

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-MARCH 3,2023

TAMIL NADU

- The DMK-backed Secular Progressive Alliance candidate, E.V.K.S. Elangovan of the Congress - registered a thumping win by a margin of 66,233 votes in the byelection to the Erode (East) Assembly seat on March 2



- ✓ Congress' EVKS Elangovan won 1,10,156 votes while AIADMK's candidate K S Thennarasu came a distant second with 43,923 votes.
- ✓ Among others, Menaka Navaneethan of Naam Tamilar Katchi and DMDK's Anand secured 10,827 and 1,432 votes, respectively.
- ✓ The NTK and the DMDK candidates forfeited their deposits as they failed to get one-sixth of the total votes polled.
- ✓ Elangovan, a former TNCC president and ex-union minister, becomes the first candidate to cross the one lakh votes-mark in the constituency, since its creation in 2010 following the delimitation exercise
- ✓ With this victory, Elangovan would be entering the Tamil Nadu legislative assembly for the second time after 34 years.

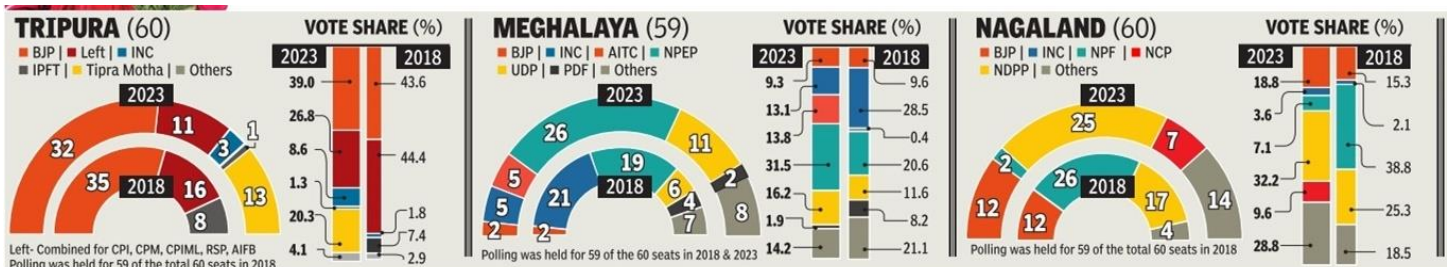
- ✓ It is to be noted that Elangovan was the only candidate in the DMK-led alliance to face defeat in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, after losing to AIADMK's O P Raveendranath at Theni.
 - ✓ Of 77 candidates in the fray, 14 got votes in single digits, 49 candidates in two digits, 10 in three digits, one in four digits, two in five digits and Elangovan was the only one to get six-digit votes, while 797 voters chose NOTA
 - ✓ The Erode East bypoll was necessitated due to the death of Congress MLA E Thirumahan Everaa, Elangovan's son, on January 4.
 - ✓ The by-election was held on February 27 where 74.79% of votes were polled.
- **The Tamil Nadu government - has signed an MoU with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to develop a comprehensive urban cooling programme under Tamil Nadu State Action Plan on Climate Change.**
- ✓ The MoU was signed on March 1 between Atul Bagai, Country Head, UNEP and the state government represented by Environment Secretary Supriya Sahu



- ✓ As per the agreement, UNEP will work with the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Forests, the Department of Municipal Administration and Water Supply and the Department of Housing and Urban Development to prepare a comprehensive action plan
 - ✓ The action plan will cover areas like better urban design, increasing green cover in cities, building efficiency measures , extreme heat planning and district cooling
- ✓ UNEP, in collaboration with the National Institute of Urban Affairs and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, is implementing a national cooling programme to support Indian cities to implement sustainable cooling and heat resiliency strategies.
- ✓ The programme is being delivered under the framework of Cool Coalition and the India-Denmark Green Strategic Partnership.
- ✓ The state government is also setting up the Tamil Nadu Green Climate Fund with a fund size of Rs.1,000 crore.

NATIONAL

- The Election Commission of India - has released the assembly election results of three north-eastern states, Meghalaya, Tripura and Nagaland on March 2, 2023.



Tripura

- ✓ The coalition of the BJP and the Indigenous People's Front of Tripura (IPFT) returns to power in Tripura after winning 33 seats in the 60-member assembly
- ✓ The BJP bagged 32 seats, while the IPFT has been declared the winner from one assembly segment, thereby taking the coalition above the halfway majority mark
- ✓ The total seats won by the alliance are down by 11 from 2018, when the BJP alone won 36 seats, while the IPFT had won 8.
- ✓ Chief Minister Manik Saha of the BJP is expected to be Tripura's CM for a second term
- ✓ The Tipra Motha, formed by the former scion of the state's princely family Pradyot Kishore Debbarma, bagged 13 seats on its debut election, while the Left-Congress alliance secured 14 seats

Nagaland

- ✓ In Nagaland, the BJP and its partner NDPP (Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party) have won 37 seats – seven more than the last time – in the 60-member assembly
- ✓ Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio's NDPP had bagged 25 seats, eight more than in 2018, and the BJP won 12 seats
- ✓ NDPP's Hekhani Jakhalu won Dimapur-III seat to create history by becoming the first woman to be elected to Nagaland Assembly, 60 years after the state was formed.
- ✓ Nagaland political stalwart and its longest serving chief minister Neiphiu Rio is set to assume office as chief minister for a fifth consecutive term after a convincing win for his party and its ally, the BJP.

Meghalaya

- ✓ The ruling National People's Party (NPP) in Meghalaya emerged as the single-largest party in the state, clinching 26 seats out of the 59 constituencies, an improvement over its 2018 tally of 20 seats

- ✓ However, it fell short of gaining a majority in the 60-member assembly
- ✓ The BJP, which had brought star campaigners, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, party chief J P Nadda and Home Minister Amit Shah, managed to win only two seats after contesting in all 60 seats for the first time.
- ✓ Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma, after falling short of majority, called Amit Shah for support to form NPP-led NDA government in the state for a second consecutive term.
- ✓ However, NPP still remains two seats short of a majority in the Meghalaya assembly.
- ✓ Ahead of the elections, the NPP and the BJP had severed their ties.
- ✓ The United Democratic Party (UDP), which was NPP's ally in the Sangma government, emerged the second-largest party, winning 11 constituencies, increasing its tally by five seats.
- ✓ Meghalaya has 60 seats, but polling in the Sohiong seat was adjourned due to the death of a candidate
- ✓ Nagaland and Meghalaya underwent state assembly elections on 27 February, whereas Tripura went to the polls on 16 February
- ✓ A total of 89.95% of the total voters showed up for voting in Tripura, while, Nagaland reported 84% of the voter turnout and Meghalaya reported 76.27% voter turnout.

SUPREME COURT VERDICT

- **On March 2, the Supreme Court of India – delivered a landmark verdict on the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and Election Commissioners (ECs).**
- ✓ A five-judge bench of the Supreme Court unanimously ruled that the CEC and ECs will henceforth be appointed by the President on the advice of a high-power committee comprising the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and the Chief Justice of India.
- ✓ The Bench headed by Justice K M Joseph ruled on a batch of petitions seeking a selection process similar to what is followed in the case of the Director, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).
- ✓ The Bench also comprised Justices Ajay Rastogi, Aniruddha Bose, Hrishikesh Roy and C T Ravikumar.
- ✓ This practice will be enforced until a law in this regard is made by the Parliament, Justice KM Joseph reading out the 378-page judgment said.
- ✓ Further the Supreme Court also mentioned that in case of the absence of Leader of Opposition, the leader of the single largest Opposition party will take charge.
- ✓ The Election Commissioner of India and the Election Commissioners till date were appointed by the Ruling party at the Centre

- ✓ In November 2022, the Supreme Court, hearing a petition against Arun Goel's appointment as election commissioner, had observed that the appointment was done at 'lightning speed' with his file travelling within departments in 24 hours.
 - ✓ Arun Goel, a 1985-batch IAS officer, took voluntary retirement on November 18 and was appointed Election Commissioner a day later.
 - ✓ He is in line to be the next Chief Election Commissioner in 2025, when the current chief's term ends.
- ✓ The Constitution does not lay down a specific legislative process for the appointment of the CEC and ECs.
- ✓ At present, the President makes the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner and two commissioners for six years on the advice of the Union Council of Ministers headed by the Prime Minister, and they are usually former bureaucrats

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - inaugurated the eighth edition of the Raisina Dialogue in New Delhi on March 2.**
- ✓ Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni is the Chief Guest of the three-day Dialogue, which concludes on March 4



- ✓ Speaking on the occasion, the Italian Prime Minister said, India's leadership in G20 and the Raisina Dialogue together can send a message of cooperation and peace to the world.
- ✓ Raisina Dialogue is India's flagship conference on geopolitics and geo-strategy.
- ✓ The theme of the 2023 Edition is "Provocation, Uncertainty, Turbulence: Lighthouse in the Tempest."
- ✓ The Ministry of External Affairs is hosting the dialogue along with Observer Research Foundation.

- ✓ The Raisina Dialogue 2023 will witness the participation of representatives from over 100 countries including Ministers, Military Commanders, Captains of the Industry, Technology Leaders, Scholars on Strategic Affairs, Experts from leading Think Tanks and Youth.
 - ✓ This year's edition assumes special significance coming against the backdrop of India's G20 Presidency.
 - ✓ The last edition of Raisina Dialogue took place in Sydney where External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar called on Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong in Sydney.
- **On March 2, the G20 foreign ministers' meeting - ended with a chair summary and outcome document and not a joint communique because of extremely polarised views on the Ukraine issue.**



- ✓ The outcome was the same as what happened at the finance ministers' meeting last week in Bengaluru where Russia and China blocked efforts to arrive at a consensus.
- ✓ External Affairs Minister Jaishankar listed a number of areas where consensus was achieved like the need to strengthen multilateralism, food and energy security and terrorism but said the gap on Ukraine could not be bridged.
- ✓ He, however, added that this was the first time in years that there had been an outcome document after the G20 foreign ministers' meeting.
- ✓ Like with the finance ministers' meeting, the outcome document and chair summary named Russia and China for not endorsing paragraphs 3 and 4 related to Ukraine which were picked up from the Bali Declaration.
- ✓ US secretary of state Antony Blinken and minister of external affairs S Jaishankar held a bilateral meeting on the margins of the G20 meeting in which they discussed the Ukraine issue, focused on cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, and reviewed bilateral ties.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) - is planning to roll out a comprehensive genome sequencing kit within weeks**

- ✓ The kit is developed by the Bengaluru-based Strand Life Sciences, which was acquired by Reliance Industries in 2021 and has 80% stake in the firm.
- ✓ The genome test is priced at Rs 12,000, which will be around 86% cheaper than other offerings available locally

WHAT IT DOES

➤ A genome test can reveal a person's predisposition to ailments like cancers, including cardiac & neuro-degenerative ones

➤ It can also give indication of inherited genetic disorders

➤ The genome sequencing kit is developed by Strand Life Sciences, in which RIL bought 80% stake in 2021

➤ It is priced about 86% cheaper than other similar kits, and is hence far more affordable for Indians

➤ Its gene-mapping capabilities have the potential to create a huge bio database

➤ This can aid health & pharma cos in disease prevention & drug development



- ✓ The genome testing kit will be Reliance Industries' first venture into medical field.
- ✓ The test can reveal a person's predisposition to cancers, cardiac and neuro-degenerative ailments as well as identify inherited genetic disorders
- ✓ The project will introduce India's 1.4 billion people to personal gene-mapping and will potentially create a pool of biological data that can not only aid drug development but present a host of diseases.
- ✓ As per a report from Allied Market Research, the market for global genetic testing was valued at \$12.7 billion in 2019 and is anticipated to touch \$21.3 billion by 2027.

ECONOMY

- On March 2, the Adani family - sold shares worth Rs 15,446 crore (\$1.9 billion) in four group companies to US-based boutique firm GQG Partners, co-founded by India-born Rajiv Jain.
- ✓ The Adani Group offloaded the shares through a series of secondary transactions on the NSE and the BSE.
- ✓ The stocks were sold at a substantial discount to their closing prices.
- ✓ As per the deal, S B Adani Family Trust sold 3.4% in flagship Adani Enterprises for Rs 5,460 crore, 4.1% in Adani Ports & SEZ for Rs 5,282 crore, 3.5% in Adani Green Energy for Rs 2,806 crore and 2.6% in Adani Transmission for Rs 1,898 crore.
- ✓ Adani Enterprises' shares were sold at 12.4% discount, AdaniGreen at 5.7%, Adani Transmission at 5.6% while Adani Ports at 4.3% discount.
- ✓ The deal marks the first investment in Adani Group companies by GQG, which was founded in June 2016 by Jain along with Tim Carver.

- ✓ Listed on the Australian stock exchange, GQG managed assets worth \$92 billion as of January 31.

EMERGING MARKET EXPERT WHO BETS BIG

> Born and raised in India, **Rajiv Jain** moved to the US in 1990 to pursue an MBA
 > He joined **Vontobel** in 1994, and became the Swiss firm's chief investment officer in 2002. He made his name there as a **star emerging mkt trader**
 > He left the firm to **start GQG in 2016**. It currently has over **\$92bn** assets under

management and stands out in terms of returns and inflows
 > Jain is known to bet **huge sums on individual stocks** and rapidly change course if he spots any error, a Bloomberg report said
 > His research team includes three former investigative journalists, whose role is to challenge analysts backing particular stock ideas, according to an FT report

Invests Rs 15,446 Crore in Four Adani Group Stocks

Stock	Investment (₹ cr)	No. of shares (cr)	Avg buy price (₹)	% change since Hindenburg report
Adani Ent	5,460	3.9	1,400	-53.3
Adani Ports	5,282	8.9	593	-18.1
Adani Green	2,806	5.6	501	-72
Adani Trans	1,898	2.8	678	-74.3

- ✓ It held shares of ITC and HDFC Bank, among other Indian companies
- ✓ The money raised from the stake-sale will be used to shore up liquidity and to repay loans backed by pledged shares by the family, led by Gautam Adani
- ✓ As on September 30, 2022, the group's consolidated gross debt stood at Rs 2.3 lakh crore and its total cash balance amounted to Rs 29,754 crore.

SPORTS

- **Grandmaster D Gukesh** - has been honoured with **Player-of-the-Year** award by the **Asian Chess Federation (ACF)** for clinching the gold medal with a record breaking score of 9/11 in the Chess Olympiad at Mahabalipuram last year.



- ✓ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin has been conferred with Man-of-the-Year award for his effort in the successful hosting of the FIDE Chess Olympiad in August last year within a short notice of four months.



- ✓ The Indian women's team, comprising of Koneru Humpy, D Harika, R Vaishali, Tania Sachdev and Bhakti Kulkarni, was adjudged the 'Best Women's team of the Year' for its bronze-winning effort
- ✓ Grandmasters RB Ramesh and Abhijit Kunte claimed the Coach of the Year award among men and women.
- ✓ The All India Chess Federation (AICF) bagged the 'Most Active Federation' award conferred during the ACF annual summit, being held in Abu Dhabi
- ✓ Grandmaster Leon Luke Mendonca received the Best Junior Player award for his performance in the World Junior Chess Championship where he tied for the 1st position while winning the Under-14 World Championship, while Ilamparathi AR awarded the Youth Player of the Year award
- ✓ In March last year, Gukesh became only the sixth Indian to break the 2700 Elo-rating mark, and the youngest Grandmaster from the country to be rated above 2700.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

➤ World Wildlife Day - March 3



- ✓ World Wildlife Day is celebrated every year to raise awareness about various issues that impact the wildlife and to help conserve them
- ✓ The 68th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) designated March 3 as World Wildlife Day on December 20, 2013
- ✓ On March 3, 1973, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) was adopted
 - ✓ The Convention is a global agreement between governments to ensure that international trade in wild animal and plant specimens does not endanger the survival of the species.
 - ✓ CITES has 183 member countries and is one of the most powerful tools for biodiversity conservation in the world, regulating trade in wild fauna and flora.
- ✓ The idea to celebrate March 3 as World Wildlife Day was previously proposed at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (CoP16) in Bangkok in March 2013.
- ✓ The Kingdom of Thailand, the host of CITES CoP16, sponsored this CITES resolution.
- ✓ This year marks the 50th anniversary of the convention.
- ✓ According to UN data, CITES currently provides varying degrees of protection to over 37,000 animal and plant species.
- ✓ The theme for this year's World Wildlife Day is “Partnerships for Wildlife Conservation”.

