganyaan is India's first human spaceflight mission, aiming to send three astronauts to a 400 km Low Earth Orbit (LEO) for three days.
- ❖ The mission includes Human-Rated LVM3 (HLVM3), Crew Escape System (CES), Orbital Module (OM), Crew Module (CM), and Service Module (SM).

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Animal And Plant Discoveries 2025



- ❖ The Animal Discoveries–2025 and Plant Discoveries–2025 reports were released during the 111th Foundation Day of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) in Kolkata.
- ❖ Animal Discoveries–2025 reports 709 additions to India's fauna, including 483 new species and 226 species recorded for the first time in India, taking the total faunal diversity to 105,953 species.
- ❖ Plant Discoveries–2025 records 353 additions to India's flora, including 221 taxa new to science and 132 new distribution records for India.
- ❖ Kerala recorded the highest number of new animal discoveries (98), while Arunachal Pradesh recorded the highest number of plant discoveries (49).
- ❖ The reports are published annually by the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) for fauna and the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) for flora to document India's biodiversity.

Biodiversity Heritage Site - Borjuli Wetland

- ❖ The Borjuli Wetland in Assam has been officially notified as a Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS) to protect the wild rice species *Oryza rufipogon*.

- ❖ The wetland is located in Sonitpur district and is an important freshwater swamp that conserves the wild ancestor of cultivated rice (*Oryza sativa*).
- ❖ *Oryza rufipogon* is naturally resistant to many pests, diseases, flooding, and saline conditions, making it valuable for developing climate-resilient rice varieties.
- ❖ The site is conserved in situ (in its natural habitat) with support from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research–National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (ICAR-NBPGR) and the Assam State Biodiversity Board.
- ❖ A Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS) is notified under Section 37 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 to protect unique ecosystems, rare species, and important genetic resources.



STATE NEWS

West Bengal - GI Tag Products



- ❖ Three traditional products from Hooghly district, West Bengal, have received GI (Geographical Indication) tags.

- ❖ The GI-tagged products are Chandannagar's Jalbhara Sandesh, Janai's Manohara, and Balagarh's Traditional Wooden (Dingi) Boats.
- ❖ Jalbhara Sandesh and Janai's Manohara are traditional Bengali sweets known for their unique preparation methods.
- ❖ Balagarh's Dingi Boats represent the traditional wooden boat-making heritage of the region.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Teejan Bai Demise



- ❖ Teejan Bai, the renowned exponent of Pandavani, a traditional Chhattisgarhi folk art form based on the musical narration of the Mahabharata, died at the age of 70 in Raipur, Chhattisgarh.
- ❖ Teejan Bai was born on 24 April 1956 in Ganiyari village of Durg district, Chhattisgarh, and received early training in Pandavani from her maternal grandfather, Brajlal Pardha.
- ❖ She popularised the Kapalika style of Pandavani by performing in a standing position with acting, dialogue, expressions, and singing, unlike the traditional sitting Vedamati style.

- ❖ She received India's major civilian honours, including Padma Shri (1988), Padma Bhushan (2003), and Padma Vibhushan (2019).
- ❖ Pandavani is a traditional folk theatre and musical storytelling form of Chhattisgarh.
- ❖ It narrates episodes from the Indian epic Mahabharata using instruments like the Tanpura (stringed instrument).

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