Off-Season Tulip Bloom in Kashmir

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

Why in News?

Recently, for the first time in Kashmir, tulips were induced to bloom in December, around four months before their natural spring season

- **Tulips –** It is a ***spring-blooming perennial plant.***
  - They die back after flowering and *persist as an underground storage bulb.*
- **Genus –** Tulipa
- **Family –** About 100 species of bulbous herbs in the *lily family.*
- **Native to –** ***Central Asia and Turkey***
- **Climatic condition –** Cultivated in cool, temperate climates with long, cool springs and dry summers.

Breakthrough in Tulip Floriculture

- **Developed by –** Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST), Srinagar, through successful scientific demonstration of bulb programming and forcing techniques.
- **Key Techniques – Bulb Programming –** Controlling temperature, light, planting schedule, and growth stages to time flowering.
- **Forcing Technique –** Manipulating environmental and chemical factors to induce off-season flowering.

Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden is the largest tulip garden in Asia, spread over 30 acres in Srinagar.

- **Significance – Tourism –** Give a renewed push to Kashmir's floral tourism, which attracts visitors in the off-season.
- **Market Demand –** Aligns blooms with peak festive demand (Christmas, New Year, Valentine's Day).
- **Agriculture –** Enables year-round flower production.
- **Seasonality –** Reduces dependence on the spring-only flowering season.
- **Related Developments –** SKUAST started ***a Centre of Excellence for tulip bulb propagation*** to reduce dependence on Dutch imports.
- *Similar off-season chrysanthemum blooms were earlier developed* to boost tourism in the grey season.



Reference

IE | Scientific Induction of Off-Season Tulip Blooming in Kashmir

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