

Headlines at a Glance - 3rd March 2021

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IAF participating in Exercise Desert Flag being hosted by UAE

The Indian Air Force (IAF) will participate in the Exercise Desert Flag-VI along with the air forces of the UAE, the US, France, Saudi Arabia, South Korea and Bahrain for the first time, it said on Tuesday. The exercise is scheduled from March 3 to 21 at the Al-Dhafra airbase in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The Exercise Desert Flag is an annual multinational large force employment warfare exercise hosted by the UAE Air Force. The IAF is participating with six Su-30 MKI, two C-17 and one IL-78 tanker aircraft. The C-17 Globemaster will provide support for the induction and de-induction of the IAF contingent. The Su-30 MKI aircraft will undertake a long-range ferry, routing directly from India to the exercise area with aerial refuelling support from the IL-78 tanker aircraft.

SOURCE: *The Indian Express*

Cheque dishonour cases can't be filed or continued against firms facing insolvency

The Supreme Court Monday held the cheque bounce cases can neither be instituted nor be continued against companies which are facing insolvency proceedings and are protected under a provision of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) putting a moratorium on legal proceedings against them. The top court, however, did not extend the benefit of moratorium on judicial proceedings in cheque bounce cases to directors or signatories of cheques of such firms, saying criminal cases would continue against "natural persons". A bench headed by Justice R F Nariman was faced with the legal issue whether "the institution or continuation of a proceeding under Section 138/141 (cheque bounce cases) of the Negotiable Instruments Act can be said to be covered by the moratorium provision, namely, Section 14 of IBC." Under IBC, the moment a corporate insolvency resolution process is initiated against a company, it gets statutory protection under section 14 and consequently, a moratorium is put on judicial proceedings against it.

SOURCE: *The Week*

PM inaugurates 'Maritime India Summit 2021'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 'Maritime India Summit 2021' on Tuesday. Prime Minister Modi inaugurated the second edition of the summit via video conferencing. Prime Minister also launched e-book of maritime vision 2030, which is aiming to make the Indian maritime industry at par with the top global benchmark in the next 10 years. Mansukh Mandaviya, Minister of State (MoS) Ports, Shipping and Waterways (Independent Charge) in his opening remark said that the summit is one of the biggest virtual summits in the world with the participation of 1.7 lakhs participants from more than 100 nations. "In the three day summit, we will have ministers from eight nations, over 50 global CEOs and more than 160 speakers which include 115 international speakers from 24 nations," he said.

SOURCE: *Business Standard*

Japan dismisses Chinese claims over Senkaku Islands

Japan on Tuesday dismissed China's claim over disputed Senkaku islands in the East China Sea, and criticized China saying the claim breaks international law. As per reports, Japan's Defense Minister Kishi Nobuo said on Tuesday that the Senkaku Islands are an inherent part of Japanese territory, in terms of history and international law. He said the islands are also under Japan's control. China and Taiwan claim the Senkaku islands. China's Defense Ministry on Monday has justified the country's activities off the Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea as legitimate. Responding to it, Japan's defense minister said Chinese coast guard activities that are based on China's unilateral claims violate international law and are unacceptable. He said his ministry will work with other Japanese ministries to step up surveillance of the areas around the disputed islands.

SOURCE: *The Hindu*