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18 April 2024

Maharashtra State Specific News

Issue of debris in Aarey

Why in news?

- The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) and Aarey Milk Colony have been passing the responsibility for clearing the debris dumped in Aarey along the banks of the Mithi River onto each other for months.
- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has ordered the constitution of a committee to decide who will shoulder the burden.

Key points:

- The committee will decide:
 - Where the debris dumped from the Jogeshwari Vikhroli Link Road near the Tapeshwar Mandir is to be shifted.
 - Who will bear the expenses.
 - How the shifting will be carried out.
- The committee will be headed by the chief secretary of Maharashtra and include the BMC, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Urban Development Department, Aarey Milk Colony, the Environment Department, a scientist from NEERI, and Anil Dikshit, a professor from IIT Bombay.

Did you know?

- Aarey Forest, often referred to as the 'Lungs of Mumbai', is a significant green space in Mumbai.

About Aarey Forest:

- Location: Aarey Forest is located near Sanjay Gandhi National Park and is situated in Goregaon (East).
- Size: It spreads over approximately 2000 acres.
- Establishment: The area was established in 1949 to revolutionize the processing and marketing of dairy products in the city.
- Flora and Fauna: It also houses about 290 species of wildlife, including five species listed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). These include leopards, Rusty spotted cat, Sambar deer, Alexandrine Parakeet, and Red-wattled Lapwing.
- Conservation: On 3 September 2020, the Maharashtra government declared one fifth of the Aarey Colony, an area of approximately 600 acres, as a reserved forest.

Think:

- Know about the PYQ of Aarey Milk Colony.

Aarey Forest



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Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

Central Railway to install speed-sensing devices in Western Ghats

Why in news?

- **Central Railway (CR)** plans to install **speed-sensing devices** in the **Mumbai-Pune/Nashik rail corridors** to make train travel **safer in the Western Ghats** during the **monsoon**.
- The **device will monitor and control train speeds** when they operate in the ghats.

Key points:

- The **devices will be installed** in the **Karjat-Lonavala** and **Kasara-Igatpuri sections** before the monsoon.
- The **Bhor** and **Thal ghats** have a steep gradient of 1:37, meaning a train climbs one metre at a distance of every 37 metres.
- The device will indicate when a train crosses the permissible speed in the ghats and can bring it under control.
- **At present, trains must halt at specific locations on the Karjat-Khopoli-Lonavala and Kasara-Igatpuri sections as a safety measure.** This system will be done away with once the speed-sensing devices are in place.
- The device is being tested at **Monkey Hill Cabin station** on the Karjat-Lonavala belt and is awaiting final approvals.

Think:

- Know about the **Bhor and Thal ghats**.

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Lata Dinanath Mangeshkar award

Why in news?

- **Amitabh Bachchan**, was conferred with the **third Lata Dinanath Mangeshkar award** for his exemplary contribution to the country, people, and society.

Key points:

- The **Deenanath Mangeshkar Smriti Pratishthan** instituted the **Lata Dinanath Mangeshkar award** after the death of Bharat Ratna awardee and legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar on February 6, 2022.
- **Past recipients** of the award include **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** and singer **Asha Bhosale**.
- The **Pratishthan** decided to confer the **Master Deenanath Mangeshkar award** for
 - **AR Rahman** for Music direction,
 - Marathi actor **Ashok Saraf** for music;
 - **Padmini Kolhapure** for films,
 - Singer **Roopkumar Rathod** for Indian music,
 - Actor **Atul Parchure** for Marathi theatre;
 - Retired teacher and author **Manjiri Phadke** for literature.
 - Actor, producer, and director **Randeep Hooda** was conferred with a special award for his cinematic contribution.
- The **Marathi play 'Galib'** will be given the **Mohan Wagh award** for best drama.
- **Deepstambh Foundation's Manobal project**, a residential training institute for persons with disabilities, orphans, and economically weak students, will be **recognized for social service**.



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Maharashtra topped sugar production in country

Why in news?

- As per **Indian Sugar & Bio-energy Manufacturers Association (ISMA)** latest data, **sugar production in Maharashtra**, the country's leading producing state of sweetener, **remained higher at 109.2 million tonnes.**

Key points:

- **India's sugar production reached nearly 311 lakh tonnes (lt)** up to April 15.
- Sugar production in **Maharashtra was up at 109.2 lt**, and in **Uttar Pradesh it was higher at 101.45 lt.**
- **Production in Karnataka was down at 50.60 lt**, in Gujarat it was down at 9.19 lt, and in **Tamil Nadu it was at 8.60 lt.**
- Other states including Bihar, Haryana, and Punjab have together produced 31.89 lt.
- The total sugar output across the country has reached 310.93 lt until April 15, **excluding the quantity diverted towards production of ethanol.**

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