



Chenkurinji

Why in News?

Chenkurinji has been affected due to [climate change](#), so, there are different conservation measures are being inducted.

What do we know about the Species?

- Chenkurinji (*Gluta travancorica*), is a **species endemic to the Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve**, and inspired the name of the Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary.
- The **Anacardiaceae family tree was once abundant in the hills** on the southern parts of Aryankavu Pass, but its presence has been rapidly declining over the years.
- *Gluta travancorica* flowers in January on average, but the species has recently reported a tendency to extend the process due to climate change.
- It's used to treat lower blood pressure and treat arthritis.



What is Agasthyamal Biosphere Reserve?

- The Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve, located in the [Western Ghats](#) in the country's south, has peaks that rise 1,868 metres above sea level.

- The site, which is mostly tropical forest, is home to **various species of higher plants, including which are endemic in nature.**
- It is also a **unique genetic reservoir for cultivated plants, particularly cardamom, jamune, nutmeg, pepper, and plantain.**
- The site contains three wildlife sanctuaries, Shendurney, Peppara, and Neyyar, as well as the Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger reserve.

What type of conservation measures is being Implemented?

- **'Save Chenkurinji'**, a campaign to be implemented in various areas coming under the Achencoil Forest Division.
 - It aims to plant thousands of saplings as part of the campaign in the ghat sectors of the Kollam and Pathanamthitta districts.
 - Approximately 75 schools in the area where Chenkurinji will be grown with student help.
 - Saplings will be planted in public places in addition to schools, and the forest department has already cultivated thousands of seedlings for Save Chenkurinji.

Source: TH

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