

March - 04

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Madras High Court has ruled that Different caste groups may follow different ways of worshipping a deity but the members of no caste group can claim that a temple belongs only to them and therefore, only they have an exclusive right to administer it.
- ❖ Kashmir celebrated the Herath festival on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of the dark half of the month of Phalguna recently.
- ❖ The PRAKRITI 2025 (Promoting the Resilience, Awareness, Knowledge, and the Resources for Integrating the Transformational Initiatives), the International Conference on Carbon Markets, was organized by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) in New Delhi.
- ❖ Denmark has announced its Green Fuels Alliance India (GFAI) initiative to boost collaborative efforts between the two countries in the sustainable energy solutions sector and advance their joint global goal towards carbon neutrality.
- ❖ Paytm has launched the Paytm Solar Soundbox, India's first solar-powered payment soundbox to accept UPI and RuPay Credit Card payments.
- ❖ The Saras Aajeevika Mela 2025 is held in Noida of Uttar Pradesh to empower Self Help Group (SHG) women entrepreneurs, showcase their exceptional craftsmanship.
- ❖ Friedrich Merz, chairman of the conservative Christian Democratic Union (CDU), is set to become Germany's next chancellor.
- ❖ Tuhin Kanta Pandey has taken over as the 11<sup>th</sup> chairperson of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
- ❖ Zydus Lifesciences is introducing a vaccine - VaxiFlu-4 for protection against new strain of influenza virus.
- ❖ Amazon unveiled a prototype of its first-ever in-house quantum computing chip called Ocelot.
- ❖ The 9<sup>th</sup> National Summit on Good & Replicable Practices and Innovation in the Public Healthcare System was held in Puri, Odisha.

## NATIONAL NEWS

### INS Tamal

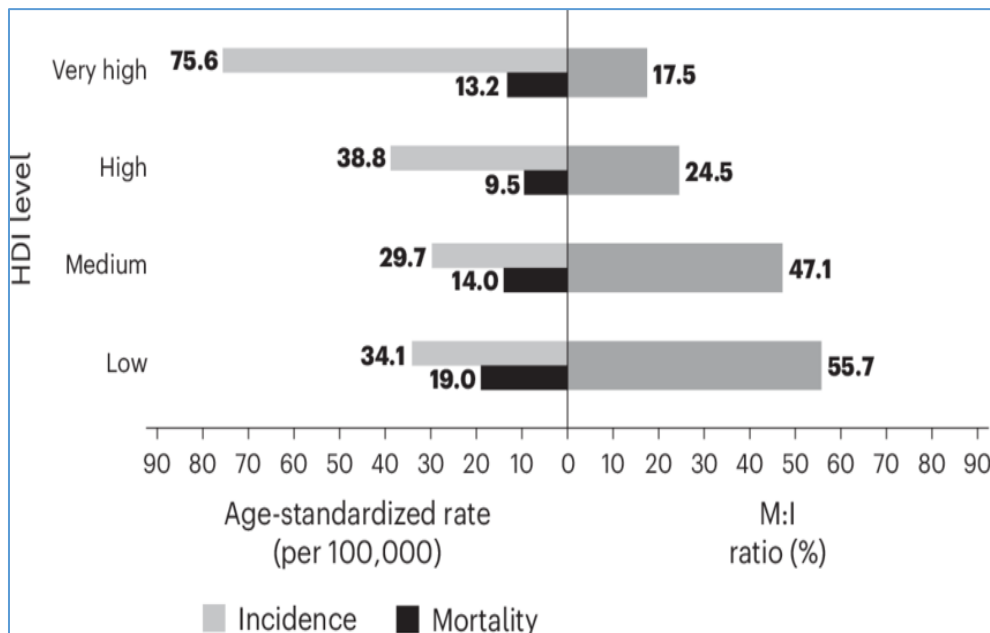
- ❖ Tamal, the stealth frigate under construction in Russia, is to be commissioned in early June.

- ❖ Tamal will be the last warship to be commissioned outside India or imported.
- ❖ It is part of a \$2.5 billion agreement for four stealth frigates and two constructed in Russia, two at Goa.
- ❖ The first of this class, INS Tushil, was commissioned in December 2024.



## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### Global Breast Cancer Rates



- ❖ Australia and New Zealand have the highest rates of breast cancer incidence in the world.

- ❖ One in 20 women globally will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime and that one in 70 will die from the disease.
- ❖ The incidence rates were highest in Australia and New Zealand.
- ❖ It is followed by Northern America and Northern Europe and the lowest in south-central Asia.
- ❖ It found that the age-standardised incidence rate (ASIR) of the breast cancer in Australia and New Zealand in 2022 was 100.3 cases per 100,000 people.
- ❖ By comparison, in south-central Asia, the ASIR was 26.7 cases per 100,000 people.
- ❖ The age-standardised mortality rates (ASMR) for breast cancer were the highest in Melanesia at 26.8 deaths per 100,000 people.
- ❖ It is followed by Polynesia and western Africa and the lowest in eastern Asia at 6.5 deaths per 100,000 people.

## 20 Years of the WHO FCTC



- ❖ The WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) celebrates the 20-year anniversary of its entry into force.
- ❖ The WHO FCTC is the first ever public health treaty negotiated under the auspices of WHO.
- ❖ The Convention has 183 Parties which covering 90% of the global population.
- ❖ The treaty provides a legal framework and a comprehensive package of evidence-based tobacco control measures.

- ❖ Still, there are 267 million tobacco users in India, making it (India) the second largest number of tobacco users in the world.
- ❖ The Control measures in India are governed by Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003 (COTPA).

### Hague service convention



- ❖ The United States Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has sought the assistance from Indian authorities to serve the legal documents to Adani Group founder.
- ❖ The US panel has invoked the Hague Service Convention to formally notify them of the lawsuit.
- ❖ The Hague Service Convention, formally known as the 'Convention on the Service Abroad of Judicial and Extrajudicial Documents in Civil or Commercial Matters.'
- ❖ It was established to standardise the process of delivering legal documents across international borders.
- ❖ With 68 signatory countries, the convention is the most widely recognised method for international legal service.

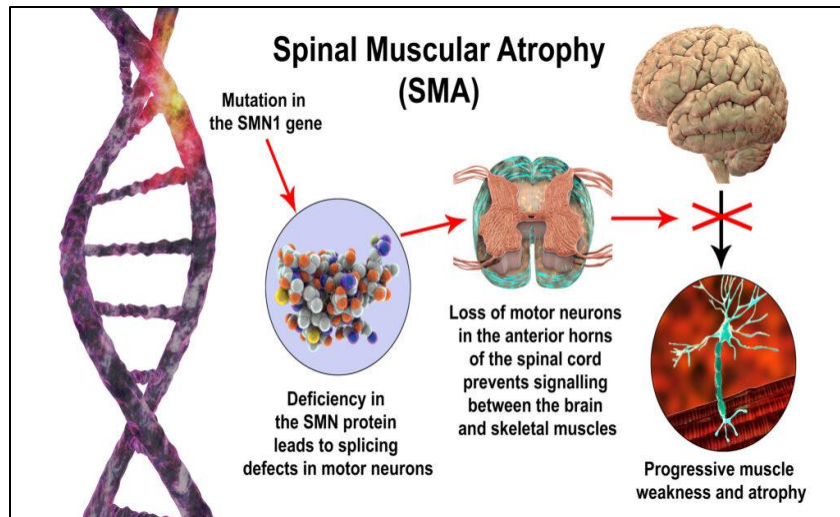
## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### Spinal muscular atrophy

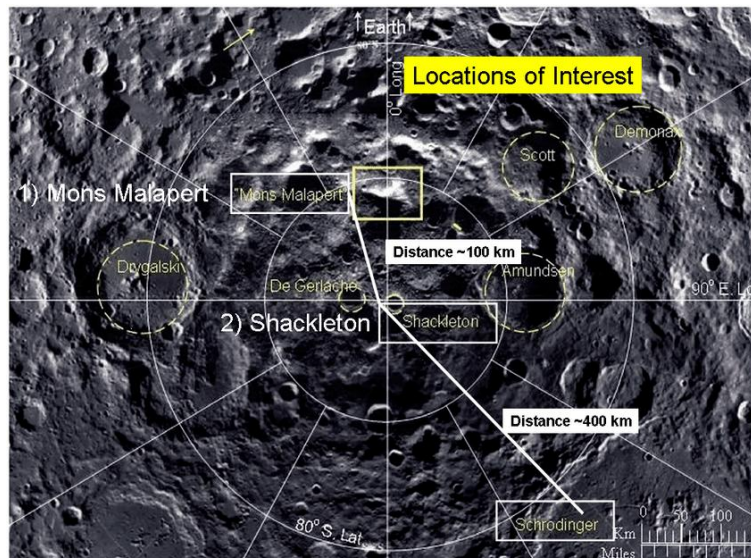
- ❖ A two-and-a-half-year-old girl has shown no signs of a genetic disorder — known as spinal muscular atrophy (SMA).



- ❖ This girl was becoming the first person in the world to be treated for the disease while in the womb.
- ❖ The girl’s mother began taking the gene-targeting drug during late pregnancy, and the child continues to take it.
- ❖ SMA is a debilitating genetic condition which affects motor neurons that control movement, and leads to progressive muscle weakening.
- ❖ About one in every 10,000 births have some form of the condition.
- ❖ This was making it a leading genetic cause of death in infants and children.



### First Detailed Map of Moon’s South Pole



- ❖ Researchers has created the first ever detailed geological map of the moon’s south polar region using data from the rover Pragyan, which was deployed by Vikram.

- ❖ The moon harbours an underground ocean of molten rock, or primordial magma.
- ❖ The Moon's geochemical similarities with Earth supports the theory that both the bodies originated from the same molten material.
- ❖ This may due to a massive collision between Earth and a Mars-sized body about 4.5 billion years ago.
- ❖ The Moon's craters have been preserved for the billions of years due to no atmospheric erosion.
- ❖ Vikram has landed near the South Pole-Aitken Basin, an ancient, massive impact crater (one of the largest in the Solar System).

## ENVIRONMENT NEWS

### Doomsday Fish



- ❖ The rare oarfish, popularly called the "Doomsday Fish" has been spotted near the shores of Baja California Sur, Mexico.
- ❖ This deep-sea creature has a long, ribbon-like body and shimmering silver scales.
- ❖ The oarfish has the nickname of "Ryugu no tsukai," or "the sea god's palace messenger" in Japanese folklore.

- ❖ This myth traces back to the 17th century and says that the surfacing of the oarfish is a harbinger of future natural disasters.

### **CBD COP16 2025 - Cali Fund**

- ❖ COP16 to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Rome have reached a historic agreement on financing global conservation goals.
- ❖ The conference, which had been paused in Cali, Colombia, in 2024, resumed in Rome on February 2025.
- ❖ The agreement establishes long-term financial mechanisms under the CBD.
- ❖ It includes enhancing existing funding sources and exploring new ones, such as private sector contributions and blended finance.
- ❖ The Governments pledged to mobilise \$200 billion annually by 2030.
- ❖ It was including \$20 billion per year by 2025, rising to \$30 billion per year by 2030 from international sources.
- ❖ The Global Environment Facility (GEF) has already allocated over \$3 billion in support of biodiversity goals, leveraging an additional \$22 billion, including \$1.9 billion from the private sector.
- ❖ The COP17 to be held in Armenia in 2026.



## **REPORTS AND INDICES**

### **World Busiest Airport 2025 - OAG report**

- ❖ The Dubai International Airport (DXB) retains its position in March 2025 as the World's Busiest International Airport with 5.2 million seats.

- ❖ London Heathrow Airport (LHR) is in second place with 4 million seats.
- ❖ Singapore Changi Airport has moved up to be the third busiest international airport with capacity growing by 5%.
- ❖ Seoul Incheon International Airport (ICN) of South Korea is close behind in fourth place with 3.58 million seats.

Top 10 Busiest Global Airports by Seats				
Calculated using total frequency (domestic and international)				
2025 Ranking	Airport Code	Airport Name	Seats	Same Month 2024 Ranking
1	ATL	Atlanta Hartsfield-jackson Intl Apt	5,369,683	1
2	DXB	Dubai International	5,159,409	2
3	HND	Tokyo Intl (Haneda)	4,734,646	3
4	DFW	Dallas Dallas/Fort Worth Intl Apt	4,418,156	5
5	LHR	London Heathrow Apt	4,296,701	4
6	PVG	Shanghai Pudong International Apt	4,199,739	8
7	DEN	Denver Intl Apt	4,120,146	6
8	DEL	Delhi	4,009,791	10
9	ORD	Chicago O'Hare International Apt	3,991,850	11
10	CAN	Baiyun Intl (CN)	3,989,237	7

## STATES

### 10 Gharials in Chambal River



- ❖ Madhya Pradesh CM released 10 gharials, into the Chambal River at the National Chambal Gharial Sanctuary in Morena.




- ❖ The state boasts the highest number of gharials in India, with a 2024 census recording 2,456 individuals in the sanctuary.
- ❖ The gharial is a species of the *Gavialis gangeticus* — the long-snouted, fish-eating crocodilians.
- ❖ Globally, the Gharial populations saw a steady recovery until 1997, but between 1997 and 2006, numbers plummeted by 58%, dropping from 436 adults to 182.
- ❖ Between 1975 and 1982, India has established 16 captive breeding and release centers and five gharial sanctuaries.
- ❖ Spanning three states, the Chambal sanctuary protects a 435-km stretch of one of India's cleanest rivers.
- ❖ It is critically endangered as per IUCN Red List.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### World Seagrass Day 2025 - March 01

### THE UNDERWATER GRASSLANDS

- Seagrasses are marine flowering plants that inhabit coastal zones in all continents except Antarctica
- A total of 72 species of seagrasses are found worldwide in shallow, coastal waters




**Major seagrass habitats in India include:**


1. Palk Bay
2. Gulf of Mannar
3. Andaman & Nicobar Islands
4. Gulf of Kutch
5. Lakshadweep Islands
6. Chilika Lake

**15 species of Seagrasses in India**

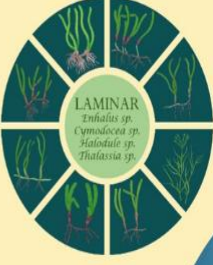
**CYLINDRICAL**  
*Syringodium sp.*



**OVAL**  
*Halophila sp.*



**LAMINAR**  
*Enhalus sp.*  
*Cymodocea sp.*  
*Halodule sp.*  
*Thalassia sp.*



- Seagrasses support diverse marine life and act as a nursery ground for fishes
- Seagrasses support globally threatened species like Dugongs and Sea Turtles
- Seagrasses are one of the most productive ecosystems on Earth and act as Carbon sinks
- Seagrasses are globally threatened by Climate Change, Trawling, Coastal Development and Pollution

- ❖ This day is acknowledging the urgent need to raise the awareness of the global decline in seagrass ecosystems and take action to reverse it.

- ❖ Seagrasses are marine flowering plants that are found in shallow coastal waters on every continent except Antarctica.
- ❖ They are highly efficient carbon sinks, storing up to 18% of the world's oceanic carbon.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### **Petrified fossil – Jharkhand**

- ❖ Geologists have unearthed a rare and well-preserved petrified fossil at Rajmahal Hills near Barmasia village in Pakur district.
- ❖ It is estimated to be around 100-145 million years old.
- ❖ The fossil of this magnitude was the first in situ discovery in not only Jharkhand but also the country.
- ❖ The group of explorers discovered an around 20ft tree, divided into 14 parts.

