

## **EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-MARCH 23, 2023**

### **TAMIL NADU**

- **Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin and Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan – to jointly inaugurate the centenary celebrations of the Vaikom Satyagraha in Kottayam, Kerala on April 1.**



- ✓ The 603-day-long celebrations will begin on April 1 and conclude on November 23, 2025
- ✓ The Vaikom Satyagraha played a crucial role in announcing modernism in the state of Kerala
- ✓ The Father of the Dravidian Movement, Dravidar Kazhagam founder and rationalist leader, Periyar, participated in the Vaikom Satyagraha when he was still part of the Indian National Congress
- ✓ He was at the forefront of the struggle in all its phases till its very end.
- ✓ Periyar earned the title 'Vaikom Veerar' for playing a key role in the satyagraha, which saw the participation of several eminent leaders including Mahatma Gandhi.
- ✓ The strike was against the practice of not allowing people belonging to Ezhava and lower caste communities to use the four streets surrounding the Vaikom Mahadevar Temple in the erstwhile kingdom of Travancore

- ✓ In the princely state of Travancore, many major temples had long prohibited lower castes, also known as untouchables, from not only entering but even walking on the surrounding roads.
  - ✓ The protest, which remained non-violent, was spearheaded by leaders like K Kelappan, T K Madhavan and K P Kesava Menon.
  - ✓ The protest that went on for 603 days ended on November 23, 1925, with three out of four streets being thrown open to the oppressed classes.
  - ✓ The final victory came in 1936 when the then-king of Travancore, Chithira Thirunal opened the gates of all temples to the oppressed classes.
- **The Tamil Nadu government - held Gram Sabha meeting in all village panchayats on March 22, World Water Day.**



- ✓ The gram sabhas witnessed more than 22 lakh people participating in them and discussing the importance of conserving water
- ✓ Out of the 22.81 lakh people who participated, 58.6% were women and 41% men, while
- ✓ The Gram Sabha meeting was held on March 22 at 11 am in all the panchayats and all wards, on rotational basis.
- ✓ Gram sabha meetings should not be held in any secular premises, while keeping the Public informed.
- ✓ An Android application has been prepared for registering the conduct of the Gram Sabha.
- ✓ Last year, chief minister M K Stalin had announced in the assembly that gram sabhas would be held on six days in a year instead of the earlier practice of holding it on four days - January 26, May 1, August 15 and October 2.
- ✓ It was extended to the World Water Day, March 22, and Local Governance Day on November 1.
- ✓ The first such meeting on World Water Day was held on March 22.
- ✓ While gram sabhas were held in 12,521 village panchayats, it was postponed in four villages due to law and order issues and in one owing to lack of quorum.
- ✓ During the meeting, topics on rainwater harvesting, judicious use of water, repairing broken pipelines, recycling of water, increasing groundwater level,

ensuring clean water supply, tree cultivation, nurturing a tree by every household and removing encroachments from water bodies were discussed.

- ✓ The village audit was also done at the meetings.

## RANKINGS

- **Chairman and Managing Director of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) Mukesh Ambani - is the only Indian in the world's top 10 billionaires list, according to the latest Hurun Global Rich List.**
- ✓ With a total wealth of \$82 billion, Mukesh Ambani, 65, has surpassed Gautam Adani, 61.
- ✓ The 65-year-old industrialist has retained his title as Asia's richest man for the third consecutive year.



- ✓ He is also the richest telecom entrepreneur on the 2023 M3M Hurun Global Rich List.
- ✓ Adani, who lost \$28 billion in wealth in 2022-2023 due to the scathing Hindenburg report, slipped to the second spot among Indian billionaires and had a net worth of \$53 billion
- ✓ Other Indian billionaires on the list are Cyrus Poonawalla of Serum Institute of India, who is in the third spot with \$27 billion net worth.
- ✓ Shiv Nadar and family ranked fourth with a net worth of \$26 billion, followed by Lakshmi Mittal at fifth with \$20 billion.
- ✓ In India, the newest entrant is Rekha Rakesh Jhunjhunwala and family, who head the Rare Enterprises.
- ✓ Byju Raveendran and family, with \$3.3 billion wealth, is the second richest global entrepreneur from the education sector
- ✓ According to the Hurun list, the number of billionaires dropped to 3,112 in 2023 as compared to 3,384 in the previous corresponding period
- ✓ Among the top billionaires, Jeff Bezos of Amazon saw her wealth deplete by \$70 billion in 2023 to \$118 billion, followed by Tesla's Elon Musk, who saw his fortunes dip by \$48 billion to \$157 billion.
- ✓ According to the 2023 M3M Hurun Global Rich List, there are about 176 new faces from 18 industries and 99 cities.

- ✓ India added 16 billionaires and occupied the third spot, much ahead of Italy which added 9 billionaires in this year's list.
- ✓ Hurun Report is a research, luxury publishing and events group established in London in 1998.
- ✓ It has presence in India, China, France, the UK, the US, Australia, Japan, Canada and Luxembourg.

