

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MARCH 23, 2019

NATIONAL

- The Union government - banned the Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) led by Yasin Malik on March 22



- ✓ The ban under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act is enforced for its extremist orientation and violence against the Hindu minority in the Valley
- ✓ JKLF had spearheaded separatist ideology in Kashmir and triggered the exodus of Kashmiri Pandits by murdering members of the minority community in 1989
- ✓ Thus, it becomes the second organisation to be banned under UAPA in the past one month after Jamaat-e-Islami, linked to Hizbul Mujahideen

- The data released by Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) – shows a 17-month high in new Enrolments during January 2019

EPFO NET PAYROLL DATA	
Month	Total enrolments
Sep-17	275609
Oct	176541
Nov	440619
Dec	215691
Jan-18	387217
Feb	303960
March	-29023
Apr	528946
May	435667
June	569988
July	641676
Aug	471043
Sept	601058
Oct	517054
Nov	513180
Dec	703150
Jan-19	896516

Data is provisional as updation of employees records is a continuous process and gets updated in subsequent month/s

March 2018 figure is negative due to large number of exits reported, in view of it being the closing month of the fiscal SOURCE: EPFO

- ✓ The ministry of Statistics and programme implementation (MOSPI) has been publishing data since September 2017 onwards
- ✓ It shows the total number of subscribers in 3 major schemes, namely the Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) scheme, the Employees' State Insurance (ESI) Scheme and the National Pension Scheme (NPS)
- ✓ The total new enrolments since September 2017 is nearly 77 lakh
- ✓ The addition in January was 131% higher as compared with 3.87 lakh EPFO subscribers added an year ago
- ✓ During January 2019, the highest number of 2.44 lakh jobs was created in the 22-25 years age group, followed by 2.24 lakh in the 18-21years age bracket.
- **Tata Power Strategic Engineering Division (SED) - has bagged a Rs 1,200 crore contract from the defence ministry - for supply of 23 ship-borne 3D air surveillance radars to the Indian Navy over the next 10 years**
 - ✓ The contract was signed under the Buy & Make (India) category of the Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) 2013
 - ✓ The contract will be executed by Tata Power SED as the prime contractor with foreign OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturer) partner Indra Sistemas, Spain
 - ✓ In November 2017, Tata Power SED had signed a contract with the defence ministry for supply of Portable Diver Detection Sonar (PDDS) for Indian Naval applications

COURT VERDICT

- **Madras high court - banned all political meetings and rallies near streetcorners, junctions, thoroughfares and residential neighbourhoods in Tamil Nadu**
- ✓ A division bench consisting of Justice N Kirubakaran and Justice S S Sundar held that such events could only be allowed outside urban areas, to prevent the inconvenience caused to residents
- ✓ In this regard, the bench cited the Supreme Court judgment in the famous Ramlila Maidan case and cited the apex court ruling that Right to privacy of the citizens should be respected as a fundamental right, being an integral part of Article 21 of the Constitution

INTERNATIONAL

- **India - abstained on a resolution against Israel at the UN Human Rights Council condemning Israel for violence in Gaza**



- ✓ The resolution was passed with 23 countries voting for the resolution and eight countries against.
- ✓ It is a measure of the changing relations between India and Israel that India has abstained, instead of voting against Israel
- ✓ The other countries to abstain included UK, Japan, Italy, Denmark, Australia, Brazil, Iceland and Nepal.

- **United States - recognises Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights, which was seized by Israel from Syria in 1967**



THE DISPUTED GOLAN HEIGHTS

WHY ARE THE GOLAN HEIGHTS SO IMPORTANT?

The 1,200sqkm plateau beside the Sea of Galilee offers expansive views over Syria and Israel, giving it **strategic military importance**

POPULATION
40,000 with Israeli Jewish settlers making up half of it. Arabs from Druze sect make the other half



HOW DID IT COME UNDER ISRAELI CONTROL?

Golan Heights were part of Syria until **1967**, when Israel captured most of the area in Six Day War. Israel fought against a joint force of Egypt, Jordan and Syria, almost decimating Egypt's air force. **Israel then annexed it in 1981, a move not recognised internationally**

WHY DOES ISRAEL WANT GOLAN

- **Security.** Israel says civil war in Syria demonstrates need to keep the plateau as a buffer zone. It also fears Iran is seeking to establish itself permanently on the Syrian side of the border in order to attack Israel

Both sides covet the Golan's water resources and naturally fertile soil

- ✓ The disputed area was captured by Israel in the 1967 Middle East war and annexed in 1981 in a move not recognized internationally
- ✓ The Syrian government vowed to recover the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights as its allies and enemies alike condemned US President Trump's move
- ✓ It follows the US recognition in December 2017 of Jerusalem as Israel's capital as the city has a disputed status amidst Israeli-Palestinian conflict
- ✓ Egypt, which made peace with Israel in 1979, said it still considers the Golan as occupied Syrian territory

SPORTS

- **Indian Women's team – had defeated Nepal in the final to win the SAFF Women's Championship in Biratnagar (Nepal)**



- ✓ This is the 5th straight title for the Indian team, extending their unbeaten run in the tournament's history to 23 games
- **Hardik and Krunal Pandya - have signed up as brand ambassadors for fantasy sports startup, Hala-Play**



- ✓ They will battle for the fantasy league opposite Virat Kohli, who has signed up for Mobile Premier League, and MS Dhoni who is the brand ambassador for Dream11
- ✓ CSK's Suresh Raina has been roped in by Chennai-based Fantain Sports
- ✓ Dream11 is also the official fantasy sports platform for IPL
- ✓ Bengaluru-based HalaPlay was launched in 2017

- **Indian Weightlifting Federation (IWLF) –to ban the Punjab, Haryana and Karnataka state weightlifting federations for a year**
- ✓ The move follows after more than two lifters each from the states tested positive for banned substances by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) in the last one year during the Youth and Junior National Weightlifting Championship that was held in Nagpur from December 14-22.
- ✓ During the event, 8 lifters tested positive with three of them were from Punjab, two from Haryana, two from Karnataka and one from Uttar Pradesh.
- ✓ In the past, the IWLF, in order to curb the dope menace, had banned units such as Services Sports Control Board (SSCB) and Uttar Pradesh

INTERNATIONAL DAY

- **World Meteorological Day – March 23**



- ✓ The date of the establishment of the World Meteorological Organization in 23 March 1950 has been named World Meteorological Day
- ✓ The day also highlights the contribution that National Meteorological and Hydrological Services make to the safety and well-being of society
- ✓ Theme 2019- “The Sun, the Earth and the Weather”

REPORT

- **World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)’s report on global intellectual property (IP) services**

TOP COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN				
Rank	Origin	Filed in 2018 (Estimated)	Growth* (%)	2018 share (%)
1	US	56,142	-1	22.2
2	China	53,345	9	21.1
3	Japan	49,702	3	19.6
4	Germany	19,883	5	7.9
5	S. Korea	17,014	8	6.7
15	India	2,013		
		Total 253,000	27	0.8
*Over previous year			Overall: 4	Source: WIPO

- ✓ Asia-based innovators, mostly from India, China and Republic of Korea (South Korea), filed over 50% of all international patent applications for the first time in 2018
- ✓ Top patent filers from India are led by Chennai-based TVS Motor Company
- ✓ Institutions like Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, and Indian Institute of Technology are ranked second and third, followed by Reliance Industries and educational institution, Indian Institute of Science
- ✓ But the list is dominated by pharmaceutical companies including Dr Reddy's, Cipla, Lupin, Sun Pharma, Mylan, Hetero, MSN Labs and Wockhardt
- ✓ Over half of all PCT applications came from Asia (50.5%), with Europe (24.5%) and North America (23%) accounting for about a quarter each
- ✓ Globally, the top 10 applicant list comprises six companies from Asia, two each from Europe and the US.

