

great buckthorn is a shrub with yellow-orange edible berry. It is found in the tree-line of Himalayan ranges and in the cold dry regions of Ladakh and Spiti.

These crops have numerous values.

#### Medicinal values:

These crops can be used for treating stomach, heart and skin problems.

Various researches found that it has vitamins, carotenoids and omega fatty acid.

#### Ecological values:

It can prevent soil erosion and helps in conserving biodiversity. It can be used as an alternative to willow trees which are lost due to pest attack.

#### Commercial values

These crops can be used for making jams and squeezes. But

they cannot provide sustainable raw material and needs large planting.

### Recent initiatives

- Ministry of environment, forest and climate change has asked the government to encourage planting trees.
- The chief minister of Himachal Pradesh in his budget announced to cultivate scabuckthorn in a vast land area.
- The scabuckthorn association has requested to plant other shrubs using CAMPAs.

These trees can help conserve the ecology of Himalayan region which is facing a huge environmental threat.