Amorphophallus titanum

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In news- Recently in San Francisco's Bay Area a corpse flower bloomed.

About the corpse flower-

- The 'corpse flower' is a **flowering plant**, which is **native to the rainforests of Sumatra in Indonesia.**
- The flower is known for its putrid smell, which is often compared to that of rotting flesh.
- Its scientific name is '*Amorphophallus titanum*'.
- The ultra-rare plant is known to **bloom only once every seven to ten years.**
- The flower is also considered to be **one of the world's largest 'unbranched inflorescence'** or a stalk bearing a cluster of flowers.
- The average corpse flower has a **lifespan of about 30-40 years.**

- Its saplings have been cultivated in zoos, botanical gardens and greenhouses around the world.

- It can grow to be up to 10 feet tall and unveil two of its key components – a deep red skirt-like petal known as the '**spathe**' and a yellow rod-like '**spadix**'.
- The '**corm**', a fleshy underground plant stem, acts as a storage organ where the corpse plant's energy is stored.
- The unique plant is said to have the **biggest corm in existence**, sometimes weighing around 100 kgs.
- The **main odorant** which gives the flower its distinct smell is **dimethyl trisulfide**, the same compound that is emitted from cancerous wounds, microorganisms and some vegetables.
- The stench is also caused by chemicals like **dimethyl disulfide and methyl thioacetate,** which are responsible

for the garlic and cheese-like odour, as well as **isovaleric acid**, which gives the flower its sweat-like smell.

- The flowers of the plant are **pollinated by scavenging insects**, which are drawn to it due to its odour, hence it is also known as a **Carrion flower**.
- It was listed as an **endangered** plant in 2018 by the IUCN.
- It is not easy to preserve the corpse flower outside its natural habitat as it requires a very **specific level of heat and humidity** to thrive.
- The seeds of the plant known as **recalcitrant seeds** are not easy to store either as drying and freezing – the main methods to store seeds will kill them.