

**WRAP Exams · wrapexams.com**

Prelims PYQ, Mains model answers, and copy evaluation. Write to the desk for this paper, a doubt, or the AI waitlist.

[ask@wrapexams.com](mailto:ask@wrapexams.com) · +91 85951 84903 · [wrapexams.com](https://wrapexams.com)

Q31

**Recently, there was a growing awareness in our country about the importance of Himalayan nettle (*Girardinia diversifolia*) because it is found to be a sustainable source of (a) anti-malarial drug (b) biodiesel (c) pulp for paper industry (d) textile fibre Official key: D.**

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2019 · General Studies · 2 marks · Current Affairs and GK  
Current events, government schemes, miscellaneous GK - Prelims GS Paper I.

**Explanation****(a)**

(a) Anti-malarial drug. Himalayan nettle is not the artemisinin/cinchona story, so this is not the key.

**(b)**

(b) Biodiesel. Jatropha and some oilseeds are biodiesel candidates; *Girardinia* is not framed that way, so this is not the key.

**(c)**

(c) Pulp for paper. Some nettles can yield fibre, but the recent Himalayan livelihood push is textile fibre, not paper pulp as the exam claim, so this is not the key.

**(d) Official key**

(d) Textile fibre. *Girardinia diversifolia* (Himalayan nettle, allo) yields a strong bast fibre used for yarn and cloth in Uttarakhand-Nepal hill economies, promoted as a sustainable textile. That use is the official key.

**Summary**

Official key is (d) textile fibre. Himalayan nettle is a wild bast fibre of the mid-Himalaya, woven into local textiles as an alternative to purely imported fibres. It is not an anti-malarial, biodiesel crop or paper-industry headline. Honour the stored letter (d).

**Related possible facts**

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

**Species**

*Girardinia diversifolia*

**Local name**

Allo (Nepal); Himalayan nettle

**Part used**

Bast fibre from stem

**Askable twin**

Hemp, ramie, flax as other bast fibres

**Region**

Uttarakhand, Nepal, parts of NE hills

---

WRAP Exams · Write. Read. Analyse. Practice. · <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/prelims/gs/2019/recently-there-was-a-growing-awareness-in-our-country-about-the-importance-of-himalayan-nettle-girardinia-diversifolia-because-it-is-found-to-be-a-sustainable-source-of/> · [ask@wrapexams.com](mailto:ask@wrapexams.com) · [wrapexams.com](https://wrapexams.com)