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Current Affairs: 20/21.03.2021

MoD signs contract with Bharat Dynamics Limited to supply 4,960 Anti-Tank Guided Missiles to Indian Army



The Acquisition Wing of **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** has signed a contract with Defence Public Sector Undertaking (DPSU) **Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)** on March 19, 2021 for supply of **4,960 MILAN-2T Anti-Tank Guided Missiles (ATGMs)** to **Indian Army**. The cost of the deal is **Rs 1,188 crore**. The Milan-2T is a **Tandem Warhead ATGM** with the range of **1,850 metres**. The missile is being produced by BDL under license from **MBDA Missile Systems, France**. These missiles can be fired from ground as well as vehicle-based launchers and can be deployed in Anti-Tank Role for both offensive & defensive tasks and will further enhance the operational preparedness of the Armed Forces.

Singapore Developing World's Biggest Solar Farms To Fight Climate Change



Singapore is building the **largest floating solar farm of the world**, in a bid to tackle climate change. The **60 megawatt-peak floating solar system** is being built at Tengeh Reservoir by Sembcorp Industries in collaboration with Singapore Public Utilities Board. The system comes with a digital monitoring platform that allows staff to keep an eye remotely. Once completed, the **122,000-panel solar farm** will be one of the biggest in Southeast Asia covering an area the size of 45 football pitches.

Sixth India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Women's Forum



The **Sixth India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Women's Forum** meeting was held virtually on March 16, 2021. The event was chaired by the **Ministry of Women and Child Development, GoI**, led by **Smt Smriti Zubin Irani**. The meeting witnessed participation of Ministers and officials responsible for Women Affairs of IBSA Countries. The key issues discussed during the forum were directed towards the transformation of women's lives; by highlighting initiatives, policies and best practices for gender inclusive economy for transformation as well as for elimination of gender based discrimination and violence against women, which in the coming time will help not only in understanding each others' systems and programmes but will also carve a

strategic roadmap to promote gender equality agenda for achieving sustainable development goals.

Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan appointed as Chairman of 'Stop TB Partnership Board'



The Union minister for Health and Family Welfare, **Dr Harsh Vardhan**, has been appointed as the **Chairman of the Stop TB Partnership Board**. He will serve a **three year term as the chair of the board of Stop TB Partnership**, which will commence from **July 2021**. Dr Vardhan was appointed following his outstanding contribution to the movement to eradicate tuberculosis (TB) from India by **2025**. Based in **Geneva**, the "Stop TB Partnership" is a unique international body established in 2000 to eliminate tuberculosis as a public health problem.

Samia Suluhu Hassan sworn in as Tanzania's first woman President



Samia Suluhu Hassan was sworn in as the **sixth President of Tanzania** on March 19, 2021, becoming the **first female leader** of the East African country. The 61-year-old Hassan assumed the presidency, following the death of previous **President John Magufuli**, due to heart condition. Hassan will finish **Magufuli's second five-year term, which will run until 2025**. Prior to taking charge as PM, Hassan was the **Vice-President of Tanzania**, also being the first female vice-president of the country, since November 2015.

Netherlands PM Mark Rutte claims victory for fourth straight term



Netherlands Prime Minister Mark Rutte has won the **2021 parliamentary elections** with most seats to be sworn in as the **Prime Minister for fourth straight term**. Earlier Rutte and his entire Cabinet offered its resignation on 15 January 2021 in response to a scandal relating to child welfare fraud, however Rutte remained in office till the conclusion of 2021 election. Rutte has been Prime Minister of the Netherlands since October 2010.

India's economy projected to grow at 12% in CY 2021: Moody's

The **Moody's Analytics** has projected the Indian economy to grow by **12 percent in the Calendar Year 2021**. For the Calendar year **2020**, the real GDP was projected to **contract 7.1 percent** by Moody's. It must be noted that the Moody's Analytics makes calendar year projections, while its sister organization Moody's Investors Service provides fiscal year estimates.

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UNCTAD projects India's GDP to grow 5% in 2021 while Global GDP to grow 4.7% in 2021



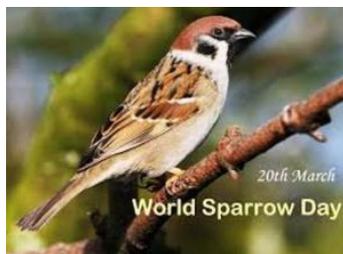
The UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has projected the India's economy to contract by **6.9 percent in 2020** due to the coronavirus pandemic. However, the UN body estimates the GDP forecast to record a "stronger recovery" in **2021 and grow by 5 percent**. Further, the UNCTAD estimates the global economy to grow by **4.7 percent in 2021**.

Athlete Avinash Sable Sets New National Record In Men's 3000m Steeplechase for 5th time



The Indian athlete **Avinash Sable** set a new national record in the **men's 3000m steeplechase event** in the ongoing **Federation Cup Senior National Athletics Championships** in Patiala, with a timing of **8:20.20**. With this, the 26-year-old Avinash broke his own record of 8:21.37 which he set in 2019, after finishing 13th in the final of the World Athletics Championships in Doha. The army man from the arid Beed district of **Maharashtra** broke the national record for the fifth time in his career. Sable has already secured a berth in the Tokyo Olympics 2020 in men's 3000m steeplechase during 2019 World Athletics Championships.

World Sparrow Day: 20 March



World Sparrow Day is celebrated every year on **March 20** to raise awareness about the House Sparrow and other common birds to urban environments, and of threats to their populations. Theme of 2021 World Sparrow Day "**I LOVE Sparrows**". The day was initiated by the Nature Forever Society of India in collaboration with the Eco-Sys Action Foundation (France) and numerous other national and international organisations across the world. The first World Sparrow Day was celebrated in 2010.

International Day of Happiness: 20 March



Every year the **International Day of Happiness** is celebrated on **March 20** to promote happiness as a fundamental human right for all human beings across the world. The 2021 International Day of Happiness campaign theme is '**Keep Calm. Stay Wise. Be Kind**'. The first International Day of Happiness was officially held

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on 20 March 2013. The day was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly on 28 June 2012.

World Oral Health Day: 20 March



The **World Oral Health Day** is marked every year on **March 20**. The theme for the next three years, **2021-2023** is: **Be Proud Of Your Mouth. Purpose:** to raise global awareness of the issues around oral health and the importance of oral hygiene so that governments, health associations and the general public can work together to achieve healthier mouths and happier lives. The day is an initiative of FDI World Dental Federation; an organization that brings together the world of dentistry with the aim of achieving optimal oral health for everyone.

UN French Language Day: 20 March



The **UN French Language Day** is observed annually on **20 March**. The day was established by UN's Department of Public Information in 2010, to celebrate multilingualism and cultural diversity as well as to promote equal use of all six official languages throughout the Organization. March 20 was chosen as the date for the French language since it coincides with the 40th anniversary of the International Organization of La Francophonie, representing countries and regions where French is a customary language.

World Frog Day : 20 March

The **World Frog Day** is observed annually on **March 20** to raise awareness about the tailless amphibian frogs: found on land and water both. The day was created in 2009 with the intention to save many different species of frogs from going extinct.

