Jacaranda Mimosifolia

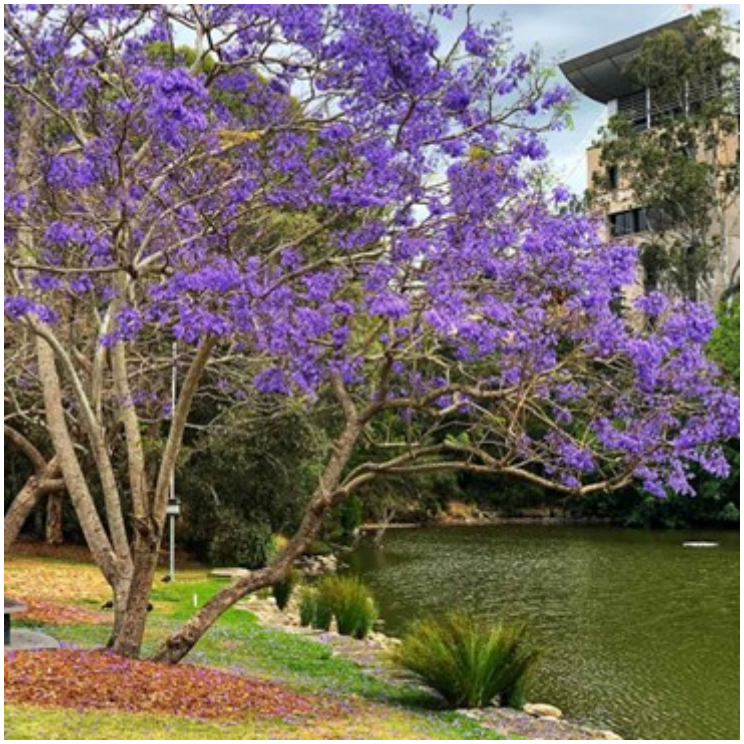
Prelims – *Environmental Ecology & Climate Change.*

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

SHANKAR IAS PARLIAMENT
Information is Empowering