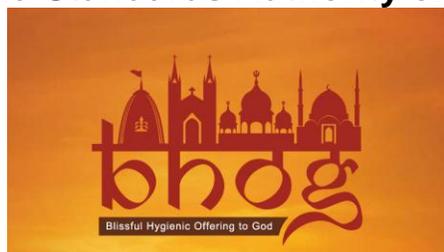


## **EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAR 9, 2020**

### **TAMIL NADU**

- **Tamil Nadu – to set up diagnostic laboratories across the state to test coronavirus (Covid-19) cases**
  - ✓ Currently, all samples are being sent either to Chennai-based King Institute of Preventive Medicine or to National Institute of Virology in Pune.
  - ✓ The Government is planning to open a new lab in Theni very soon.
  - ✓ The state had registered its first positive case for coronavirus, a 45-year-old man from Kancheepuram district who arrived from Muscat, Oman, recently
  - ✓ The infected person continues to remain in the isolation ward of Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital in Chennai.
  
- **Greater Chennai Corporation - has commenced work on its Intelligent transport system**
  - ✓ The project has received ₹660 crore funding from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).
  - ✓ The corporation will execute the project jointly with the city traffic police and Metropolitan Transport Corporation (MTC).
  - ✓ The detailed project report to determine the scope of the project is currently prepared by a private company
  - ✓ Based on the project report, tenders will be floated for procurement of the software as well as hardware, including CCTV cameras
  - ✓ The project is expected to be completed in 10 years.
  - ✓ The project has three components.
    - ✓ The first one is an intelligent traffic management system.
      - ✓ Around 160 key traffic junctions in the city will be identified and improved.
      - ✓ This includes changes to the physical structure of the traffic flow, for which inputs would be provided by the traffic police.

- ✓ The second one, namely the Chennai traffic information system, would be set up to handle configuration of traffic signals and a signal control plan
  - ✓ Currently, traffic signals are operated manually by traffic police and also the automated signals, wherever present, do not work based on real-time traffic density.
  - ✓ Once the smart system is in place, it will monitor the traffic density on each road minute-by-minute and control the signals to regulate congestion.
  - ✓ An automatic traffic counter-cum-classifier (ATCC) would project data on digital bulletin boards installed at major roads
  - ✓ It will inform the citizens about the roads having traffic jams and alternative routes to a particular destination.
  - ✓ It will also have a flood measurement and warning system for emergencies.
- ✓ The third component is an MTC command and control centre
  - ✓ It consists of a bus tracking system and a passenger information system.
  - ✓ Passengers will be able to track the next bus to reach their stop and the time it would take to reach their destination, by means of Wi-Fi in city buses and bus stops.
- **Guidance (formerly known as the Guidance Bureau) - has restructured its operations to bring in more investment proposals into the State.**
  - ✓ It is the nodal agency of Tamil Nadu government for investment promotion and single-window facilitation
  - ✓ It would also facilitate in creating country-specific desks and sector-specific desks
  - ✓ The Government has handpicked a 40-member young team, including MBA graduates, legal experts and analysts, for working at Guidance
  - ✓ The main function of Guidance is to find potential investors and convert Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) signed during the two Global Investors Meet (GIM) into investments
  - ✓ The Guidance has its headoffice in Egmore, Chennai
- **The Tamil Nadu Food Safety and Drug Administration - has made it mandatory for the temple administrators to obtain BHOG certificate from FSSAI (Food Safety and Standards Authority of India).**



- ✓ BHOG stands for 'Blissful Hygiene Offering to God'.
- ✓ It is a certification of hygiene by FSSAI.

- ✓ It was launched to ensure 'clean and hygienic' eatable offerings at temples.
- ✓ The project also provides training for food operators on basic food security apart from maintaining the high quality of food items in the temples.
- ✓ It has made mandatory for the Prasad stalls and vendors, which sell Prasad in and around temple premises, to obtain BHOG certificate.
- ✓ The certification would cover all the places of worship, which includes Gurudwaras, Temples, Mosques and all other religious places.
- ✓ The certificate also includes principles of Eat Right Campaign.
- ✓ The Eat Right Campaign is based on two broad pillars namely "Eat Healthy" and "Eat Right".

## STATES

- **The Arunachal Pradesh government - banned the entry of foreigners to prevent the spread of coronavirus in the state on March 7**
- ✓ The move comes barely two days after Sikkim and Bhutan announced similar ban on the visit of foreigners
- ✓ With the latest move, all the access points to the eastern Himalayas are sealed, except through Darjeeling
- ✓ The Arunachal Pradesh government has directed the authorities to stop issuing protected area permits (PAP), a must for any foreigner interested in visiting Arunachal, until further orders.

## NATIONAL

- **The Indian Government - has targeted to replace all level crossings on National Highways with road over bridges or under bridges under the 'Setu Bharatam' scheme before the end of the year 2020**



- ✓ The Setu Bharatam Scheme is being implemented by the Union Road Transport and Highways Ministry
- ✓ It was launched to ensure a smooth flow of traffic on the national highways and reduce road accidents by at least 50% by 2020.

- ✓ The scheme was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on March 4, 2016 for building rail over bridges and underpasses for safe and smooth travel on national highways.
  - ✓ The government had identified around 208 places for the construction of rail over-bridges and underpasses
  - ✓ It has set aside funds worth about Rs 10,200 crore for the implementation of the scheme.
  - ✓ The Centre has also commenced the works on rebuilding around 1500 bridges, which are around 50-60 years old.
- **The Indian Railways – has announced the upgradation of the iconic ‘Deccan Queen Express’**
- ✓ The Deccan Queen Express runs between Mumbai and Pune in Maharashtra
  - ✓ It is one of the most prestigious trains of Indian Railways with its rich heritage.



- ✓ A new logo has also been proposed for the LHB up-gradation of this train.
  - ✓ This train has been in regular customer service since 1930.
  - ✓ It holds the record for being India's first superfast train, first long-distance electric train, first corridor train, first separate train for women and first dining car train
- **The Department of Biotechnology, operating under Ministry of Science and Technology - has cleared ‘Genome India’ Project.**
- ✓ The project will witness the participation of more than 20 leading institutions including IISc Bengaluru.
  - ✓ During the first phase, the project will take samples of 10,000 persons to develop a reference Genome.
  - ✓ The Centre of Brain Research operating under IISc will act as a nodal point of the project.
  - ✓ The Project was inspired by the international ‘Human Genome’ Project, funded by the US Government.
  - ✓ The Human Genome Project was launched in 1990 and ended in 2003
  - ✓ The Genome India project aims to map human genome and assemble them together to obtain a complete sequence of chromosomes

- ✓ Genome is the sequence of DNA or simply sum of all DNAs of an individual.
- ✓ It contains all the hereditary information of an individual.
- ✓ The Genomes are from a Gene or DNA.
- ✓ The Genes are made of DNA

➤ **Google - announced recently the launching of India's next cloud region in Delhi by 2021.**



- ✓ It will be Google's second cloud region in India, after Mumbai
- ✓ The Mumbai cloud region was launched in 2017.
- ✓ Along with Delhi Cloud Region, Google will also open its data centers in Toronto (Canada), Melbourne (Australia) and Doha (Qatar).
- ✓ In the Asia-Pacific region, Google has 22 cloud data-centers.
- ✓ Google cloud centers help other companies to store their data at the local level.
- ✓ Google cloud services are now available in South America, North America, Asia, Europe and Australia.
- ✓ These data storage sectors help many companies store and protect their data.

➤ **The Centre - has decided to complete the delimitation exercise in Jammu & Kashmir within a year**

- ✓ On Friday, the Centre had notified constitution of the delimitation commission headed by former Supreme Court judge Justice Ranjana Desai
- ✓ The commission is mandated to redraw the assembly and parliamentary constituencies of J&K as per the J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019.
- ✓ After the scrapping of Article 370 on August 5, 2019, the erstwhile state was bifurcated into two separate UTs of J&K and Ladakh, the former with a legislature.
- ✓ The Jammu region, which saw mass migration from the militancy-hit Kashmir since the 1990s, is expected have more representatives in the new legislature.
- ✓ According to the J&K Reorganisation Act, 7 seats are to be added to the present 85 in J&K.
- ✓ The PoK with 24 allotted seats will remain untouched in the delimitation exercise
- ✓ At present, Kashmir region has 46 seats and Jammu 37, besides two nominated members.
- ✓ The total assembly seats after delimitation will go up from 107 to 114.

- ✓ The last delimitation exercise in J&K was carried out in 1995
  - ✓ The delimitation commission will distribute assembly constituencies as per the 2011 Census
  - ✓ For other parts of the country, delimitation is to be done based on the census 2031.
  - ✓ The Commission will simultaneously undertake a similar exercise in the four northeastern states of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Manipur,
  - ✓ The delimitation commission was formed under Section 3 of Delimitation Act, 2002.
  - ✓ So far, 4 such delimitation commissions (in 1952, 1963, 1973 and 2002) have been constituted under the act.
  - ✓ Delimitation is the process of fixing boundaries of a constituency.
  - ✓ The Government has suspended the delimitation process between 1976 and 2001, as it was focusing on the policy of family planning in a full-fledged way during this period
- **All sanitary pad manufacturers - will have to “compulsorily” provide biodegradable bags for disposal of each napkin from January next year**
  - ✓ This was announced by the environment minister Prakash Javadekar on March 8, while speaking at an International Women’s Day event in Pune
  - ✓ This rule to provide biodegradable bags is already in place, but is not being followed by manufacturers
  - ✓ From January 2021, the Union government has decided to make the rule mandatory for all the manufacturers

## **INTERNATIONAL**

- **Luxembourg in Europe - has become the first country to make all forms of public transport ‘free’**
- ✓ It is the second smallest country in the European Union.
- ✓ Luxembourg has 670 cars per 1000 people, thereby having the highest car density in European Union.
- ✓ The capital of the country also called Luxembourg was the 53rd most congested city in the world, according to 2020 Traffic Index
- ✓ Daily, on an average, 10,000 passengers travel to Luxembourg from its neighbouring countries such as Belgium, France and Germany for work
- ✓ In October 2019, the State Government of Delhi announced similar scheme, making the public transport free for women.
- ✓ Delhi being the 8th most congested city in the world, the scheme has boosted women population

➤ **Italy - recorded the second-highest coronavirus toll in the world on March 8, after reporting a sharp jump in deaths and overtaking South Korea on infections**

- ✓ The number of fatalities nearly tripled, rising from 133 to 366 as on March 8
- ✓ The country now has the most deaths of any country outside China
- ✓ It also has the second most COVID-19 infections in the world, after the number of cases increased by a single-day record of 1,492 to 7,375.
- ✓ South Korea currently has some 7,313 cases
- ✓ The US has counted more than 450 cases across 32 states
- ✓ In New York, Governor Andrew Cuomo declared a state of emergency on Saturday
- ✓ More than 1,07,500 cases of the virus have been confirmed across at least 95 countries
- ✓ At least 3,654 people have died, all in mainland China, except 557 deaths which were reported in other countries.
- ✓ In India, the total number of confirmed cases across the country also rose to 39.

## PERSONALITIES

➤ **Maharaja Ranjit Singh - voted as the 'greatest leader ever' in the world in a survey conducted by BBC World History Magazine**



- ✓ Maharaja Ranjit Singh was the Indian ruler of the Sikh Empire of 19th century.
- ✓ Amilcar Cabral, the African freedom fighter and played a major role in African independence, secured the second place in the poll
- ✓ Maharaja Ranjit Singh polled more than 38% of the votes, while Amilcar Cabral received 25% of votes
- ✓ Winston Churchill, who was the British Prime Minister at the time of the war, finished third with 7% of the vote.
- ✓ Former US President Abraham Lincoln was fourth and British Empress Elizabeth First ranked fifth among women
- ✓ Maharaja Ranjit Singh was born on November 13, 1780, in Gujranwala, Pakistan
- ✓ Hailed as the 'Lion of Punjab', Maharaja Ranjit Singh ruled Punjab for nearly 40 years (1801-1839)
- ✓ He established law and order in Punjab and never gave a death penalty to anyone
- ✓ He also prohibited 'Jiziya' from the Hindus and Sikhs and never forced anyone to adopt Sikhism.
- ✓ In the early decade of the 19th century, he had also modernized the Sikh Khalsa Army.
- ✓ Amilcar Cabral united more than a million people to liberate Guinea from the control of Portugal

## SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **The Gene Editing Tool called CRISPR (Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats) - has been used for the first time to treat blindness.**
  - ✓ This has been achieved at the Oregon University, Portland, USA.
  - ✓ The CRISPR-Cas, an enzyme, is used to edit genes in an organism
  - ✓ CRISPR is a family of DNA sequences that are found in prokaryotic organisms like bacteria
  - ✓ Cas refers to CRISPR Associated protein.
  - ✓ The CRISPR based tool, after identifying the target, adds, removes or alters that particular DNA sequence.
  - ✓ The Gene Editing technology can be used to modify disease causing genes.

## DEFENCE

- **Delhi-based Defence Institute of Physiology and Allied Sciences (DIPAS) - has developed a special full body protector (Prabla) for the protection of women soldiers deployed in riot control work.**
  - ✓ This body protector has been developed with the help of the Rapid Action Force.
  - ✓ It has been developed as per the physical shape and conditions of female troops.
  - ✓ This full-body protector has many 'unique' qualities.
  - ✓ It protects against injury, fire, acid while its upper layer cannot be pierced easily.
  - ✓ It has been designed based on the convenience of female troops deployed at the workplace.

## AWARDS

- **President Ram Nath Kovind - presented Nari Shakti Puraskar for 2019 to 15 women at Rashtrapati Bhavan on March 8**
  - ✓ The awards are conferred to illustrious women in recognition of their efforts in rendering distinguished service towards emancipation of women, especially vulnerable and marginalised women

### Nari Shakti Puraskar 2019: Winners List

S. No	Name	Category	State
1	Padala Bhudevi	Individual	Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh
2	Bina Devi	Individual	Munger , Bihar
3	Arifa Jan	Individual	Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir

4	Chami Murmu	Individual	Rajnagar, Saraikela Kharsawan, Jharkhand
5	Nilza Wangmo	Individual	Leh, Ladakh
6	Rashmi Urdhwarsheshe	Individual	Pune, Maharashtra
7	Sardarni Mann Kaur	Individual	Patiala, Punjab
8	Kalavati Devi	Individual	Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh
9	Tashi and Nungshi Malik	Individual	Dehradun, Uttarakhand
10	Kaushiki Chakroborty	Individual	Kolkata, West Bengal
11	Bhageerathi Amma Karthayayini Amma	Individual	Kollam, Alappuzha, Kerala
12	Avani Chaturvedi Bhawna Kanth Mohana Singh	Individual	Rewa, Madhya Pradesh Darbhanga, Bihar Agra, Uttar Pradesh Indian Air Force

- ✓ The 2019 winners are from various fields as diverse as agriculture, sports, handicrafts, afforestation and wildlife conservation, armed forces and education.
- ✓ Bina Devi, 43, a mushroom grower, won the award for popularising mushroom production in 5 blocks and 105 neighbouring villages of Munger district, thereby promoting 1,500 women in the field.
- ✓ Mann Kaur, 103, known as the “Miracle from Chandigarh”, started her athletic career at the age of 93.
  - ✓ She won four golds at the World Masters Athletic Championship, Poland
  - ✓ She had also set a record by becoming the world’s fastest centenarian at the American Masters Game, 2016.
- ✓ Kalavati Devi, a 58-year-old mason, bagged the prestigious award for being the driving force towards reducing open defecation in Kanpur.
  - ✓ She is responsible for building over 4,000 toilets in villages
- ✓ Padala Bhudevi, 40, has been serving the welfare of tribal women and widows
  - ✓ She won the award for training 30 women in making Mehendi cones and hair care products.
- ✓ Arifa Jan, 33, was awarded for reviving the art of Numdha handicrafts
  - ✓ She has trained more than 100 women in Kashmir
- ✓ Chami Murmu, 47, has been involved in planting more than 25 lakh trees along with the Forest Department by mobilising more than 3,000 women.
  - ✓ Chami is fondly known as the ‘Lady Tarzan’ of Jharkhand
- ✓ Nilza Wangmo, 40, is an entrepreneur running Alchi Kitchen Restaurant, the first one to serve traditional Ladakhi cuisines.
  - ✓ She has trained 20 women from Ladakh who manage the restaurant and has represented Ladakhi recipes in 5-star hotels
- ✓ Rashmi Urdhwardeshe, 60, has been the director of the Automotive Research Association of India.

- ✓ She has rich experience in the fields of automotive R&D, testing and homologation, framing of test standards and regulations.
- ✓ Tashi and Nungshi Malik, 28, from Utrakhand were the first women twins to scale Everest in 2013.
  - ✓ Besides the world's tallest peak, they had also scaled Mt. Elbrus in Europe in 2013, Mt. Vinson in Antarctica and Puncak Jaya in Australia in 2014 and Mt. Kilimanjari in Africa in 2015.
- ✓ Kaushiki Chakraborty, 38, is a classical vocalist with more than 15 years of experience.
- ✓ Avani Chaturvedi, 26, Bhawanna Kanth, 27, and Mohana Singh Jitarwal 28, are the first women fighter pilots to take solo flight in MIG-21 in 2018
- ✓ Among the 15 recipients were 105-year-old Bhageerathi Amma and 98-year-old Karthyayini Amma from Alappuzha in Kerala, who were jointly awarded
- ✓ Both have accomplished their literacy dream and passed the Class IV literacy equivalent examination under the Kerala literacy mission programme.
- ✓ Bhageerathi Amma is the oldest literacy equivalent learner under the Mission

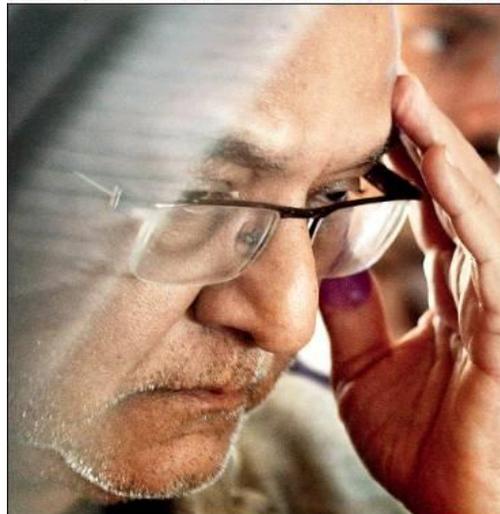


- ✓ Karthyayini Amma appeared for the Class IV literacy equivalent examination in August 2018 and bagged the first rank and scored 98%.
- ✓ The Nari Shakti Puraskar was established by the Ministry of Women and Child Development

## REPORT

- **The Enforcement Directorate (ED) - arrested the 62-year-old founder of Yes Bank, Rana Kapoor, on March 8 after 30 hours of questioning**
- ✓ Kapoor faces allegations of money laundering and receiving ₹600 crore in bribes from scam-tainted Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd,

### AGENCY DETAILS OUT ₹750-CRORE MONEY TRAIL



Rana Kapoor being taken to court by car after a health checkup

- Yes Bank sanctioned a Rs 750 crore loan to Belief Realtors in 2018
- Belief Realtors is a group company of RKW Developers
- The loan was sanctioned for an SRA project in Bandra
- But the money was transferred to KYTA Advisors through three other companies
- KYTA Advisors transferred the entire amount to RIP Developers
- RIP Developers immediately transferred the entire amount to DHFL, part of which was used to settle its loan account
- DHFL transferred Rs 450 crore of this amount as loans to Radius Group and Paresh Shah Group
- The two groups, which had earlier taken loans from Yes Bank, transferred the amount to the bank as repayment of their own loans

- ✓ Kapoor was also questioned regarding loans by Yes Bank worth ₹4,450 crore to DHFL group
- ✓ The arrest comes following the CBI registering a criminal conspiracy and corruption case against DHFL, its promoter Kapil Wadhawan, Kapoor and a firm controlled by his family, DOIT Urban Ventures
- ✓ DOIT Urban Ventures is a firm owned by Mr. Kapoor's daughters Radha and Roshni.
- ✓ He was remanded to ED custody till March 11.
- ✓ The CBI has issued a lookout notice earlier against his wife and three daughters for their alleged involvement in the Yes Bank loan fraud.
- ✓ The ED has also attached a dozen shell companies with real estate worth around ₹4,500 crore
- ✓ Rana Kapoor, a former Bank of America executive, set up Rabo India Finance, a non-banking finance company, with the help of Rabo Bank in 1997-98, along with his partners Harkirat Singh and Ashok Kapur.
- ✓ Yes Bank started operation in 2004, with Ashok Kapur as chairman and Rana Kapoor as MD & CEO.
- ✓ The bank had an initial public offering in the same year.

## SPORTS

- **Australia – defeated India to win an unprecedented fifth T20 World Cup on March 8 at Melbourne, Australia**
- ✓ India lost the game to the brutal Australian side, which defeated them by 85 runs in the final



LEADING SCORERS	
BETH MOONEY	259
ALYSSA HEALY	236
NATALAIE SCIVER	202
HEATHER KNIGHT	193
SHAFALI VERMA	163

LEADING BOWLERS	
MEGAN SCHUTT	13
JESS JONASSEN	10
POONAM YADAV	10
SOPHIE ECCLESTONE	6
ANYA SHRUBSOLE	6

Stats: Rajesh Kumar

- ✓ Batting first, Australia set a formidable total of 184 for four in the stipulated 20 overs
- ✓ Overwhelmed by the occasion, India crumbled to 99 all out in front of a turnout of 86,174 at the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground, a record in women's cricket history.
- ✓ Australia have already won the T20 World cup in 2010, 2012, 2014 and 2018
- ✓ The inaugural event was bagged by England while West Indies emerged winner in 2016
- ✓ For India, the game is their maiden entry into the summit clash
- **Five Indian boxers - secured Olympic quota spots at the ongoing Asia-Oceania Olympic Qualifiers in Amman, Jordan on March 8.**

- ✓ The boxers include Pooja Rani, Vikas Krishan, Lovlina Borgohain, Satish Kumar and Ashish Kumar.
  - ✓ Last year, Vikas returned to the amateur fold after having turned professional in November 2018.
  - ✓ This will be his third successive appearance at the quadrennial showpiece in the 69 kg category
  - ✓ Pooja Rani won the bout in the 75kg category quarterfinal encounter
  - ✓ Lovlina Borgohain also pulled off a convincing win in her 69kg quarterfinal bout
  - ✓ Ashish Kumar won the 75kg quarterfinal bout, giving India its fourth Olympic quota in boxing
  - ✓ Satish Kumar secured the Olympic quota in the +91kg category,
  - ✓ Pooja, Lovlina, Ashish, and Satish have secured their maiden Olympic spots
- **The Indian women's tennis team – secured a place in the Fed Cup playoffs for the very first time**
- ✓ The Indian Fed Cup team created history on March 7 by progressing to the playoffs for the first time ever with Ankita Raina leading the side to a 2-1 win over Indonesia in Dubai
  - ✓ Pune based Rutuja Bhosale won three singles matches while Ankita won two singles and combined with the seasoned Sania Mirza to win three doubles as well against Korea, Chinese Taipei and Indonesia,.
  - ✓ Indian women's tennis team will now travel to Latvia or the Netherlands for the Fed Cup World Group playoff, to be played on April 17 and 18.

## REPORTS

- **Seven states — Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Nagaland — have shown “significant decreasing trends” in annual rainfall in the last 30 years**
- ✓ Also, many parts of the country witnessed increase in number of “dry days” during the monsoon season which adversely affected groundwater recharges in these regions.
  - ✓ These are some of the key findings of a report, ‘Observed Rainfall Variability and Changes’, which was shared by the ministry of earth sciences (MoES) with a parliamentary panel
  - ✓ The parliamentary standing committee on science & technology and environment, headed by Congress’s Jairam Ramesh, submitted its report to Parliament on March 6.
  - ✓ The ministry analysed rainfall pattern over 28 states and the Union Territory of J&K based on data of the last 30 years.
  - ✓ As per the report, the situation for agriculture or water recharge in certain states in the Ganga river basin (UP, Bihar and West Bengal), Delhi and some southern

states was “alarming”, as the number of dry days (daily rainfall of 2.5 mm or less) during the south-west monsoon was “significantly increasing”

- **Climate change and global warming - may hit India’s GDP within a decade, as per a report published by the McKinsey Global Institute (MGI).**
- ✓ By 2030, temperatures in India could reach such levels that outdoor workers may be forced to reduce their daylight working hours to stay away from the lethal heat waves
- ✓ The impact of global heating on outdoor work and the resultant loss in productivity could reduce 2.5% to 4.5% of India’s GDP annually.
- ✓ As of 2017, heat exposed work produces about 50% of GDP and employs about 75% of the labour force in the country
- ✓ For short term adaptation to the climate change, India can focus on early warning systems and cooling shelters to protect those without utilizing airconditioning.
- ✓ In case an effective adaptation response and decarbonization is not achieved within 10 years, 16-20 crore people in India would be exposed to lethal heat waves every year.
- ✓ If it becomes a reality, temperatures could exceed the survivability threshold in many areas, with just 4-5 hours of outdoor exposure causing fatalities.

## REPORT

- **Seven women across the country – shared their journey on the official Twitter handle of Prime Minister Narendra Modi as part of the ‘She Inspires Us’ campaign on International Women’s Day on March 8.**
- ✓ PM Narendra Modi’s social media accounts on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook were taken over by the stories of empowerment of these seven women, who have overcome the odds to emerge as change makers.
- ✓ To mark International Women’s Day, the PM signed off from all his social media accounts and handed them over to women achievers for the day.
- ✓ The seven women presented their views on subjects as diverse as hunger, sanitation, sustainable development for water conservation, disability and inclusion, and financial empowerment by building capacity of women in traditional crafts and farming.
- ✓ The seven achievers included –
  - ✓ Food Bank India founder, Sneha Mohandoss,
  - ✓ bomb blast survivor and disability rights activist, Malvika Iyer,
  - ✓ young entrepreneur, Arifa Jan who works with women artisans to revive traditional crafts in Kashmir,
  - ✓ water champion, Kalpana Ramesh who uses sustainable design to combat water shortage,

- ✓ Vijaya Pawar who has been working for two decades to promote handicrafts of Banjara women in Maharashtra,
- ✓ Kalavati Devi of Kanpur who collected money to build toilets and
- ✓ Veena Devi of Munger in Bihar who started mushroom farming from her home
- ✓ The 27 year old Sneha Mohandoss, founded Food Bank India in 2015 and initiated activities like cooking marathons, breast feeding awareness drives and has 18 chapters in India.
  - ✓ This Chennai-based activist feeds the homeless on the streets through her non-profit organization, Food Bank India.
  - ✓ They organise mass cooking and food donation drives and urge people to donate excess food at events, such as weddings, to ensure that there is no wastage.
  - ✓ Sneha also helps connect the homeless to shelters and job opportunities
- ✓ Iyer had survived a bomb blast at the age of 13 which blew off her hands and severely damaged her legs
  - ✓ She went on to complete her Ph.D. despite losing her hands
- ✓ Arifa Jan from Kashmir began working to revive Numdha craft, which is the traditional crafts of carpet weaving in Kashmir
- ✓ Ramesh from Hyderabad narrated her story of coping with constant water shortage and dependence on tankers
  - ✓ She had used her knowledge of architecture to create a sustainable home first and then help society to save water through sustainable design solutions.
- ✓ Kalavati Devi from Sitapur, a mason, constructed over 4,000 toilets in villages of Kanpur.
- ✓ Veena Devi, known as 'Mushroom Mahila' for popularising mushroom cultivation,
- ✓ The Prime Minister has a following of 35.5 million on Instagram
- ✓ On YouTube, the Prime Minister has 4.54 million subscribers

## 'INSPIRING SEVEN' WHO TOOK OVER PM MODI'S SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS



► **Sneha Mohandoss**, founder of Food Bank India, which aims to 'eradicate hunger'



► **Dr Malvika Iyer**, a bomb blast survivor, who lost her limbs at the age of 13



► **Arifa**, a Kashmiri woman who has been leading a movement to uplift the lives of artisans by ensuring proper pay



► **Kalpana Ramesh**, a 'water warrior' and Hyderabad-based architect



► **Vijaya Pawar**, working to promote handicrafts of the Banjara community in rural Maharashtra



► **Kalavati Devi**, a Kanpur resident who started a revolution in her community by convincing people to build toilets



► **Veena Devi**, from Bihar's Munger, who started mushroom farming from her house to make herself financially independent. She also trained women to farm mushrooms **FULL REPORT | P 3 & 7**



PM Narendra Modi's social media accounts were handled by seven women from different fields on International Women's Day. A look at the achievements of these women:

**Malvika Iyer:** An award winning disability rights activist, social worker and model, Malvika Iyer lost both arms in a bomb blast at Bikaner when she was 13



**Sneha Mohandoss:** Inspired by her mother, Chennai-based Sneha Mohandoss started an initiative called Foodbank India, aimed at eradicating hunger through food donation campaigns



**Kalpana Ramesh:** The Hyderabad-based architect is focused on water conservation projects, especially rainwater harvesting, and spreads awareness on the responsible use of water



**Bina Devi:** An organic farmer from Munger, Bihar, she has been cultivating mushrooms at home since 2013, setting an example in self-sufficiency. She gained recognition for cultivating 1 kg mushrooms under her bed



**Arifa Jan:** Kashmir-based Arifa Jan is passionate about reviving Namda, the traditional craft of the region



**Kalavati Devi:** A mason from Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, she collected funds from the public and built toilets for better hygiene in her locality



**Vijaya Pawar:** She promotes handicrafts from the Banjara community of rural Maharashtra

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