Salvadora alii recorded in Rajasthan

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Why in News?

Forest scientists in Rajasthan have documented Salvadora alii, a species of Peelu (Jaal) in the state for the first time, with findings reported in November 2026.

- The discovery follows nearly 16 years of floristic exploration and research motivated by ecological and climatic similarities between Sindh and Rajasthan.
- It adds a third *Salvadora* species to Rajasthan's flora alongside *Salvadora oleoides* ("Meetha Jaal") and *Salvadora persica* ("Khari Jaal").

Key Highlights

- **Districts Recorded-** Presence of the species has been documented across **Jodhpur, Jalore, Bhilwara, and Bharatpur** districts in Rajasthan.
- **Distinctive White Fruits -** Unlike *S. oleoides* and *S. persica*—which bear pinkish-red or reddish-brown ripe fruits—*Salvadora alii* is easily distinguished by its **white, juicy ripe berries**.
- **Prior Indian & Global Records -** *Salvadora alii* had earlier been recorded in several Indian states, including **Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Uttar Pradesh**, before its first formal record in Rajasthan.
- **Arid & Semi-Arid Resilience -** As a member of the *Salvadoraceae* family, it thrives in dry, warm environments with low rainfall and sandy soils.

Features	Detail
Scientific Name	*Salvadora alii*
Family	Salvadoraceae
Common / Vernacular Names	Peelu / Pilu / Jaal / White-Berry Toothbrush Tree
Key Distinguishing Feature	**White ripe berries** (vs. pinkish-red / reddish-brown in *S. oleoides* and *S. persica*)
Other *Salvadora* Species in Rajasthan	*Salvadora oleoides* ("Meetha Jaal") and *Salvadora persica* ("Khari Jaal")

Ecological Significance

- **Arid & Saline Adaptation -** *Salvadora* species (such as *S. persica* and *S. oleoides*) are xerophytic and salt-tolerant shrubs/small trees well-suited to arid and semi-arid landscapes, supporting soil stabilization, shelterbelts, and local fodder needs (such as for camels and goats).
- **Ethnobotanical Uses -** Members of the genus are widely known in traditional medicine and oral hygiene famously linked to **Miswak** (chewing sticks/twigs derived from *Salvadora*

species)—as well as for seed oil and local ecological value.



Reference

ETV Bharat | New Species Of 'Peelu'

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