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1. Bhupendra Yadav launched Meri LiFE App (May 17, 2023)

Bhupendra-Yadav-launched-Meri-LiFE-App

The **Meri LiFE app** was launched by Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change **Bhupendra Yadav**.

news overview

- The Meri LiFE app aims **to revolutionise progress tracking for individuals and communities**.
- The app is part of a **global mass movement** inspired by the vision of the Prime Minister.
- The Meri LiFE app encourages people to **protect the environment and adopt a sustainable lifestyle**.
- This app empowers users to make a **positive impact on the environment**.
- The Meri LiFE App promotes **sustainable living practices**.

Mission LiFE:

- The mission was **launched** by the **Prime Minister on October 20, 2022 at Kevadia, Gujarat**.
- It is objective to bring about **behaviour change in individuals through simple, actionable steps**.
- It aims to discourage mindless and wasteful consumption patterns and promote conscious and planned usage.
- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is the nodal ministry responsible for national level coordination and implementation of Mission LiFE.
- The ministry collaborates with various stakeholders to spread awareness and promote sustainable actions.

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3. Minister of State Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated the 8th All India Pension Adalat (May 17, 2023)

Dr.-Jitendra-Singh

Union Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions **Dr. Jitendra Singh** inaugurated the **8th All India Pension Adalat in Delhi.**

An Overview of the News

- The objective of the event is **to address and resolve old pension cases.**
- The Department has organised **7 All India Pension Adalats** to handle a total of **24,218 cases** out of which **17,235 cases** have been resolved successfully.
- The minister will chair the **50th Pre-Retirement Counseling (PRC)** workshop, which is being organised by the Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare.
- The PRC Workshop has been designed for **1200 officials from various Ministries and Departments** who will be retiring within the next 6 months.
- Department of Pension and Pensioners Welfare has introduced **Bhavishya Platform** to achieve transparency, digitization and better service delivery.
- The Bhavishya platform enables **end-to-end digitization** of pension processing and payments.

About New Delhi

- It is the **capital of India and a part of the National Capital Territory of Delhi (NCT)**.
- Its important landmarks include the **Rashtrapati Bhavan, the Parliament House and the Supreme Court**.
- It was **established** during the Delhi Durbar of **1911** and its foundation stone was laid by **George V**.
- It was designed by British architects **Edwin Lutyens and Herbert Baker**.
- It was inaugurated on **13 February 1931** by the Viceroy and Governor-General Irwin.

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5. PM to inaugurate International Museum Expo 2023 (May 17, 2023)

PM-to-inaugurate-International-Museum-Expo-2023

On 18 May, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will inaugurate the **International Museum Expo 2023 in New Delhi**.

An Overview of the News

- The expo is part of the Amrit Mahotsav celebration of Independence and will be organised to mark the **47th International Museum Day**.
- PM Modi will inaugurate the virtual walkthrough of the upcoming **National Museum in North and South Block**.
- The objective of the National Museum is **to display and highlight important historical events, personalities**, ideas and achievements that have shaped India's past and present.
- The Prime Minister will unveil several items including the mascot of the International Museum Expo, "**A Day at the Museum**", **Directory of Indian Museums, Pocket Map of Duty Path and Museum Card**.
- The mascot of the International Museum Expo is a modern representation of the Dancing Girl made in the **Chennapatnam art style** using wood.

International Museum Day - 18 May

- The first International Museum Day was **organised in 1977** by the **International Council of Museums (ICOM)**.
- The adoption of an annual theme for the IMD began in 1992.
- Its 2023 theme is **Museums, Sustainability and Wellbeing**.

IMD's previous years' themes include:

- **2022**: The Power of Museums
- **2021**: The Future of Museums: Recover and Reimagine
- **2020**: Museum for Equality: Diversity and Inclusion

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7. Jal Jeevan Mission Achieves Milestone Of 12 Crore Tap Water Connections (May 17, 2023)

Jal Jeevan Mission

The **Jal Jeevan Mission**, a flagship program launched by the Government of India, has achieved a **significant milestone by providing 12 crore tap water connections** across the country.

An overview of the news

- This achievement marks a major step towards ensuring **access to clean drinking water for every household**.
- At the time of announcement of launch of JJM only **3.23 Crore (16.64%)** households in villages had access to piped water connection.
- **Himachal Pradesh at 98.35%**, followed by **Bihar at 96.05%**, are also set to achieve saturation in the near future.

- Goa, Haryana, Punjab, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Puducherry, D&NH and D&D are '**Har Ghar Jal**' certified States/UTs.

100% tap water coverage

- Till date, **5 states (Goa, Telangana, Haryana, Gujarat and Punjab)** and **3 union territories (Puducherry, Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Andaman and Nicobar Islands)** have reported **100% coverage**.
- Three aspirational districts from **Telangana** (Komaram Bheem Asifabad, Jaishankar Bhupalpally and Bhadrabari Kothagudem), two districts from Gujarat (Dahod and Narmada) and Punjab (Moga and Ferozepur) and one district each from Haryana (Mewat) and Himachal Pradesh (Chamba) 100% tap water coverage has been achieved.

About Jal Jeevan Mission

- It is a flagship programme of the Government of India which was announced from the ramparts of Red Fort by the Prime Minister on **August 15, 2019**.
- The objective of the mission is to supply potable tap water in adequate quantity, prescribed quality and on a regular and long-term basis to every rural household of the **country by 2024**.
- It is implemented by the Government of India in partnership with the **States/Union Territories**.
- This mission comes under the **Ministry of Jal Shakti**.
- Funding Pattern :**
- The fund sharing pattern between the Center and the **states under the mission is 90:10 for Himalayan and North-Eastern states and 50:50 for other states**.
- In the case of **Union Territories, 100% contribution** is made by the Centre.

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9. Bank of Baroda launches Electronic Bank Guarantee (May 16, 2023)

Bank-of-Baroda

Bank of Baroda partnered with **National e-Governance Services Limited (NESL)** to launch the **Electronic Bank Guarantee (BG) system** on digital platforms.

An Overview of the News

- It aims to **significantly reduce the turnaround time for issuance of electronic bank guarantees** as compared to the traditional paper-based process.
- The electronic bank guarantee system is accessible through **Baroda INSTA**, the **digital platform of Bank of Baroda**.

- The digital approach enhances **convenience, security and efficiency** in the issuance of inland bank guarantees.
- The system reduces manual paperwork, streamlines processes and promotes digital transformation in the banking sector.

About Bank of Baroda (BoB)

- It is an **Indian public sector bank** headquartered in **Vadodara, Gujarat**.
- It is the **second largest public sector bank in India** after **State Bank of India** and has a global presence with over 100 overseas offices.
- The bank was **established on 20 July 1908** by **Sayajirao Gaekwad III**, the **Maharaja of Baroda**.
- On 19 July 1969, the Government of India nationalised Bank of Baroda along with 13 other major commercial banks.
- After nationalisation, the bank became a **profit making Public Sector Undertaking (PSU)**.

10. India, EFTA take significant steps towards new Trade and Partnership Agreement (May 16, 2023)

Partnership-Agreement

India and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) states have recently taken important steps towards a **new trade and partnership agreement**.

An overview of the news

- At the ministerial meeting held in Brussels on May 15, Commerce and Industry Minister **Piyush Goyal** held discussions with representatives of EFTA to work towards a comprehensive new **Trade and Partnership Agreement (TEPA)**.
- The Ministerial meeting marked an important milestone in taking forward the negotiations on **TEPA between India and the European Free Trade Association**.
- Both sides stressed the importance of principles of good faith and respect for each other's sensitivities in order to achieve a fair, just and balanced settlement.

About India and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA)

- EFTA has established **bilateral relations and cooperation in the field of trade and commerce**.
- The objective of this cooperation is to strengthen economic ties and promote mutually **beneficial trade between the two countries**.
- The EFTA is an intergovernmental organization consisting of four member states: **Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, and Liechtenstein**.

- These countries have a **strong tradition of trade and economic liberalization.**
- India and EFTA have engaged in negotiations to establish a comprehensive trade agreement.
- The negotiations cover various aspects, including **trade in goods, services, investment, intellectual property rights, and other trade-related issues.**