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1. 5000 year old tree from Chile recognized as the oldest tree in the world (May 22, 2023)

5000-year-old-tree

A giant tree in **southern Chile**, known as the "**Great Grandfather**" and this tree, a **Patagonian cypress**, located in the **Alerce Costero National Park** is the **oldest tree in the world**.

news overview

- The trunk of the tree has a **diameter of four metres (13 ft) and it is 28 metres tall**.
- It is over 5,000 years old, surpassing the oldest tree currently known as the **Methuselah, which is 4,850 years old**.
- It is located in a forest in the **southern Los Ríos region**, 800 kilometres (500 mi) south of the **capital Santiago**.
- This tree belongs to the species **Fitzroya cupressoides**, which is also known as **Patagonian cypress**.
- **Fitzroya cupressoides is the largest tree species in South America**.

About Chile

- It is a long, narrow country located on the **western edge of South America**.
- **Santiago** is the **capital of Chile** and is located in a valley surrounded by the **Santiago Andes and Chilean Coast Range mountains**.
- The city's central square is called the **Plaza de Armas and has palm-lined streets**.
- The Plaza de Armas houses the **Neoclassical Cathedral and the National History Museum**.
- There is a huge park in Santiago called **Parque Metropolitano**.

President - **Gabriel Boric**

2. Amy Pope became the first woman Director-General of the United Nations Migration Agency (May 22, 2023)

first-woman-Director-General-of-the-United-Nations

Amy Pope of the United States has been selected as the **first female Director-General of the United Nations Migration Agency**.

An Overview of the News

- She will head the **Geneva-based International Organization for Migration (IOM)**.
- Pope is currently serving as **deputy to Director General Antonio Vitorino**.
- Her five-year term as director general will begin on October 1, replacing Vitorino.

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

- It is an **agency of the United Nations** and provides **services and advice related to migration**.
- The agency provides assistance to governments and expatriates.
- It caters to the needs of diverse groups including **internally displaced persons, refugees and migrant workers**.

Formation - **6 December 1951**

Headquarters - **Geneva, Switzerland**

Membership (2023) - **175 member states and 8 observer states**

3. EPFO adds 1.39 crore members during financial year 2022-23 (May 22, 2023)

Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)

The **Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)** has **added 1.39 crore members** during the **financial year 2022-23**.

An overview of the news

- Provisional payroll data of EPFO highlights that it **added over 13 lakh members in March 2023**.
- According to the **Ministry of Labor and Employment**, out of the 13.40 lakh members added during March, over **seven lakh new members** have come under the EPFO ambit for the first time.
- Among newly joined members, the **highest enrollment is in the age group of 18 to 21 years with 2.35 lakh members**, followed by about **two lakh members in the age group of 22 to 25 years**.
- The data also highlights that **more than 10 lakh members** rejoined the EPFO. These members changed their jobs and rejoined the establishments covered under EPFO.

About EPFO

- **Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)** is a **statutory organisation** set up under the **Union ministry of Labour and Employment** was **set up in 1951** by an Ordinance issued by the President.

- Later Parliament passed the **Employees' Provident Funds Scheme, act 1952.**
- It is the **country's largest social security organisation.**
- EPFO assists the **Central Board of Trustees** in the administration of a provident fund scheme, pension scheme and an insurance scheme for the registered establishments in India.

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5. Meri LiFE, Mera Swachh Shahar' mega campaign launched by Union Minister Hardeep S Puri (May 22, 2023)

Meri-LiFE,-Mera-Swachh-Shahar

Union Minister **Hardeep S Puri** launched the campaign '**Meri LiFE, Mera Swachh Shahar'** in **New Delhi.**

An Overview of the News

- The campaign promotes the **Reduce, Reuse and Recycle (RRR) concept of waste management.**
- This campaign will strengthen the resolve of the citizens under **SBM-U 2.0 and also promote the purpose of Mission Life.**
- RRR centres or one-stop collection centres were set up across the country on May 20.
- The centres will accept unused or used **plastic items, clothing, shoes, books and toys.**
- Citizens can donate used **clothes, shoes, books, toys and plastic at RRR centres.**
- The collected items will be recycled for reuse or turned into new products.
- The campaign will culminate with the resolution of LiFE on 5 June.

Mission LiFE:

- The mission was launched by the Prime Minister on **October 20, 2022 at Kevadia, Gujarat.**
- It aims 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.

Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0 (SBM-U 2.0)

- It was **launched on 1 October 2021** to achieve the vision of '**Garbage Free Cities**'.
- It aims **to achieve safe sanitation in urban areas.**
- **SBM-U 2.0** focuses on making all cities '**garbage free**' and ensuring proper grey and black water management.
- The mission emphasises source segregation of solid waste, **3R principles (reduce, reuse, recycle)**, scientific processing of municipal solid waste, and remediation of heritage dumpsites.

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7. PM Modi conferred with highest civilian honours by Fiji, Papua New Guinea (May 22, 2023)

Narendra Modi

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** was conferred with the **highest honor by Fiji and Papua New Guinea** on 21 May.

An overview of the news

- PM Modi was honored with the island nation's highest civilian award during his visit to Papua New Guinea to attend the **3rd India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) summit**.
- PM Modi was awarded "**The Companion of the Order of Fiji**" by his Fijian counterpart **Sitweni Rabuka** for his global leadership, a rare honor for a non-Fijian.
- Papua New Guinea conferred its highest civilian honour, **Grand Companion of the Order of Loghu (GCL)** on PM Modi for his efforts towards unity of the Pacific island nation.

Republic of Fiji

- It is an archipelago consisting of around **300 islands in the South Pacific Ocean**.
- Capital: **Suva**
- Currency: **Fijian Dollar**
- Prime Minister: **Sitiveni Rabuka**

Papua New Guinea

- Prime Minister: **James Marape**
- Capital: **Port Moresby**
- Currency: **kina (K)**

8. Supreme Court appointed Sapre Committee submits report on Adani-Hindenburg issue (May 22, 2023)

Sapre Committee

The **Supreme Court** on May 19 made public the report of the court-appointed expert panel in the **Hindenburg-Adani row case**.

An overview of the news

- American short-selling firm **Hindenburg issued** a report on January 24, 2023, calling Adani Group companies overvalued and alleging **manipulation of accounts**.
- However, Hindenburg's allegations were rejected by the Adani Group.
- But the opposition created a ruckus about this issue and when the matter reached the Supreme Court, the **Supreme Court had constituted a special committee to investigate**.

Highlights of the report

- The report states that the **Adani group has disclosed all beneficial owners**.
- There is no allegation that SEBI is rejecting the declaration of beneficial owners of Adani.
- Adani's retail stake has increased after the Hindenburg report.
- The report clearly states that prima facie **no violation of existing rules or laws has been found**.

About Sapre Committee

- **Constituted** - By Supreme court on 2nd March 2023
- **Chairman** - Former Supreme Court judge Justice Abhay Manohar Sapre (Retd).
- **Members of the Committee** - O P Bhatt, Justice J P Devadhar (Retd), Nandan Nilekani, K V Kamath and Somasekhar Sundaresan
- **Purpose of the Committee** - To investigate any violations of securities law by the Adani Group in the wake of the Hindenburg report.
- **Supreme Court made public the report** - On 19 May

9. G20 Mega Beach Clean Up campaign (May 21, 2023)

Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, and Labour and Employment **Bhupender Yadav** participated in **G20 Mega Beach Clean Up campaign** at **Juhu Beach in Mumbai** on 21st May.

An overview of the news

- Juhu Beach is a **popular tourist destination and an important coastal area** facing the challenge of pollution caused by garbage and litter.
- Bhupender Yadav, known for his commitment to environmental causes, takes an active role in the G20 Mega Beach Clean Up campaign.
- His participation demonstrates his dedication to raising awareness about **environmental issues and promoting sustainable practices**.

- The event highlighted the importance of individual efforts and community participation in mitigating this environmental challenge.
- Internationally, the event saw an enthusiastic participation of 20 countries.
- The Mega Beach Clean Up event kicked off the **third meeting of the Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group meeting** which is taking place in Mumbai from 21st to 23rd of May, 2023.

About G20 Mega Beach Clean Up campaign

- The G20 Mega Beach Clean Up Campaign is a global initiative that aims to **address the issue of marine pollution and promote the cleanliness and sustainability of beaches.**
- The aim of the event was to raise awareness of the impact of marine litter on the environment and encourage people to take action to stop it.
- The campaign stresses the importance of collective action and international cooperation in tackling environmental challenges.

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