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## Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

03 May 2024

### Maharashtra State Specific News

New species of jumping spiders discovered

Why in news?

- Researchers recently discovered a new species of jumping spiders in Solapur and Dharashiv districts of Maharashtra.
- The species named **Stenaelurillus solapur** and **Stenaelurillus naldurg** were found only in the habitat they were discovered in.

Key points:

- The spiders were found in a compact and fragmented semi-arid grassland patch.
- The species of spiders lived secluded in colonies and were rare to find.
- Researchers conducted the exploration of the species in the Western Ghats, Deccan Plateau and the eastern coastal region.
- The other two species of jumping spiders found in Tamil Nadu were named **Stenaelurillus feral** (from Villupuram) and **Stenaelurillus judithblesternae** (from Coimbatore).
- Jumping spiders play a crucial role in maintaining the ecological balance.
- Acting as predators, they help control the population of insects and other arthropods, thus reducing the spread of diseases and damage to crops.

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<p><b>Enforcement Directorate (ED)</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A <b>Bombay court</b> has recently emphasized the <b>constitutional obligation of the Enforcement Directorate (ED)</b> to ensure speedy trials.</li><li>• The court made this observation while granting bail to two accused in the <b>Cox and Kings case</b>.</li></ul> <p><b>About ED:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Enforcement Directorate is a <b>law enforcement agency and economic intelligence agency responsible for enforcing economic laws and fighting economic crime in India</b>.</li><li>• It was <b>established in 1956</b>.</li><li>• The ED operates under the <b>Department of Revenue of the Ministry of Finance</b>.</li><li>• <b>Primary Functions:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Enforcement of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (<b>FEMA</b>), which replaced the earlier Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 (<b>FERA</b>).</li><li>○ Enforcement of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (<b>PMLA</b>).</li></ul></li></ul>
<p><b>Sanjay Gandhi National Park (SGNP)</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Borivali Residents Association <b>complained to the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC)</b> about the <b>large-scale dumping of debris</b> at the border of the <b>Sanjay Gandhi National Park (SGNP)</b>.</li></ul> <p><b>About Sanjay Gandhi National Park (SGNP):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Situated in Mumbai, Maharashtra</b>, it is <b>one of the major national parks existing within a metropolis limit</b> and is <b>one of the most visited parks in the world</b>.</li><li>• The park was established in <b>1969</b>, Originally named <b>Krishnagiri Park</b>, it was later renamed in the <b>1980s</b> after <b>Sanjay Gandhi</b>.</li><li>• The <b>2,000-year-old Kanheri caves</b>, sculpted by monks out of the rocky basaltic cliffs, <b>lie within the park</b>.</li><li>• The <b>park is also known as the lungs of the city</b>.</li><li>• The governing body of the national park is the <b>Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change</b>.</li></ul>



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<p>Rajiv Gandhi Award for Excellence in Information Technology (IT)</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Maharashtra government has announced the creation of a new award named the “Rajiv Gandhi Award for Excellence in Information Technology (IT)”.</li><li>• The award will be presented to institutions and companies for their outstanding performance in the IT sector.</li><li>• The presentation will coincide with the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.</li><li>• The state government will collaborate with several organizations, including NASSCOM, to finalize the modalities of the award.</li></ul>
<p>Maharashtra Electric Vehicle (EV) Policy</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Maharashtra government has unveiled the “Maharashtra Electric Vehicle (EV) Policy”.</li><li>• The policy was unveiled by the State Environment Minister and was approved by the cabinet.</li><li>• The aim of the policy is to promote the adoption of electric vehicles, their production, and the strengthening of necessary infrastructure.</li><li>• The policy seeks to ensure that EVs comprise at least 10% of new vehicles registered by 2025 and 25% electrification of public transport by 2025 in six urban centres: Mumbai, Nagpur, Pune, Amravati, Aurangabad, and Nashik.</li><li>• The policy also plans to set up 2,500 charging stations in urban areas and highways.</li></ul>

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