



Senna spectabilis

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Context:

Tamil Nadhas launched **one of India's largest invasive-species eradication drives**, aiming to completely remove **Senna spectabilis** from all forest divisions by **March 2026**.

About Senna spectabilis

Definition: Fast-growing, yellow-flowering tree of the **legume family (Fabaceae)**; ornamental and shade tree; now a **highly invasive alien species**.

Origin:

o Native to **South & Central America** – Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, Bolivia, Peru, Venezuela.

o In India, invasive in **Nilgiris, Mudumalai, Sathyamangalam, Anaikatty**, and other **Western Ghats ecosystems**.

Habitat:

o Dry to moist **deciduous forests, disturbed woodlands**, savannahs, well-drained soils.

o Prefers **full sunlight**, adapts to **poor soils**, spreads easily through seeds.

Key Characteristics

- Height: **7–18 m**, with dense spreading crown.
- Flowers: Bright yellow; Pods: 15–30 cm, with many **hard-coated seeds**.
- Leaves: Exhibit **nyctinasty** (close at night, open at dawn).
- Traditional Uses: Fuelwood, ornamental planting, shade, small implements.
- **IUCN Status:** Least Concern.