

Jacaranda Mimosifolia

Prelims - *Environmental Ecology & Climate Change.*

Mains (GS III) - *Biodiversity, Environment and conservation.*

Why in the News?

Jacaranda trees in Munnar, Kerala, are currently in full bloom, attracting tourists and nature enthusiasts.

- It blooms between February and April, enhancing tourism in hill stations.
- **Local Name** - *Neelavaka* in Kerala.
- **Family** - Bignoniaceae.
- **Type** - Deciduous tree.
- **Native to** - Central and South America, Cuba, Jamaica, and the Bahamas.
- Introduced to India and other tropical regions by British for ornamental purposes
- **Locations Found** - Munnar (Kerala), Bengaluru, Delhi, and other urban areas as an ornamental tree.
- **Climatic Conditions** - Present in Sub-tropical climates, Need well-drained soil, Cultivated in warm regions and greenhouses.
- **Features** - It has striking lavender-hued blossoms, Vibrant blue or violet flowers, Distinct and oppositely arranged compound leaves.
- The flower emits ***UV to attract insects***, especially butterflies or birds, ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the bluish violet colours of the flower disappears when the pollination is completed.
- **Importance** - It attracts hummingbirds and bees, wood is used in guitar-making, the Bark and roots have medicinal properties.
- **Concerns**
 - **Climate Change** - Some trees have started early blooming and this can be due to climate change.
 - **Non - native species** - It has potential to be an invasive species affecting our local ecosystems.
- **Conservation Status** - IUCN - "Vulnerable".



Reference

[The Hindu | Jacaranda Trees](#)



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