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Q86

Why is a plant called Prosopis juliflora often mentioned in news? (a) Its extract is widely used in cosmetics. (b) It tends to reduce the biodiversity in the area in which it grows. (c) Its extract is used in the synthesis of pesticides. (d) None of these Official key: B.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2018 · General Studies · 2 marks · Environment and Ecology
Environment, ecology, climate, biodiversity - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation**(a)**

(a) Its extract is widely used in cosmetics. Prosopis juliflora (vilayati kikar/mesquite) is not in the news primarily as a cosmetic crop. This option is not the key.

(b) Official key

(b) It tends to reduce the biodiversity in the area in which it grows. The species is a notorious invasive in India: it forms thickets, depletes groundwater, and displaces **native** grassland and scrub species. That biodiversity harm is why it is often mentioned. This option is the official key.

(c)

(c) Its extract is used in the synthesis of pesticides. That is not the standard news reason for naming this plant. This option is not the key.

(d)

(d) None of these. Option (b) is a correct description, so "none" fails. This option is not the key.

Summary

Official key is (b). Prosopis juliflora is an exotic invasive tree/shrub in India, blamed for suppressing **native** plants and drying sites it colonises. Cosmetic or pesticide-extract stories are not why it appears in environment news. Because (b) holds, (d) "none of these" is wrong. The WRAP letter is (b).

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Vilayati kikar / mesquite

Common Indian names for P. juliflora

Native range

Central and South America

Banni grasslands

Kachchh landscape heavily invaded by Prosopis

Invasive species

Non-native organism that spreads and harms natives

Lantana camara

Another widely cited Indian invasive plant

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