



Eradicating Invasive Aquatic Weeds

Why in News?

Recently, An **exotic beetle named *Cyrtobagus salvinia*** has **successfully eradicated** an **invasive weed species, *Salvinia molesta*** from **Sarani reservoir (Satpura dam)** built on the **Tawa river** in the **Betul district** of Madhya Pradesh.

Key Points

- Scientists at Jabalpur-based [Indian Council of Agricultural Research](#)-Directorate of Weed Research (ICAR-DWR) revealed that *Cyrtobagus salvinia*, a **Brazilian bioagent specifically targeting *Salvinia molesta***, was imported to India after thorough research and with the necessary governmental approvals.

Salvinia molesta

- It is an **aquatic fern** that is indigenous to **south-eastern Brazil**. It is also known as gigantic *Salvinia* or Kariba weed since it contaminated a sizable area of **Lake Kariba between Zimbabwe and Zambia**.
- ***Salvinia's* characteristics include Small, floaters with branching**, creeping stems that have hairs on the papillae of the leaf surfaces but **no true roots**.
- The **leaves are arranged in trimerous whorls**, with one leaf being finely divided, petiolate, rootlike, and pendant, while the other two are green, sessile or short-petioled, flat, **whole, and floating**.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research

- It is an autonomous organisation under the **Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**.
- It was established on **16 July 1929** and was formerly known as the **Imperial Council of Agricultural Research**.
- It is headquartered at **New Delhi**.
- It is the apex body for **coordinating, guiding and managing research and education** in agriculture including horticulture, fisheries and animal sciences in the entire country.