

## News from Democracies: India: 20 Feb

February 20, 2023

1. February 20, 2023: **Facebook and Instagram introduce paid Verification Service:** Like the paid Verification Service by Twitter (known by a **blue tick** on the account name), Mark Zuckerberg has announced a rollout of the service on Met. It will be initiated starting from Australia and New Zealand.



**Mark Zuckerberg** ✓

about an hour ago



Good morning and new product announcement: this week we're starting to roll out Meta Verified -- a subscription service that lets you verify your account with a government ID, get a blue badge, get extra impersonation protection against accounts claiming to be you, and get direct access to customer support. This new feature is about increasing authenticity and security across our services. Meta Verified starts at \$11.99 / month on web or \$14.99 / month on iOS. We'll be rolling out in Australia and New Zealand this week and more countries soon.

*Readers of DiGiNews360.com may like to read the news in Gujarati at <https://gujaratguardian.com/if-you-are-using-facebook-there-is-important-news-for-you-zuckerberg-has-made/> .*

2. February 20, 2023: **Aadhaar Card: Must be Updated before it is 10 years old:** All Aadhaar Cards, which are more than 10 years old must be updated before 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.  
For updating the Card or for getting a new Card, one can go to the nearby Aadhaar Service Center. For Aadhaar Cards of children, the biometric data will have to be entered at the Center.  
One can update the Card on line also.

*Readers of DiGiNews360.com may like to read the news in Gujarati at <https://gujaratguardian.com/aadhaar-card-if-your-aadhaar-card-has-completed-10-years-do-this/> .*

3. February 16-27, 2023: **Bringing Tribal communities into the mainstream:** India has 645 distinct tribes living in jungles. According to 2011 census, the

population of scheduled tribes is 104,281,034, about 8% of India's population. **Through Affirmative action since 1950, India has moved its large tribal population towards the mainstream till today India's President is Draupadi Murmu**, a tribal from a small village Uperbeda in Orissa State. She is the Commander-in-Chief of India's large Armed Forces.

At **Aadi Mahotsav**, the Prime Minister Narendra Modi said," **The Aadi Mahotsav is like an infinite sky where the diversity of India is projected like the colours of a rainbow.**" He said that solutions to problems like global warming and climate change can be found in the tribal way of life. The Prime Minister emphasized the tribal community of India has a lot to inspire and teach with regard to sustainable development.

Narendrabhai Modi said that more than 3000 Van Dhan Kendras have been established in various states. About 90 minor forest products have been brought into the ambit of MSP (Minimum Support Price), 7 times more than the number in 2014. Similarly, the growing network of self-help groups in the country is benefitting the tribal society.



*Prime Minister Narendra Modi pays Homage to Birsa Munda, a tribal Freedom Fighter, at Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, New Delhi*

Other leaders, from tribal backgrounds, who were present were the Union Minister for Tribal Affairs: Shri Arjun Munda, Union Ministers of State for Tribal Affairs: Smt Renuk Singh Suruta and Shri Bishweswar Tudu, Union Minister of State for Rural Development: Shri Faggan Singh Kulaste, Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare: Dr Bharati Pravin Pawar and Chairman of TRIFED: Shri Ramsinh Rathwa.

**Adi Mahotsav** is an annual initiative of the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation Limited (TRIFED) under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, that commenced in 2017. In 2019-20, TRIFED organized 16 Aadi Mahotsavs all across the country. Due to the unprecedented circumstances caused due to the Covid-19 pandemic, TRIFED did not hold any Aadi Mahotsav in 2020. However, in December 2020, a 10 day long virtual edition of Aadi Mahotsav- Madhya Pradesh was hosted on the Tribes India website at <https://www.prakati.in/topic/tribes-india/> .

(Reference: <https://trifed.tribal.gov.in/retail-market/exhibitions-tribal-artisan-melas>)

4. February 18, 2023: **First Marriage on Earth according to Hindu belief:** This is the marriage season in many parts of India. In Hinduism, a marriage is considered to be a sacred relationship between a man and a woman. By common belief, the relationship of marriage is said to be valid for seven lives.



Brahmaji, one of the three forms of God, created the world. In the beginning, were created Manu and Shatrupa, as a man and a woman.

Rishi Shwet created the procedures and rules of marriage and established the importance of 'Sindoor' (red vermilion), 'Mangal Sutra' (the sacred thread, with a golden pendant if possible, put around a woman's neck) and seven vows in seven 'steps' around a sacred fire. To emphasize that a woman and a man are equal after marriage, the Rishi decreed that out of seven 'steps', in the first three vows, the man will lead the woman and in the last four 'steps', when the last four vows are administered, the woman leads the man.

The other customs like 'ladies sangeet', 'mehndi ceremony' etc, which lend colour to a Hindu marriage ceremony, have developed in different parts of India in a variety of forms. But Rishi Shwet's procedure and rules are followed everywhere in India.

*Readers of DiGiNews360.com may like to read the news in Gujarati at <https://qujaratguardian.com/first-marriage-on-earth-who-was-the-first-bride-on-earth/>.*

**\*Seven** 'steps' above stands for seven completing seven rounds around the sacred fire.

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