

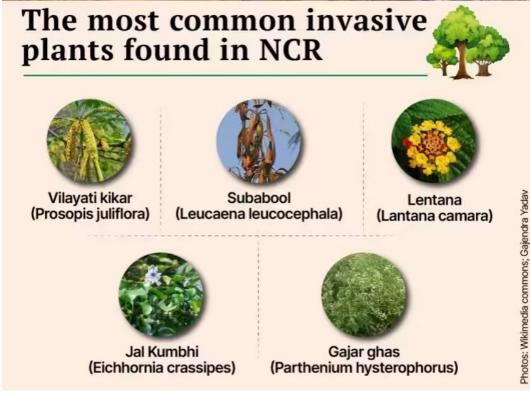
# Vilayati kikar

By iastoppers | 2023-10-13 15:15:00



# Vilayati kikar

The National Security Guard (NSG) has recently cleared the vilayati kikar (Prosopis juliflora), after it was found to be responsible for the depleting **water table**.



[ref-IE]

#### About the Vilayati kikar:

- Vilayati kikar or Prosopis juliflora is an invasive species native to Mexico.
  - The invasive plants are plants not native to the region and which does **not** allow other plants to grow around it.
- It can quickly **colonise** an entire area, and its **roots** and **leaves** secrete **certain alkaloids** that prevent the growth of other species.
- It is hard and expensive to remove them as they can regenerate from the roots.
- The **roots** of kikar spread across underneath the surface and **suck** up all the **moisture** in the soil.
- Since **herbivores** do **not** prefer to **consume** it, it has a **negative** impact on the **biodiversity** of an area.
- Its canopy blocks the sun, preventing the growth of smaller saplings.
- Also, as they shed leaves for a very short period, they need water all year, depleting the water table.
- It is helps in **transmission** of **malaria** by providing mosquitoes the sugar that the native plants may fail to provide.
- It was brought to Delhi by the British in the 1920s, when the national capital was being built.

# Which plant species will the NSG plant to replace kikar?

- In rocky areas- dhok, dhak, salar, ranjh, phulai, pahadi papri, bistendu, gundi, chamrodh, moringa, amaltas and peepal will be planted.
- In valley areas- barna, kala siris, kaim, amaltas, moringa and neem will be planted.
- In the sandy plains- khejri, pillu, jaal, roheda, amla, kanker and ashok will be planted.



#### **About NSG:**

- Also known as Black Cats, it is a counter-terrorism unit of India under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- It was founded in 1984, following Operation Blue Star, to combat terrorist activities and protect states against internal disturbances.
- It is one of the 7 Central Armed Police Forces of India.

### Other key facts:

- Nilgai is the largest Asian antelope.
- Miyawaki plantation is the Japanese method that relies on overcrowding the plantation area with saplings of different varieties to create competition that propels faster growth.