Alpine Flower rediscovered after 158 years

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance | Species*

Why in News?

A rare Himalayan flower has been rediscovered in Arunachal Pradesh after 158 years, prompting scientists to recommend its endangered status in India.

- **Scientific Name** – Cyananthus hookeri.
- It is a dwarf, tuft-forming herb with *purple-blue flowers* that grow in fragile alpine meadows of the Sino-Himalayan region.

- **Family** – Campanulaceae or bellflower.
- **Rediscovered Location** – Chuna Valley in Tawang district, Arunachal Pradesh.
- **Last Seen in** – A rare purple-blue alpine flower, last collected in India by legendary British botanist Sir Joseph Dalton Hooker in 1867 in Sikkim.
- **Distribution** – It occurs throughout the eastern Himalayas, in Bhutan, China, India and Tibet, but with a restricted distribution.
- **Growth Condition** – Harsh alpine conditions and short growing seasons make survival challenging for most plant species.
- **Recommendation to IUCN** – The researchers have recommended that the species be classified as Endangered in India under IUCN Red List criteria.
- **Significance** – The first confirmed record from Arunachal & India's first since 1867 highlights the rich Eastern Himalaya flora and the need for conserving fragile alpine ecosystems.

References

1. Times of India | Lost for 158 years, rare alphine flower rediscovered in Arunachal
2. Money Control | Lost for 158 years: A rare Himalayan alpine flower

SHANKAR IAS PARLIAMENT
Information is Empowering