

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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