TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The book "Mahatma: A Great Communicator", written by Dhiraj Kakadia, Additional Director General of Akashvani, was released in New Delhi.

- ❖ The Echinus Geyser in Yellowstone National Park, United States, erupted again after six years of inactivity.
  - o It is the world's largest acidic geyser, located in the Norris Geyser Basin, the hottest geothermal area in Yellowstone.

- ❖ Janaushadhi Saptah 2026 is being celebrated from 1–5 March 2026 with health camps held across India by the Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI).

- ❖ The United States Court of International Trade ordered the government to refund about $130 billion in tariffs collected illegally during the administration of Donald Trump, following a ruling by the Supreme Court of the United States.

- ❖ Mobile World Congress 2026, the world's largest event for the mobile and technology industry, is being held in Barcelona, Spain.
  - o The theme of the year 2026 is "The IQ Era."

- ❖ The Karnataka government announced a ban on social media access for children under 16 years in the 2026–27 state budget.
  - o The restriction will apply to platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and TikTok.

- ❖ International Women's Day 2026 is observed worldwide on 8 March 2026 to promote gender equality and women's empowerment around the world.
  - o The theme for the year 2026 is "Rights. Justice. Action. For ALL Women and Girls".

TAMIL NADU NEWS

TWEES - Scheme

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Women Entrepreneur Empowerment Scheme (TWEES) was launched by CM of Tamil Nadu to promote women-led businesses.

- ❖ The scheme aims to encourage 1 lakh women to become entrepreneurs over the next five years.

- ❖ It is implemented by the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Department of Tamil Nadu.

- The programme will provide training, financial assistance and institutional support to women entrepreneurs.
- The scheme aims to increase women's participation in the MSME sector and create more employment opportunities in the state.

தமிழ்நாடு அரசின் **TWEES** திட்டம்

தமிழக அரசின் 18 முதல் 55 வயது வரை உள்ள பெண்கள், திருநங்கைகள் என குடும்பத்தில் ஒரு பெண் மட்டும் பெறும் TWEES திட்டத்தில், சுற்றுச்சூழலுக்கு பாதிப்பில்லாத வகையில் சுயத்தொழில் தொடங்குவோருக்கு அரசின் இத்திட்டத்தில் சொத்து பிணை இல்லாமல் 5% விண்ணப்பதாரர் முதலீடும், ரூ.2 லட்சம் அரசு சார்பிலும், ரூ.8 லட்சம் வங்கிக்கடனும், 3 நாள் இலவச ஆன்லைன் பயிற்சியும் அரசு கொடுக்கப்படுகிறது.

Rules for Cosmetology Clinics

The Government of Tamil Nadu has recently issued a **Government Order (GO)** regulating aesthetic and hair transplantation clinics, explicitly mandating that such establishments must be operated by a **qualified Dermatologist** or **Plastic Surgeon.**

- The Tamil Nadu government issued a Government Order (G.O.) to regulate cosmetology, aesthetics and hair transplant clinics in the state.
- All such clinics must register under the Tamil Nadu Clinical Establishments Act for their operation.

❖ The order is based on guidelines issued by the National Medical Commission (NMC).

❖ Hair transplant and aesthetic procedures can be performed only by qualified dermatologists or plastic surgeons.

❖ The Tamil Nadu Private Clinical Establishments (Regulation) Act, 1997 regulates private clinical establishments in the state.

NATIONAL NEWS

Census 2027 Mascots

❖ The Government of India launched the mascots Pragati and Vikas for Census 2027 to increase public awareness and participation.

❖ Pragati represents a female enumerator, and Vikas represents a male enumerator.

❖ The mascots symbolise equal participation of women and men in nation-building.

❖ Census 2027 will be India's first fully digital census using mobile applications and digital platforms for data collection.

❖ The census will be conducted in two phases: HLO (House listing and Housing Census) and PE (Population Enumeration).

NITI Aayog–UNICEF Partnership

❖ NITI Aayog and UNICEF India signed a Statement of Intent (SOI) to improve nutrition and health outcomes in Aspirational Districts and Aspirational Blocks.

- ❖ The partnership focuses on maternal and child nutrition services in underserved regions.

- ❖ IMPAct4Nutrition (I4N) platform will mobilize Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds for nutrition programmes.

- ❖ The initiative aims to improve the implementation and monitoring of nutrition schemes in Aspirational Districts.

NITI Aayog, UNICEF India Partner to Strengthen Nutrition in Aspirational Districts & Blocks

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Restriction of Social Media for Children – Indonesia

Indonesia Restricts Social Media for Children Under 16 With New Digital Policy Ensuring Online Safety

- ❖ Indonesia announced restrictions on social media access for children under 16 years through a new regulation.

- ❖ The rule was issued to reduce cyberbullying, addiction and online risks for minors.

- ❖ Accounts of children under 16 on platforms such as TikTok, Facebook, Instagram and Roblox will be gradually deactivated starting March 28, 2026.
- ❖ Countries like Australia and Spain have also introduced similar restrictions for minors.
- ❖ Malaysia has announced a social media ban for users under 16 from 2026.

ECONOMY NEWS

Sudarshan AI System

- ❖ SEBI used the Sudarshan Artificial Intelligence (AI) system to remove over 1.2 lakh misleading posts by financial influencers on social media.
- ❖ Sudarshan AI System is an Artificial Intelligence (AI) based decision-support system used in the banking and financial sector in India.
- ❖ It uses machine learning and data analytics to process large financial datasets and generate predictive insights.
- ❖ The system helps banks in credit risk assessment, loan appraisal and early warning detection of stressed assets.
- ❖ It is also used for fraud detection, transaction monitoring and regulatory compliance in financial institutions.

SUDARSHAN

SEBI has aggressively escalated its digital surveillance, deploying an advanced in-house AI tool named **Sudarshan** to crack down on market misinformation.
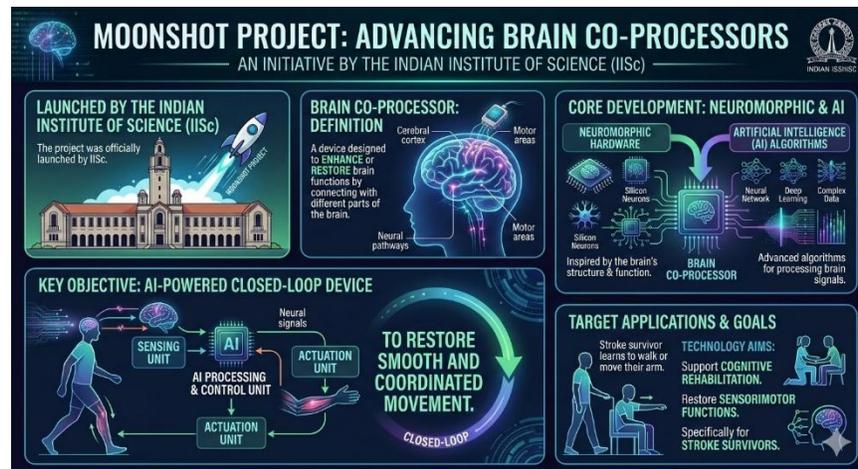
The regulator has successfully taken down over **1.2 lakh misleading posts** by unregistered finfluencers. The system actively tracks multilingual audio and video content to protect retail investors from illegal advisory and high-risk options traps.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Moonshot Project

- ❖ Moonshot Project was launched by the IISc.

- The project aims to develop brain co-processors combining neuromorphic hardware and Artificial Intelligence (AI) algorithms.

- Brain co-processors are devices designed to enhance or restore brain functions by connecting with different parts of the brain.

- The project will create an Artificial Intelligence (AI) powered closed-loop device to restore smooth and coordinated movement.

- The technology aims to support cognitive rehabilitation and restore sensorimotor functions in stroke survivors.
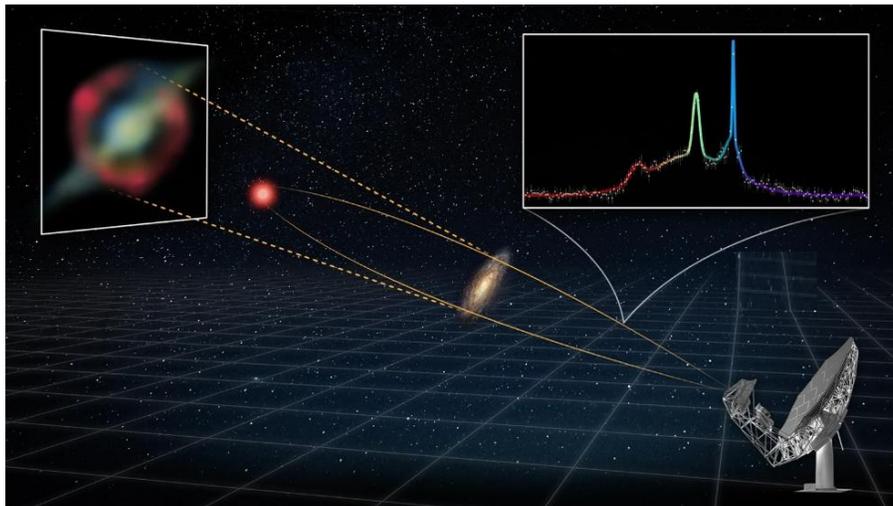

Vikram 1 - Private Orbital Rocket

- Skyroot Aerospace is preparing to launch Vikram-1, India's first privately developed orbital rocket.

- The rocket is designed to carry satellites up to 300 kg into low Earth orbit and will be launched from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.

- The rocket is named after Vikram Sarabhai, the father of India's space programme.
- Earlier, the company successfully launched Vikram-S, India's first private sub-orbital rocket, in 2022.

Megamaser Discovery

- The MeerKAT Radio Telescope detected a powerful cosmic "gigalaser" (hydroxyl megamaser) located about 8 billion light-years from Earth.
- A Megamaser is a natural cosmic source that amplifies microwave or radio waves through stimulated emission of radiation.
- The signal was produced by hydroxyl (OH) molecules in a distant galaxy during galaxy collisions and mergers.
- The radio signal was magnified by Gravitational Lensing, where a massive galaxy bends and amplifies light from a distant source.
- The MeerKAT Radio Telescope is located in South Africa and is part of the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) radio astronomy project.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Slender Loris Conservation Centre

- Slender Loris Conservation Centre was inaugurated in Dindigul district, the first such facility in India.
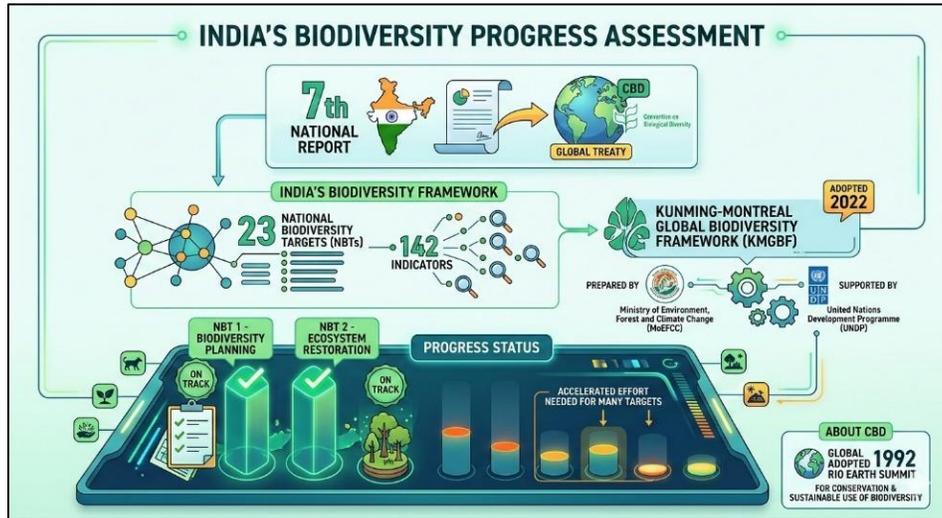- The centre focuses on conservation and research of the Slender Loris.

- ❖ The slender loris is a small arboreal primate found in the dry forests and scrub landscapes of southern India and Sri Lanka.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government earlier notified the Kadavur Slender Loris Sanctuary.
- ❖ The sanctuary covers 11,806.56 hectares across seven blocks in Dindigul and Karur districts.
- ❖ It includes reserve forests such as Thoppaswimalai, Thanneerkaradu, Mudimalai and D. Edayapatti.

11,806 ha in Kadavur

> Sanctuary in **Karur & Dindigul districts**

> 1,176 Mysore grey slender loris & **Malabar slender loris** recorded in Karur & Dindigul districts, according to a SACON study

> Highest in reserve forests of **Pannamalai, Thanneerkaradu, Palaviduthi, Thopaswamimalai, Mudimalai, D Edayapatti, Mullipadi, Sembiyanatham**

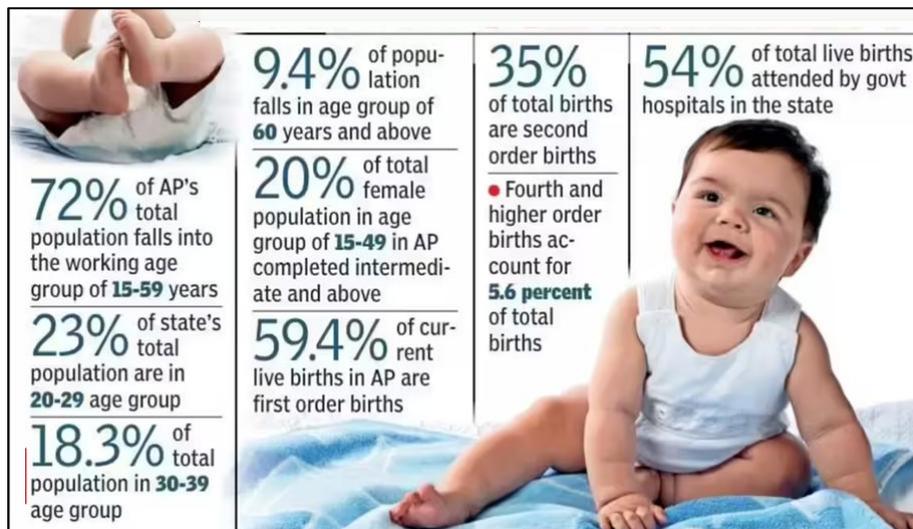## India's Biodiversity Progress Assessment

- ❖ India has submitted its 7th National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
- ❖ The report assesses India's progress on 23 National Biodiversity Targets (NBTs) and 142 indicators.
- ❖ These targets are aligned with the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) adopted in 2022.
- ❖ The report was prepared by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
- ❖ Only two targets (NBT1 – biodiversity planning and NBT2 – ecosystem restoration) are currently on track.

❖ The CBD is a global treaty adopted at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

STATE NEWS

Childbirth Incentive Scheme

❖ The Andhra Pradesh government announced a ₹25,000 financial incentive for couples having a second or third child.

❖ The scheme aims to increase the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) in the state.

❖ The TFR of Andhra Pradesh is about 1.5, which is below the replacement level of 2.1.

❖ Under the scheme, ₹25,000 will be given to couples at the time of delivery for the second or third child.

- ❖ The policy aims to address declining birth rates and an increasing ageing population in the state.
- ❖ The government is also considering changes in rules related to the two-child norm in local body elections.

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