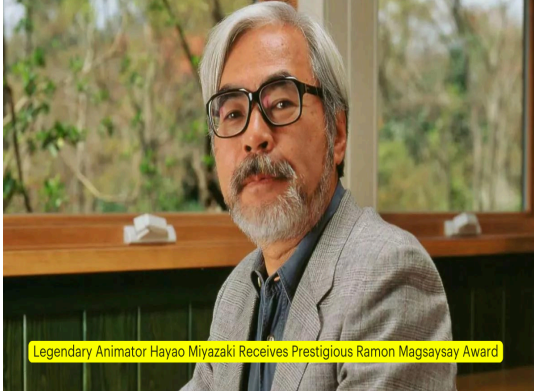




03 Sep 2024

National and International News

Ramon Magsaysay Award



Context:

- Japanese anime director Hayao Miyazaki has been honored with the prestigious **Ramon Magsaysay Award**, often referred to as **Asia's Nobel Prize**.

Key points:

- The Ramon Magsaysay Award is **Asia's premier prize and highest honor**, established in **1957** to perpetuate former **Philippine President Ramon Magsaysay's** example of integrity in governance, courageous service to the people, and pragmatic idealism within a democratic society. It is often called the **"Nobel Prize of Asia"**.
- The award is selected by the **Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation's Board of Trustees** each year.

Award Categories:

Until 2008, the Ramon Magsaysay Award was given in **six categories**:

- Government Service (1958–2008)
- Public Service (1958–2008)
- Community Leadership (1958–2008)
- Journalism, Literature, and Creative Communication Arts (1958–2008)
- Peace and International Understanding (1958–2008)
- Emergent Leadership (since 2001)

Exercise Varuna



Context:

- The Indian Navy's P8I aircraft has arrived in France to take part in the **Indo-French bilateral naval exercise, 'Exercise Varuna'**.

Key points:

- The 2024 edition of **'Exercise Varuna'** is scheduled to take place from **September 2 to 4** in the **Mediterranean Sea**.
- The exercise aims to enhance the **tactical capabilities and interoperability** between the Indian and French navies.



Zombie fungus

Context:

- Wildlife researcher **Chris Ketola** recently shared a video on Instagram, showcasing a **tarantula infected by the so-called "zombie fungus."**

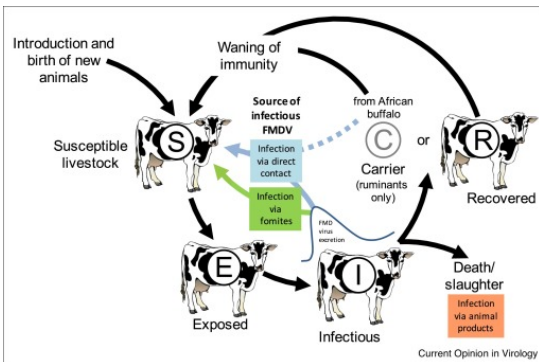
About:

- The scientific name for this fungus is *Ophiocordyceps unilateralis*, often referred to as **Cordyceps or zombie fungus.**
- The Cordyceps fungus takes control of the host's mind and motor functions, effectively turning it into a **"zombie."**
- It then consumes the host's body from the inside out while simultaneously filling it with **spores to ensure the fungus can reproduce.**

Tarantulas:

- These are large, hairy spiders belonging to the family Theraphosidae.
- There are around 900-1,000 known species of tarantulas found throughout the warmer parts of the world, mainly in the American tropics.

Foot-and-mouth disease



Context:

- The Union government plans to create foot-and-mouth disease (FMD)-free zones in **eight Indian states: Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Haryana, Maharashtra, and Gujarat.**
- This initiative aims to boost India's animal product exports and increase the country's presence in the global market.

About:

- Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) is a highly **contagious viral disease** that primarily affects cloven-hoofed animals such as cattle, pigs, sheep, and goats.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The disease is characterized by fever and the development of vesicles (blisters) in the mouth and on the muzzle, teats, and feet of infected animals. <p>Causative Agent:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FMD is caused by infection with an Aphthovirus, a member of the family Picornaviridae. <p>Transmission and Spread:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The FMD virus is transmitted through direct contact with infected animals or their secretions and excretions, including semen and milk. Indirect transmission can occur via mechanical vectors such as people, vehicles, or contaminated objects. The virus can also spread through the air, with the potential to travel over 250 km across water or up to 10 km over land. <p>Steps Taken to Address Foot & Mouth Disease (FMD) in India:</p> <p>National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launched in 2019, the NADCP aims to control FMD by 2025 through vaccination and achieve eradication by 2030.
<p>Cabinet Approves Seven Schemes for Farmers</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Union Cabinet has approved seven significant schemes aimed at enhancing the agriculture sector, with a total budget allocation of ₹14,235.30 crore. <p>1. Digital Agriculture Mission (DAM):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overview: The Digital Agriculture Mission is the most prominent among the approved schemes, with an outlay of ₹2.817 crore. <p>Components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agri Stack: A registry including farmers, village land maps, and crop information. Krishi Decision Support System: A geospatial setup to unify remote sensing data on crops, soil, weather, and water resources.



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- **Soil Profile Mapping:** Detailed mapping of soil profiles on a 1:10,000 scale covering approximately 142 million hectares of agricultural land.
- **Objective:** To create a unified database linking various agricultural data from different Union Territories, States, Ministries, and Departments, promoting the use of technology in farming.

2. Crop Science for Food and Nutritional Security

- **Budget:** ₹3,979 crore.
- **Purpose:** This initiative is aimed at preparing farmers for climate resilience and ensuring food security by 2047. It focuses on research and development in crop science to enhance nutritional security.

3. Strengthening Agricultural Education and Research

- **Budget:** ₹2,291 crore.
- **Goal:** To advance agricultural education, management, and social sciences. This scheme aims to prepare students and researchers to tackle contemporary agricultural challenges.

4. Sustainable Livestock Health and Production

- **Budget:** ₹1,702 crore.
- **Focus:** This scheme is designed to increase income from livestock and dairy production, emphasizing sustainable health and management practices for livestock.

5. Sustainable Development of Horticulture:

- **Budget:** ₹1,129.30 crore.
- **Objectives:** Promoting the cultivation of a variety of horticulture crops, including tropical, sub-tropical, temperate, root, tuber, bulbous, arid crops, and floriculture, vegetables, and mushrooms.

6. Krishi Vigyan Kendras

- **Funding:** ₹1,202 crore.
- **Aim:** To support the network of Krishi Vigyan Kendras, which serve as agricultural extension centers providing training and support to farmers.

7. Natural Resource Management:



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- **Budget:** ₹1,115 crore.
- **Purpose:** To manage natural resources effectively, ensuring sustainable agricultural practices that conserve and enhance the natural ecosystem.



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