

Daily Current Affairs 19/03/2021

1. 6th India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Women's Forum



- The 6th India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Women's Forum meeting was held virtually on 16 March, 2021.
 - The meeting was chaired by Smriti Zubin Irani, Minister of Women and Child Development, Government of India.
 - A **joint declaration** was also issued highlighting the shared IBSA goals and commitments for achieving gender equality in all spheres of life.
 - **The India-Brazil-South Africa Trilateral Cooperation Forum** is a unique platform which brings together India, Brazil and South Africa, three large democracies and major economies from three different continents.
2. **2020 World Air Quality Report: India 3rd most polluted country; Delhi most polluted capital city**



- The report is prepared by the **IQAir (Swiss- Air Quality Technology Company)**.
- 37 of the 40 most polluted cities in the world are in South Asia.
- 22 of the world's 30 most polluted cities are in India.
- Delhi ranked as the 10th most polluted city and the top polluted capital city in the world.
- **World's most polluted cities 2020:**
1st Rank- Hotan, China

2nd Rank- Ghaziabad, India
3rd Rank- Bulandshahr, India

- **World's most polluted countries 2020:**

1st Rank- Bangladesh
2nd Rank- Pakistan
3rd Rank- India

- **Note:** The 2020 World Air Quality Report is based on PM2.5 data from 106 countries.

3. India home to 4.12-lakh millionaire households, Mumbai tops the chart: Hurun India Wealth Report 2020



According to Hurun India Wealth Report 2020, there are 4.12-lakh millionaire households / affluent households in India with a networth of at least Rs 7 crore.

- Region-wise, the top 10 states are home to 70.3 percent of millionaire households in the country. Maharashtra has the highest number of millionaires (56,000), followed by Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu.

- There are 16,933 millionaire households in Mumbai, which contributes about 6.16 percent to the country's GDP.

- **Note:** The report has identified a novel household category in India – the 'New Middle Class' – with an average savings of Rs 20-lakh per annum.

4. Rajya Sabha passes the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2021



The Rajya Sabha has approved the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2021 to amend the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971 on 16th March 2021.

- The Bill was approved in Lok Sabha on 17th March 2020.

- **Some salient features of amendments:**

- **Enhancing the upper gestation limit from 20 to 24 weeks** for special categories of women which will be defined in the amendments to the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Rules and would include survivors of rape, victims of incest and other vulnerable women (like differently-abled women, minors) etc.

- Opinion of only one provider will be required up to 20 weeks of gestation and of two providers for termination of pregnancy of 20-24 weeks of gestation.

5. India commissions Nuclear Missile Tracking Vessel 'INS Dhruv'



- **INS Dhruv (codenamed as VC 11184)**, the Ocean Surveillance and Nuclear Missile Tracking Vessel, was commissioned into Indian Navy in a secret manner in October 2020.
- It is capable of monitoring missile launches at long distances, enhancing the testing programme and adding a crucial part to a national missile defence system.
- It was constructed at Hindustan Shipyard Ltd, Visakhapatnam.
- It will be operated by a joint crew of the National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO), the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Navy.
- **Note:** At present, only the **US, France, China and Russia** operate similar vessels that are used to track missile launches at sea.

6. Italy joins International Solar Alliance under the amended ISA Framework Agreement



- The amendments to the Framework Agreement of the ISA entered into force, opening its Membership to all Member States of the UN.
- The Framework Agreement was signed by Italy's Ambassador, Vincenzo De Luca.
- **About International Solar Alliance (ISA):** The International Solar Alliance was launched jointly by the Indian Prime Minister and the French President during the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference, or COP21, in Paris.
- **Headquarters:** Gurugram, Haryana, India
- **Founded:** 30 November 2015

7. Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr Harsh Vardhan appointed as Chairman of international body ‘Stop TB Partnership Board’



Dr Harsh Vardhan was appointed in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the movement to eradicate Tuberculosis (TB) from India by 2025.

- He will serve a three-year term, commencing from July this year.
- **The Stop TB Partnership** is a unique international body with the power to align actors all over the world in the fight against TB. The

Partnership’s vision is a **TB-free world**.

- **Note:** On 25th September 2019, Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister launched the ‘**TB Harega Desh Jeetega**’ Campaign along with the National TB Prevalence Survey.

8. Kapil Dev inducted as PGTI board member



- Legendary cricketer Kapil Dev was inducted as one of the board members of the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI).

• **Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI)**, the controlling body for professional golf in India, was formed in September of 2006. Mr. Gautam Thapar is President of PGTI.

- **Note:** Kapil Dev captained the Indian cricket team that won the 1983 Cricket World Cup.

9. Book titled “Battle Ready for 21st Century” released at Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS)



- A book titled “Battle Ready for 21st Century” co-edited by Lt Gen AK Singh, Distinguished Fellow CLAWS and Brig Narender Kumar, Visiting Fellow CLAWS was released by Gen Bipin Rawat, CDS and Gen Deepak Kapoor, Former Chief of the Army Staff at Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS) on 17 March 2021.
- The authors with hands-on experience and domain specialisation have endeavoured to define and suggest the ways and means necessary to secure India from emerging security challenges on land, air, sea, space, cyber domain and even cognitive domain.

10. Tanzanian President John Magufuli passes away



Magufuli won the October 2015 presidential election and was sworn in on 5 November 2015; he was re-elected in 2020.

- **Note:** According to the constitution of the African country, Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan will be sworn in as the new president and will serve in the post for the remaining tenure of Magufuli.

- She will be Tanzania's first

female president.

- **Facts about Tanzania:** Country in East Africa
Capital: Dodoma
Currency: Tanzanian shilling

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