



July - 18

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Union Government approved a six-month service extension for Tamil Nadu Chief Secretary M. Sai Kumar from 1 September 2026 to 28 February 2027.
- ❖ Kerala and Tamil Nadu decided to strengthen cooperation against drug trafficking through Operation Toofan, an anti-narcotics campaign.
  - The campaign focuses on border surveillance, intelligence sharing, and joint action against drug smuggling networks.
- ❖ The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) discovered a new deep-sea fish species named *Cyttopsis indica* from the Arabian Sea off southern Kerala.
  - It belongs to the *Cyttopsis* genus of marine fishes commonly known as dories and is called the Indian Dory.
- ❖ Mayur was unveiled as the official mascot for the 22nd Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships 2026, which will be held at Thyagaraj Stadium, Delhi, from 27 July to 2 August 2026.
- ❖ International Day of Combating Sand and Dust Storms is observed every year on 12 July to raise awareness about Sand and Dust Storms (SDS) and reduce their impacts through early warning systems and global cooperation.
  - The theme for the year 2026 is "From Source to Impact: Protecting Land and Life from Sand and Dust Storms".
- ❖ Bastille Day is celebrated every year on 14 July as the National Day of France, commemorating the storming of the Bastille prison in Paris in 1789, which marked the beginning of the French Revolution.
  - The theme for the year 2026 is "Strategic Awakening".
- ❖ World Plastic Surgery Day is observed every year on 15 July to recognize the contributions of plastic surgeons and promote awareness about safe and ethical plastic surgery worldwide.
  - The theme for the year 2026 is "Changing lives with Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery".

## TAMIL NADU NEWS

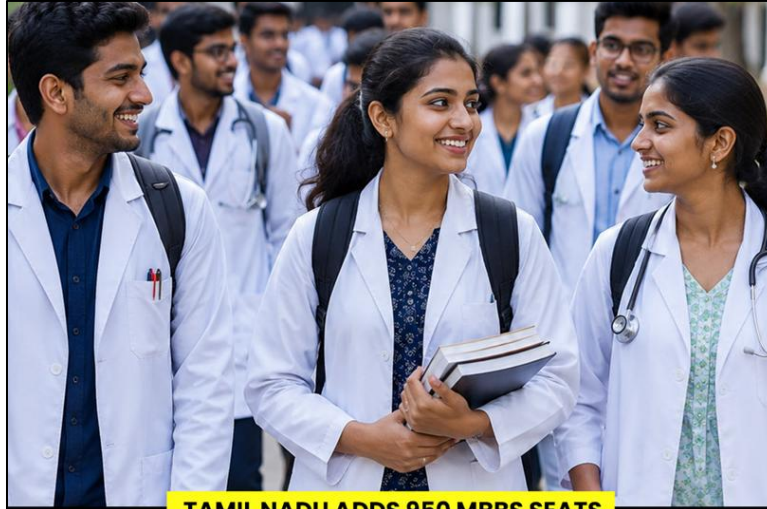
### Horizontal Reservation for Transgender Persons

- ❖ The Madras High Court asked the Tamil Nadu Government to clarify whether it will provide 1% or 2% horizontal reservation for transgender persons in civil services and government jobs.

- ❖ The Court granted the State time until 4 August 2026 to file its response.
- ❖ The matter was raised after Karnataka introduced a 1% horizontal reservation for transgender persons in all civil services and government employment.
- ❖ Horizontal reservation cuts across all social categories and is meant to ensure representation for special groups such as women, persons with disabilities, ex-servicemen, and transgender persons.

அரசு வேலைவாய்ப்புகளில் மூன்றாம் பாலினத்தவர்களுக்குத் தனி இட ஒதுக்கீடு வழங்கக் கோரிய வழக்கில், ஆகஸ்ட் 4-ஆம் தேதிக்குள் பதிலளிக்குமாறு தமிழக அரசுக்குச் சென்னை உயர் நீதிமன்றம் உத்தரவிட்டுள்ளது. மூன்றாம் பாலினத்தவருக்குத் தனி இட ஒதுக்கீடு தர வேண்டும் என்ற தனி நீதிபதியின் உத்தரவை எதிர்த்து அரசு மேல்முறையீடு செய்திருந்தது. இந்த விசாரணையின் போது, கர்நாடகாவில் மூன்றாம் பாலினத்தவருக்கு ஒரு சதவீத தனி இட ஒதுக்கீடு வழங்கப்படுவதைச் சுட்டிக்காட்டி, தமிழகத்திலும் ஒரு சதவீத இட ஒதுக்கீடு வழங்க வேண்டும் என மனுதாரர்கள் கோரிக்கை விடுத்துள்ளனர்.

### 950 Additional MBBS Seats



**TAMIL NADU ADDS 950 MBBS SEATS**

**TAMIL NADU HAS ADDED 950 NEW MBBS SEATS FOR 2026-27. HOWEVER, 650 SEATS HAVE SHIFTED TO DEEMED UNIVERSITIES, REDUCING SEATS AVAILABLE THROUGH STATE COUNSELLING.**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu will add 950 MBBS seats for the 2026-27 academic year.
- ❖ It was increasing the total seats in the State to 13,999 across 78 medical colleges.
- ❖ The State now has the third-highest number of MBBS seats in India after Karnataka (15,395) and Uttar Pradesh (14,000).

- ❖ The additional seats were approved by the National Medical Commission (NMC) across 13 medical colleges (3 government and 10 private).
- ❖ The total MBBS seats in Tamil Nadu's 36 government medical colleges have increased to 5,200.
- ❖ The Medical Assessment and Rating Board (MARB) approved intake increases in government medical colleges at Namakkal, Tiruppur, and Tiruvallur from 100 to 150 seats each.

## NATIONAL NEWS

### India's First ISP Trial



- ❖ The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released India's first trial Index of Services Production (ISP) for measuring monthly activity in the formal services sector.
- ❖ The first ISP covers 19 sub-sectors with 2024–25 as the base year and represents around 60% of India's services sector.
- ❖ In April 2026, 14 sub-sectors recorded double-digit growth, showing strong performance in the services sector.
- ❖ The index was developed under the guidance of the Technical Advisory Committee on Index of Services Production (TAC-ISP).
- ❖ ISP will be released monthly to track short-term changes in India's services economy and strengthen macroeconomic indicators.

## India's Codex Spice Standards



- ❖ India secured the adoption of three Codex standards for large cardamom, coriander, and vanilla at the 49th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC49) held in Geneva.
- ❖ The standards were developed through the India-hosted Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH) to set global quality benchmarks for spices.
- ❖ The new standards aim to improve market access, facilitate international trade, and strengthen India's spice export competitiveness.
- ❖ India was also appointed Co-Chair of the Electronic Working Group (EWG) on risk analysis for new food products under the Codex Alimentarius Commission.
- ❖ Codex Alimentarius Commission is a joint food standards body of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

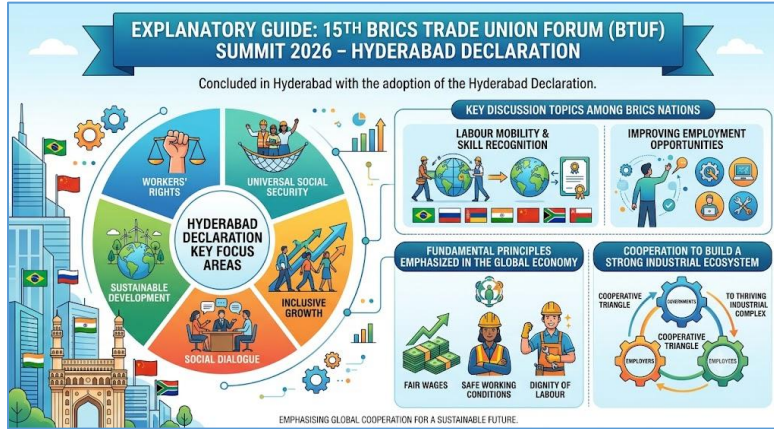
## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### BTUF Summit 2026 - Hyderabad Declaration

- ❖ The 15th BRICS Trade Union Forum (BTUF) Summit 2026 concluded in Hyderabad with the adoption of the Hyderabad Declaration.
- ❖ The declaration focused on workers' rights, universal social security, inclusive growth, social dialogue and sustainable development.
- ❖ The forum discussed labour mobility, mutual recognition of skills and improving employment opportunities among BRICS nations.



- ❖ It highlighted the importance of fair wages, safe working conditions and dignity of labour in the global economy.
- ❖ The summit emphasised cooperation between governments, employers and employees to build a strong industrial ecosystem.



## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

### Sea-Based Rocket Booster Recovery System

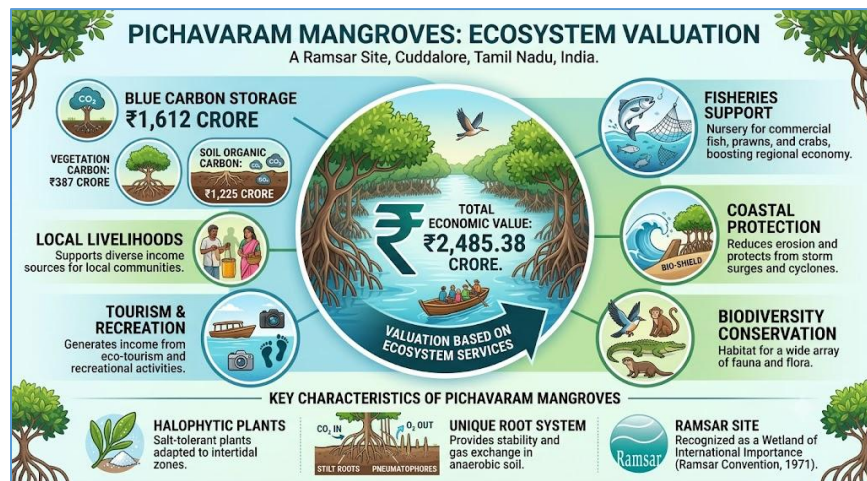


- ❖ China successfully tested a sea-based reusable rocket booster recovery system using the Long March 10B rocket.
- ❖ The booster returned vertically and was recovered on an offshore platform using a net-based landing system after stage separation.
- ❖ This marked China's first successful retrieval of an orbital-class rocket booster.

- ❖ The Long March 10B, developed by the China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology (CALT), can carry over 16 tonnes of payload to Low Earth Orbit (LEO).
- ❖ Reusable rocket technology aims to reduce launch costs and support China's future commercial satellite and lunar missions.

## ENVIRONMENT NEWS

### Pichavaram Mangroves Ecosystem Valuation

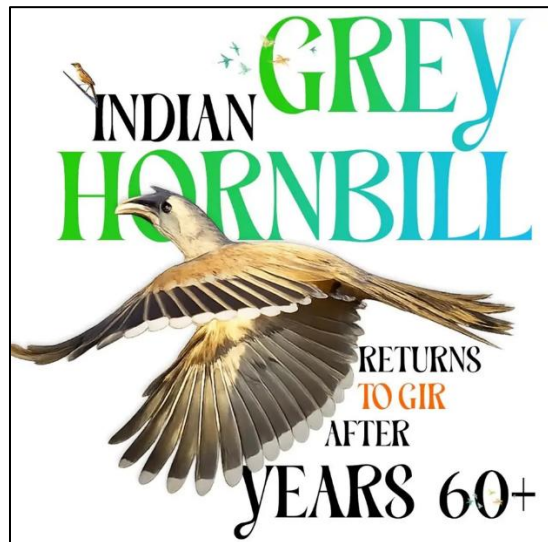


- ❖ The Pichavaram Mangrove Forest in Cuddalore district, Tamil Nadu, has been valued at ₹2,485.38 crore for its ecosystem services.
- ❖ The valuation includes carbon storage, fisheries support, tourism, coastal protection, biodiversity conservation, and local livelihoods.
- ❖ Pichavaram is one of India's largest mangrove ecosystems and is recognised as a Ramsar Site under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (1971).
- ❖ The study estimated its blue carbon value (carbon stored by coastal ecosystems) at around ₹1,612 crore, including vegetation and soil carbon.
- ❖ Mangroves are salt-tolerant (halophytic) plants found in coastal and estuarine areas and help protect shorelines from erosion and storms.

### Grey Hornbill Conservation

- ❖ The Indian Grey Hornbill (*Ocyrceros birostris*) has returned to Gujarat's Gir forests after over 60 years and has successfully bred for the fourth consecutive year.
- ❖ The species is classified as Least Concern (LC) on the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) Red List.

- ❖ The reintroduction programme began in 2021, with 40 hornbills released into Gir from healthy populations in Gujarat's Aravalli forests.
- ❖ Satellite tracking technology was used to monitor their survival, habitat use, movement, and breeding behaviour.
- ❖ The hornbills prefer dry mixed deciduous and teak forests and play an important role in seed dispersal and forest regeneration.



### **Alpine flower - *Cyananthus hookeri***



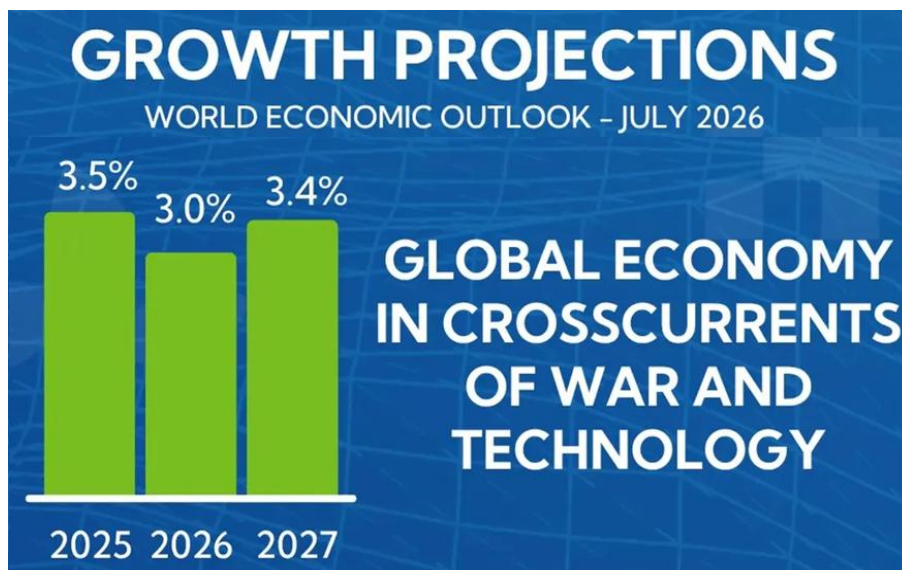
- ❖ The rare alpine flower *Cyananthus hookeri* was rediscovered in Arunachal Pradesh after 158 years.
- ❖ It was found in Chuna Valley near Mago village, Tawang district, at an altitude of around 3,600 metres.



- ❖ The plant belongs to the Campanulaceae (bellflower) family and is found in high-altitude Himalayan regions.
- ❖ The first confirmed Indian record of this species was made by British botanist Sir Joseph Dalton Hooker in Sikkim in 1867.
- ❖ The Botanical Survey of India (BSI) recommended its classification as Endangered due to its limited population in the wild.

## REPORTS AND INDICES

### IMF World Economic Outlook Update



- ❖ The International Monetary Fund (IMF) released the World Economic Outlook (WEO) Update July 2026 titled “Global Economy in Crosscurrents of War and Technology”.
- ❖ The report projects global economic growth at 3.0% in 2026 and 3.4% in 2027, with growth affected by geopolitical tensions and supported by technology-driven investments.
- ❖ The report highlights two major forces shaping the global economy: the impact of the Middle East conflict and growth driven by Artificial Intelligence (AI) and technology investments.
- ❖ Global inflation is projected to remain a concern, with the IMF revising the 2026 global inflation forecast to 4.7% due to energy price pressures.
- ❖ India is projected to remain among the fastest-growing major economies, with GDP growth forecast at around 6.4% for 2026–27, supported by strong domestic demand.



## STATE NEWS

### Four new GI Tags - Jharkhand

- ❖ Jharkhand received Geographical Indication (GI) tags for four traditional products — Bhagaiya Silk, Kuchai Silk, Munda Jewellery, and Jharkhand Bamboo Craft in June 2026.
- ❖ GI tags provide intellectual property protection to products with unique geographical origin and characteristics under the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999.
- ❖ Bhagaiya Silk is a wild Tasar silk from Godda district, while Kuchai Silk is a forest-based Tasar silk from Seraikela-Kharsawan district.
- ❖ Munda Jewellery is a traditional craft of the Munda tribal community, and Jharkhand Bamboo Craft uses bamboo from the Chhota Nagpur Plateau region.



**JHARKHAND'S BHAGAIYA SILK,  
KUCHAI SILK, MUNDA JEWELLERY AND  
BAMBOO CRAFT RECEIVE GI TAG**

