

Conocarpus Erectus

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Environment

Why in News?

Recently, Ecologists warned against the planting of *Conocarpus erectus* along highways and medians in Tamil Nadu, despite bans in Gujarat and Telangana due to its invasive nature and public health risks.

- **Common Name** - Buttonwood and Button mangrove.
- **Scientific Name** - *Conocarpus erectus*
- **Kingdom** - Plantae
- **Family** - Combretaceae
- **Genus** - *Conocarpus*
- **Native Range** - Tropical America and Mexico
- **Introduced in India** - For urban afforestation and highway greening projects.



Key Characteristics

- **Growth** - Extremely fast, remains lush even in harsh summers.
- **Foliage** - Dense canopy, often obstructs streetlights, signage, and cameras.
- **Root System** - Aggressively invasive, penetrates concrete, pipelines, cables, and sewage networks.
- **Water Use** - Extracts large volumes daily, depleting groundwater and drying adjacent agricultural soil.
- **Pollen Release** - In winter, produces airborne pollen linked to allergies, chronic cough, and asthma.
- **Sustainable Alternatives** - Replace *Conocarpus* with native species like Neem, Peepal, Pongam, and Banyan for shade, ecological balance, and sustainable greening without invasive impacts.

Reference

- [The Hindu | Conocarpus erectus](#)

