

## **EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-MARCH 24, 2023**

### **TAMIL NADU**

- On March 23, Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly - re-adopted the 'Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Online Gambling and Regulation of Online Games Bill, 2022'



- ✓ The Bill seeks to ban online gambling and it will be re-sent to the Governor for his assent.
- ✓ Chief Minister M K Stalin, who reintroduced the Bill, said that the state government has “the right to streamline, regulate, and protect” people living in its jurisdiction
- ✓ Moving the bill, chief minister M K Stalin said 41 people had died by suicide due to severe loss of money in online gambling
- ✓ He recalled that Union information and broadcasting minister Anurag Thakur had said betting and gambling come under Entry 34 of List II of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution.
- ✓ On March 21, 2023, Union Minister Anurag Thakur had told the Parliament that the State governments are empowered to enact legislations to ban online gambling as per the Constitution.
- ✓ Speaker M Appavu later declared the bill was adopted unanimously.
- ✓ On March 9, the state cabinet once again met and decided to resend the readopted bill for the assent of the Governor.

- ✓ The Bill was tabled again in the House since Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi returned it on March 6 saying the state Assembly does not have legislative competence to pass the Bill.
  - ✓ The Bill was first adopted in the Assembly on October 19, 2022 and was sent for the Governor's assent on October 26, 2022
  - ✓ The government enacted the bill based on the report submitted by retired Justice K. Chandru.
  - ✓ Governor RN Ravi promulgated an ordinance (prohibiting online gambling, wager-based online games of chance of Rummy and Poker) on October 1, 2022, and a gazette notification was made by the government on October 3.
  - ✓ The Tamil Nadu Assembly met on October 17 last year for a brief session and the Bill was passed.
  - ✓ The adoption of the Bill was necessitated after the Madras High Court had struck down in August 2021, the provisions of the Tamil Nadu Gaming and Police Laws (Amendment) Act 2021 which banned wagers or placing bets in cyberspace.
  - ✓ This is the second Bill to be re-adopted by the State Assembly after the Governor returned it.
  - ✓ Earlier, the Bill to abolish The National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) for admission to undergraduate medical courses in Tamil Nadu was re-adopted on February 8.
- **India's first PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel (PM MITRA) Park - is set to be established at E Kumaralingapuram village in Virudhunagar District of Tamil Nadu**
- ✓ In this regard, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Central and State governments on March 22



- ✓ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin and Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal jointly launched the PM MITRA Park during the event.

- ✓ The MoU was exchanged between officials in the presence of Stalin, State Ministers Thangam Thennarasu, KKSSR Ramachandran, R Gandhi and Union Ministers L Murugan and Darshana Vikram Jardosh
- ✓ Eleven firms have signed MoUs to establish their units with a total investment of Rs.1,231 crore in the 1,052 acres-Virudhunagar park generating 6,315 jobs.
- ✓ The park will be located close to the Chennai-Madurai-Kanyakumari national highway (NH-44), and is well connected to Thoothukudi seaport and Madurai airport.
- ✓ The proposed project site is owned by the State Industries Promotion Corporation (SIPCOT).
- ✓ Tamil Nadu has emerged as one of the seven states selected under the PM Mitra mega textile park project.
- ✓ Telangana, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra are the other six states.
- ✓ These seven parks are expected to attract Rs.70,000 crore investments and provide jobs for 20 lakh people, and expand India's export competitiveness.
- ✓ The government has approved PM MITRA Parks in greenfield/brownfield sites with an outlay of Rs 4,445 crore for a period of seven years upto 2027-28.
- ✓ The Union Ministry of Textiles issued a notification on October 21, 2021 for setting up the seven PM MITRA Parks, as announced in the Union Budget for 2021-22.
- ✓ The PM MITRA Parks would help create world-class industrial infrastructure that would attract large-scale investment, including foreign direct investment (FDI), and encourage innovation and job creation within the textile sector.
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi came up with the "5F vision" of farm to fibre, fibre to factory, factory to fashion, and fashion to foreign, by which the entire textile value chain could have all the facilities in one place, the PM MITRA integrated textile park
- ✓ The textile sector is one of the largest employment-generating sectors in the country, giving direct employment to 4 crore people and indirect jobs to another 6 crores.

## NATIONAL

- **Congress leader Rahul Gandhi - has been sentenced to two years in jail in a criminal defamation case against him for his "all thieves have Modi surname" remark.**
- ✓ On March 23, he was convicted by a Surat court under Section 504 (Intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).
- ✓ The maximum possible punishment under this section is two years.
- ✓ Later, the court granted him bail and suspended the sentence for 30 days, to allow him to appeal in a higher court
- ✓ A two-year imprisonment for Rahul Gandhi technically attracts disqualification from Lok Sabha under Section 8(3) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951







- ✓ The case was filed against the Congress MP in 2019 by a Gujarat BJP MLA, Purnesh Modi, who said Rahul Gandhi defamed the entire Modi community with his statement.




- ✓ The complaint was filed under IPC sections 499 and 500, both dealing with defamation.
- ✓ The Lok Sabha MP from Wayanadhad made the remark while campaigning in Karnataka's Kolar ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha elections
- ✓ Since 2013, many MPs/MLAs have been disqualified immediately upon their conviction and sentencing to jail term of two years and more.

### DISQUALIFIED NETAS IN THE PAST

Politicians	Party	Conviction/Disqualification	Year		Politicians	Party	Conviction/Disqualification	Year
<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>				 Lalu Prasad	<b>Bihar</b>			
Rashid Masood (RS MP)	Cong	Corruption	2013		Lalu Prasad (MLA)	RJD	Fodder Scam	2013
Bajrang B Singh (MLA)	BJP	Office of profit	2015	 Azam Khan	Jagdish Sharma (MLA)	RJD	Fodder scam	2013
*Abdullah Azam (MLA)	SP	Attack on cops	2023		Anil Kumar Sahni (MLA)	RJD	Forgery	2022
Abdullah Azam (MLA)	SP	False age declaration	2020	 J Jayalalithaa	Anant Singh (MLA)	RJD	Arms Case	2022
Azam Khan (MLA)	SP	Hate speech	2022		Raj Ballabh Yadav (MLA)	RJD	Rape	2018
Vikram Saini (MLA)	BJP	Muzaffarnagar riots	2022	 Kuldeep Senger	Ilyas Hussain (MLA)	RJD	Corruption	2018
Khabbu Tewari (MLA)	BJP	Marksheet fraud	2021		<b>Tamil Nadu</b>			
Ashok Chandel (MLA)	BJP	Murder	2019		J Jayalalithaa (MLA)	AIADMK	Corruption	2000
Kuldeep Senger (MLA)	BJP	Rape	2019		J Jayalalithaa (MLA)	AIADMK	Assets case	2014
<b>Jharkhand</b>					T M Selvaganapathy (MLA)	AIADMK	Corruption	2014
KK Bhagat (MLA)	AJSU	Murder attempt	2015		P Balakrishna Reddy (MLA)	BJP	Arson case	2019
Amit Mahato (MLA)	JMM	Assault	2018		<b>Kerala</b>			
Yogendra Mahto (MLA)	JMM	Coal smuggling	2018		P Jayarajan (MLA)	CPM	Poll rule flout	2001
Enos Ekka (MLA)	J'khand Party	Murder	2018		P C Thomas (MLA)	K Cong-M	Hate speech	2006
Bandhu Tirkey (MLA)	Cong	Assets case	2022		K M Shaji (MLA)	Muslim League	Hate speech	2016
Mamta Devi (MLA)	Cong	Attempted Murder	2022		A Raja (MLA)	CPM	Poll fraud	2023
<b>Karnataka</b>					<b>Haryana</b>			
Vatal Nagaraj (MLA)	Ind	Poll rule flout	1973		Pradeep Chaudhary (MLA)	Cong	Rioting	2021
Subhash Kallur (MLA)	BJP	Poll rule flout	2002		(*Azam Khan's son)			

- ✓ These include Lalu Yadav, then Tamil Nadu chief minister J Jayalalithaa, Rajya Sabha MP Rasheed Masud; MLAs Azam Khan and Abdullah Azam Khan; and Lakshadweep MP Mohammed Faizal.

- The moratorium on opening of new engineering and technical colleges - will be lifted from the 2023-24 academic session, according to the All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE)

<b>CHANGES IN AICTE'S APPROVAL PROCESS</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Maximum approved intake has been increased from 300 to 360</li> <li>➤ The rule mandating 50% overall enrolment in previous year to start new courses removed</li> <li>➤ Engineering colleges should establish women helpline number and hire counsellors</li> <li>➤ Land requirement norms relaxed for colleges in rural areas</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Moratorium on starting new colleges has been lifted</li> <li>➤ Faculty ratio for colleges with less than 50% enrolment relaxed; Classrooms and computer requirements also relaxed</li> </ul>	

- ✓ The AICTE has eased several norms in the new approval handbook for 2023-24 issued on March 23
- ✓ The bar on starting new colleges has been in force since 2019 due to a declining number of admissions in engineering programmes.
- ✓ The AICTE decided to lift the moratorium on the recommendation of an expert committee led by IIT-Hyderabad Board of Governors Chairman B V R Mohan Reddy, on whose suggestion the ban had been first advised in 2019.
- ✓ As per the new norms, engineering colleges across the country can start new courses even if total admissions in the previous year were less than 50%
- ✓ The new norms also reduced the faculty requirement for colleges with less than 50% admissions in the last three years by 25%.
- ✓ It relaxed the ratio of classrooms, computers needed in technical institutions. AICTE also increased the maximum approved intake from 300 to 360 seats for engineering colleges from 2023-24.
- ✓ In other significant changes, the council has relaxed land norms for the institutions, asking for greater focus on the built-up area so that institutions can offer multi-disciplinary programmes.
- ✓ The handbook made establishing a women helpline and hiring counsellors to provide counselling as mandatory requirements.
- ✓ It also released the nomenclature for offering minor degrees in 5G and advanced technologies and entrepreneurship and innovation.
- ✓ The AICTE has also relaxed norms for collaboration of engineering colleges with foreign institutions this year.
- ✓ Last year, the ministry of education informed the centre that at least 33% of the sanctioned seats in engineering colleges across India remained vacant in the academic year 2021-22.

## INTERNATIONAL

- **Uganda government - have passed an anti-gay law recently on March 21 that can bring punishments as severe as the death penalty to the practitioners**
- ✓ The law calls for a life sentence for anyone engaging in gay sex, while it prescribes a seven-year prison term for those who even attempt to have same-sex relations
- ✓ The death penalty would be applied to people convicted of “aggravated homosexuality” – indicating homosexual acts committed by anyone infected with HIV or involving children.
- ✓ The law, called the Anti-Homosexuality Bill, also imposes a penalty of about \$264,000 on any entity convicted of promoting homosexuality.
- ✓ People younger than 18 who are convicted of engaging in homosexuality face up to three years in jail.
- ✓ The bill will now go to President Yoweri Museveni for his assent

## SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **Relativity Space - launched the world's first 3-D printed rocket, Terran 1, into space from a launchpad in Cape Canaveral, Florida on March 22**



- ✓ However, the mission was not fully successful as it failed to reach orbit and crashed into the Atlantic.
- ✓ The demonstration mission, which was not carrying any form of customer payload, failed nearly three minutes into the flight.
- ✓ The two-stage, 110 feet tall, 7.5 feet wide, expendable rocket was attempting to launch into Low Earth Orbit
- ✓ The vehicle was powered by nine 3D printed engines, and would have been the first private-funded rocket launched into orbit using liquid methane as its fuel.
- ✓ The rocket was carrying only a wheel-shaped object, the first thing ever made by Relativity's 3D printers



- ✓ According to Relativity Space, there was a problem with the second stage of the rocket, which was to carry its payload to orbit.
- ✓ The flight, which the company nicknamed “Good Luck, Have Fun” or GLHF, was the company’s third launch attempt in the past two weeks.
  - ✓ It had originally been scheduled to launch on March 8 but was postponed at the last minute because of propellant temperature issues, while a second attempt on March 11 was dropped due to fuel pressure problems.
- ✓ During launch, the company noted some of the milestones achieved by the rocket.
  - ✓ It was the first time a 3D printed rocket had reached “max-q,” the point when the vehicle experiences the strongest stresses, when the booster used for liftoff drops from the vehicle’s second stage.
  - ✓ Further, Terran 1 is the largest ever 3D-printed object and was made using the world's largest 3D metal printers
- ✓ Most of the rocket, including its engines, were developed out of the company’s huge 3D printers in Long Beach, California.
  - ✓ Relativity Space claimed that 85% of Terran 1 is 3D-printed.
  - ✓ Except moving parts such as rubber seals, computers, and electrical circuitry, all other parts including the nose cone, rocket body, internal propellant tanks, and the majority of its Aeon engines are 3D-printed.
- ✓ The 3D-printing process, widely used in various industries, involves machines that autonomously "print" sequential layers of soft, liquid, or powdered materials that are quickly hardened or fused to form solid three-dimensional objects

## DEFENCE

- **The defence ministry - signed two contracts with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), worth over Rs 3,700 crore, to enhance surveillance, detection, tracking and electronic warfare capabilities of IAF**



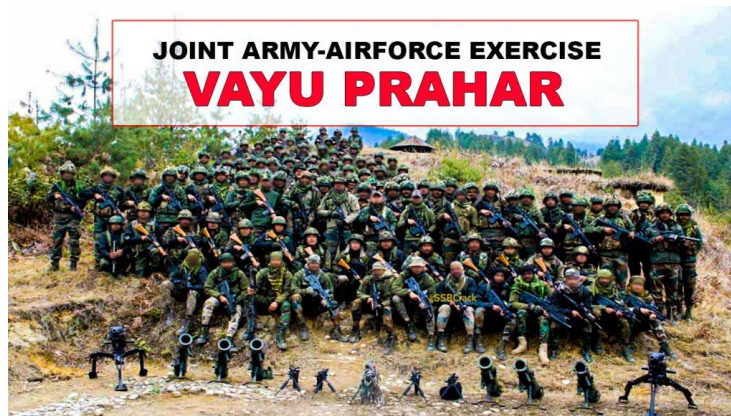
- ✓ The first contract, worth over Rs 2,800 crore, deals with the supply of Medium Power Radars (MPR) ‘Arudhra’ for the IAF.

- ✓ The second contract, at an overall cost of approximately Rs 950 crore, relates to 'Radar Warning Receivers' (RWR).
  - ✓ Both projects are agreed under the Buy {Indian – IDMM (Indigenously Designed Developed and Manufactured)} category
  - ✓ The radar has been designed and developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and will be manufactured by BEL.
  - ✓ The RWR has been designed to also enhance the capabilities of Su-30 MKI aircraft.
  - ✓ Both projects are estimated to generate employment of approximately two lakh man-days over a period of three and a half years.
- **The annual bilateral maritime exercise between the Indian Navy and the Royal Navy of the United Kingdom (UK) “Konkan 2023” - was held from March 20 to 22 off the Konkan coast in the Arabian Sea**



- ✓ INS Trishul, a guided missile frigate of the Indian Navy, and HMS Lancaster, a Type 23 guided missile frigate of the Royal Navy, participated in this edition of the exercise
  - ✓ The exercises covered all domains of maritime operations — air, surface, and sub-surface
  - ✓ It included gunnery shoots on surface inflatable target, helicopter operations, anti-air and anti-submarine warfare drills, Visit Board Search and Seizure (VBSS), ship manoeuvres and exchange of personnel
- **Indian Army and the Indian Air force - jointly conducted a Multi Domain Air-Land Exercise Vayu Prahar along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern command**
- ✓ The drill which lasted for four days involved the Indian Army, Air Force along with the Special Forces.
  - ✓ The exercise was carried out in the second week of March in high-altitude terrain conditions along the LAC in Arunachal Pradesh.
  - ✓ The scope of the joint exercise included rapid mobilization of a 'Rapid Reaction Force' from the hinterland to undertake air-landed operations in a nominated Advance Landing Ground





- ✓ Earlier this year, the Indian Army, the Air Force and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) had carried out a joint training exercise 'Trishakti Prahar' in North Bengal close to the 'Siliguri' corridor

## SPORTS

- **India's pair of Rhythm Sangwan and Varun Tomar – settled with a silver medal in the 10m air pistol mixed team event on the second day of the ISSF World Cup at Bhopal's MP Shooting Academy**

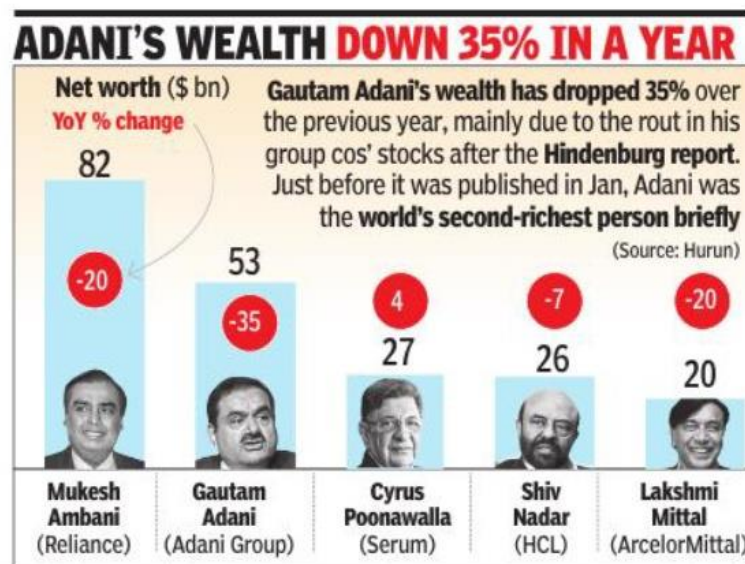


- ✓ In the gold medal match, the duo lost to China's Qian Wei and Liu Jinyao
- ✓ In the 10m air rifle mixed team event, world champion Rudrannksh Patil and R Narmada won bronze after beating the Chinese pair Zhang Qiongyue and Yu Haonan.
- ✓ Earlier on March 22, India's Sarabjot Singh bagged gold in the men's 10m air pistol event with a rare 16-0 margin in the gold medal match, while Varun Tomar won bronze in the same event
- ✓ China are on top with three gold and two bronze medals, while India are in the second spot with 1 gold, 1 silver and 2 bronze medals.
- **World Athletics - has banned transgender women from competing in the female category at international events and tightened testosterone restrictions for other athletes**

- ✓ The decision of the international governing body for athletics was based “on the overarching need to protect the female category”.
- ✓ The governing body also voted to cut the maximum amount of plasma testosterone for athletes with ‘Differences in Sex Development’ (DSD) in half to 2.5 nanomoles per litre from five
- ✓ DSD athletes will have to reduce their testosterone levels below the new limit for a minimum of 24 months to compete internationally in any elite event in the female category.
- ✓ The new requirements will prevent several women from competing at the World Athletics Championships in August.
- ✓ The affected athletes include two-times Olympic 800 metre champion Caster Semenya, Christine Mboma, the 2020 Olympic silver medallist in the 200m, and Francine Niyonsaba, who finished runner-up to Semenya in the 800 at the 2016 Olympics.
- ✓ DSD athletes have male testes but do not produce enough of the hormone Dihydrotestosterone that is necessary for the formation of male external genitalia. The governing body's decision follows a similar move by World Aquatics in 2022.
- ✓ The governing body on swimming voted in June 2022 to bar transgender women from competing in international events if they had experienced any part of male puberty.

## RANKINGS

- **Mukesh Ambani, with a wealth of \$82 billion, has overtaken Gautam Adani - to become the richest Indian again, according to the 2023 M3M Hurun Global Rich List.**



- ✓ Ambani is now the only Indian among the world's top 10 rich persons.
- ✓ Earlier, Ambani had held the top position for 10 years straight.

- ✓ In September 2022, a Hurun rich list had noted that Adani had overtaken Ambani to become the richest man in India for the first time.
- ✓ According to the Hurun calculations, Adani's wealth dropped by \$28 billion to \$53 billion, which led to him losing the second-richest Asian title to China's Zhong Shanshan.
- ✓ The loss of wealth followed a crash in share prices of group companies after US shortseller Hindenburg's report was published on January 24.
- ✓ Before the report, Adani was briefly the world's second-richest person.
- ✓ According to the list, the number of billionaires globally has declined by 269 to 3,112.
- ✓ This only the second time in the last 10 years that the number has declined from the previous year.

