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Current Affairs: 09.03.2021

PM Narendra Modi inaugurates 'Maitri Setu' between India and Bangladesh



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated 'Maitri Setu' bridge between **India and Bangladesh** through a video conference on March 09, 2021 to strengthen the connectivity between both the countries, and especially with the north-eastern region of India. The Maitri Setu bridge has been built on the **Feni river**, which lies between **Indian boundary in Tripura and Bangladesh**. The **1.9 Kilometres long** bridge will connect **Sabroom** in India with **Ramgarh** in Bangladesh. The bridge has been constructed by the **National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited** at a project cost of around **Rs. 133 Crore**. Maitri bridge will also make Tripura as the '**Gateway of North East**' with access to **Chittagong Port of Bangladesh**, which is just 80 km from Sabroom.

Uttarakhand's Ranikhet gets India's first Forest Healing Centre



The first-of-its-kind '**Forest Healing Centre**' of **India** has been inaugurated at **Kalika near Ranikhet in Uttarakhand**. The unique centre is based on the concept of making people healthy by bringing them into direct contact with nature.

Spread over an area of around **13 acres**, the centre has been established in a **pine-dominated forest**, by the **research wing of Uttarakhand Forest Department** after a detailed study of the revitalising impact of forests on human health. It has been found in various studies that coniferous like Pine trees emit certain oil compounds to safeguard themselves from various microbes and pathogens, which are called phytoncides. These compounds help to multiply natural killer (NK) cells in our blood, which help in fighting infections and cancerous growth and enhance overall immunity.

The centre has various activities for visitors like hug trees, walk barefoot on the grass, lie on their back and gaze at the swaying trees or the ever changing sky above to soothe their senses. The idea to open such centre was inspired from the Japanese technique of forest bathing and ancient Indian traditions.

Jammu and Kashmir launches Super-75 Scholarship Scheme for meritorious girls from poor families

The **Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha** has launched "**Super-75**" scholarship schemes for meritorious girls, on the occasion of International Women's Day 2021 on March 8.

The basic aim of this scholarship scheme is to facilitate the education and entrepreneurship of women.



Super-75 scholarship scheme will support the education of meritorious girls from poor families, so that they can excel in streams like medicine, engineering, ITI (Industrial training institutes) and humanity and contribute to nation-building. Apart from this, Lt Governor Sinha also announced a new scheme named 'Tejaswini'. This scheme has been launched under 'Mission Youth-J&K'. Under Tejaswini, financial assistance of **Rs 5 lakhs** will be provided to the girls between the age group of **18 to 35 years** to start their business.

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat Resigns



Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat has tendered his resignation to **Governor Baby Rani Maurya** on March 09, 2021. The surprise resignation of 60-year-old Rawat comes amid complaints by a section of Uttarakhand BJP MLAs over his "style of governance." Mr Rawat came to power in **2017**, and was scheduled to complete four years in office on 18 March, 2021. With this, Rawat joins the list of Chief Ministers of Uttarakhand who have been unable to complete their term. The only Uttarakhand CM who completed five years in office was **late Narayan Dutt Tiwari (2002-07)**.

Food Waste Index Report 2021 shows 931 million tonnes of food were wasted globally in 2019: UNEP



The **Food Waste Index Report 2021** was released by the **Nairobi-based United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** on March 04, 2021. The report has been produced jointly by the UNEP and **WRAP**, with the aim to encourage countries to cut the food waste to half by 2030. The

report is based on the data for the year **2019** and presents the most comprehensive food waste data collection, analysis and modelling to date. It presents a methodology for countries to measure food waste, at household, food service and retail level, in order to track national progress towards 2030 and to report on **SDG 12.3. C**

Key Findings of the Report

The report estimates that around **931 million tonnes** of food waste was generated in 2019.

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Out of the total food wastage, 61 percent came from households, 26 percent from food service and 13 percent from retail. This means that around 17 percent of total global food production was wasted. The wastage of food systems in return have impacts on climate, nature and pollution are generated needlessly. About 690 million people went hungry in 2019 while some three billion were unable to afford a healthy diet.

In India, the household food waste is about 68.7 million tonnes a year, which is 50 kg per capita per year.

The report suggests that reducing food waste would cut greenhouse gas emissions, slow the destruction of nature through land conversion and pollution, enhance the availability of food and thus reduce hunger and save money at a time of global recession.

Book titled “Dynasty to Democracy: The Untold Story of Smriti Irani’s Triumph” on Smriti Irani’s Amethi win to be released on March 15



The book, titled “**Dynasty to Democracy: The Untold Story of Smriti Irani’s Triumph**”, is set to be released on March 15, 2021. It traces the journey of Union Minister Smriti Irani’s from her defeat in 2014 to her victory over Amethi, Uttar Pradesh during the 2019 Lok Sabha election, which till now had stronghold of

Congress. Amethi, which is nick-named as ‘karmabhoomi’ of the Nehru–Gandhi family, was held by the Congress since its inception as a Lok Sabha constituency in 1967. The book is the **English translation** of “**Amethi Sangram: Aitihāsik Jeet Ankahi Dastan**”, written by journalist-author **Anant Vijay**. The Hindi book was published in December 2020. The English translation of the book is published by **Westland**.

Autobiography of ‘Frontier Gandhi’ released in English

The autobiography of freedom fighter ‘**Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan**’, titled “**The Frontier Gandhi: My Life and Struggle**” has been released recently. The book is English translation of Khan’s autobiography, which was first published in Iranian language Pashto in 1983. The English translation of the book is done by **former Pakistani civil servant and author Imtiaz Ahmad Sahibzada**. It is published by the publishing house Roli Book.

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PV Sindhu defeated by Carolina Marin to settle for silver in BWF Swiss Open Super 300

India's ace shuttler **PV Sindhu** has won silver medal in the **BWF Swiss Open Super 300** in the final of the women's singles event held at Basel on March 07,

2021. The World No. 7 Sindhu lost to World No. 3 and reigning Olympic champion **Carolina Marin**.



Winners List of Swiss Open 2021

- **Men's Singles** : **Viktor Axelsen (Denmark)** beat Kunlavut Vitidsarn (Thailand) 21-16, 21-6
- **Women's Singles** : **Carolina Marin (Spain)** beat PV Sindhu (India) 12-21, 5-21
- **Men's Doubles** : Kim Astrup and Anders Skaarup Rasmussen (Denmark) beat Mark Lamsfuss-Marvin Seidel (Germany) 21-16, 21-11
- **Mixed Doubles** : Thom Gicquel-Delphine Delrue (France) beat Denmark pair Mathias Christiansen-Alexandra Boje 21-19, 21-19.