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## Early Bloom of Uttarakhand's State Tree Points to Climate Crisis | Uttarakhand | 29 Feb 2024

### Why in News?

**Buransh, Uttarakhand's state tree**, has blossomed earlier than expected, raising concerns among scientists and environmentalists.

### Key Points

- The tree, **scientifically known as Rhododendron**, is known for its vibrant display of red flowers that dominate Uttarakhand hills as it bursts out from the woody bushes of the tree.
- According to scientists at **ICAR-Central Soil Salinity Research Institute**, this is pseudo-flowering or forced flowering due to climatic shifts.
  - Normally, these flowers are seen to **blossom during March and April** across the mid-altitude terrain.
- The untimely blossoming has raised concerns regarding potential reductions in the **medicinal potency** of the flower.
  - Renowned for its abundance of **potassium, calcium, iron, and vitamin C**, this flower is also ingested as an **appetizer to alleviate mountain sickness and seasonal ailments**.
  - It is recognised for its effectiveness in **mitigating excessive bleeding during menstruation** in women.
  - The flower possesses medicinal properties **beneficial for the heart, liver, skin allergies, and antiviral purposes**.
- According to the **Meteorologists** [global warming](#) is changing the usual weather patterns, causing unusual temperatures and less rain.
- The usual winter disturbances that bring cold weather here have been weak, happening less often and not as strong.
  - Due to this, there was not enough rain in December and January in the hilly areas. Both the highest and lowest temperatures were higher than usual.
  - As the world warms, scientists are concerned that **more such changes in the flora and fauna are expected**.

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### **The Central Soil Salinity Research Institute (CSSRI)**

- It is an autonomous institute of higher learning, established under the umbrella of **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** by the Ministry of Agriculture, for advanced research in the field of soil sciences.
- The institute is located in **Karnal, Haryana**. It was established in **1969**.

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