



Super Seven

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Why in News

Prime Minister of India on 8th March 2020 marked **International Women's Day** by handing over control of his social media accounts to seven women achievers.

Super seven

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:

Tradition



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

Sanitation



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

Handicraft



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

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



Disability Rights



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

Sustainability



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

Water Conservation



Veena 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

Self-sufficiency

Key Points

- **Namda Traditional Art**



- Namda is a local term used for **traditional felted wool floor coverings**, made out of a coarse variety of wool.

Namda comes from the root word **Namata (Sanskrit for woollen stuff)**.

- Namda making is **practised as a craft** in several cultures, especially in the countries throughout Asia, viz. **Iran, Afghanistan and India**.

Srinagar in Kashmir and Tonk in Rajasthan are the two major namda making centres in India.

- In India, it is known to have come from Iran and was actively promoted in the state under the patronage of the Mughal monarchs and the Rajput royals.
- **Rich hues and exquisite designing** are the hallmarks of the handcrafted Namda.
- Unique themes and **floral patterns** provide the themes for these masterpieces and **flowers and leaves, buds and fruits** are the essence of the designs.

- **Banjara Community**

- The word '**banjara**' is derived from **Vanaj** meaning **to trade**, and **Jara** meaning **to travel**.
- Banjara (sometimes called **Gypsies**) is a **nomadic tribe of India** and were the

vital supply chain for villages.



They were **commercial nomads**, that is, hundreds of years ago they distributed salt and other essential items to interior villages, but they did have a connection with the land.

- The Banjaras were among many tribes that resisted the British attempt to seize their lands for plantations and enrol them as labour.
 - Their constant revolt frustrated the British, and in 1871, the Banjaras and several other tribes were brought under the **Criminal Tribes Act**.
 - The community was denotified in the 1950s but were listed under the **Habitual Offenders Act, 1952**.
- With **roots in Rajasthan**, Banjaras now live in several states and are known by different names like **Lambada or Lambadi in Andhra Pradesh, Lambani in Karnataka; Gwar or Gwaraiya in Rajasthan** etc.
 - They are listed in various States as Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST), Other Backward Class (OBC) and as Vimukta Jati/denotified tribes.
- The language of Banjara is known as "**Gorboli**" "**Gor mati Boli**" or "**Brinjari**" an **independent dialect**.
 - The dialect falls in the category of **Indo-Aryan language**.

- **Foodbank India**

- The **India Food Banking Network (IFBN)** is evolving an ecosystem for **food security interventions** to support thousands of feeding programmes in India by bringing the government, private sector and NGOs together to fight hunger and malnutrition in India.
- **Vision:** To have a **hunger and malnutrition free India** which falls in line with the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 2- Zero Hunger by 2030)**.
- It aims to achieve the vision by establishing a strong and efficient network of FoodBanks throughout the country so that **every district has access to at least one FoodBank by 2030**.
- It is a **multi-stakeholder partnership** of global, domestic and local community partners who contribute voluntarily to support the humanitarian and development projects.

Source: TH