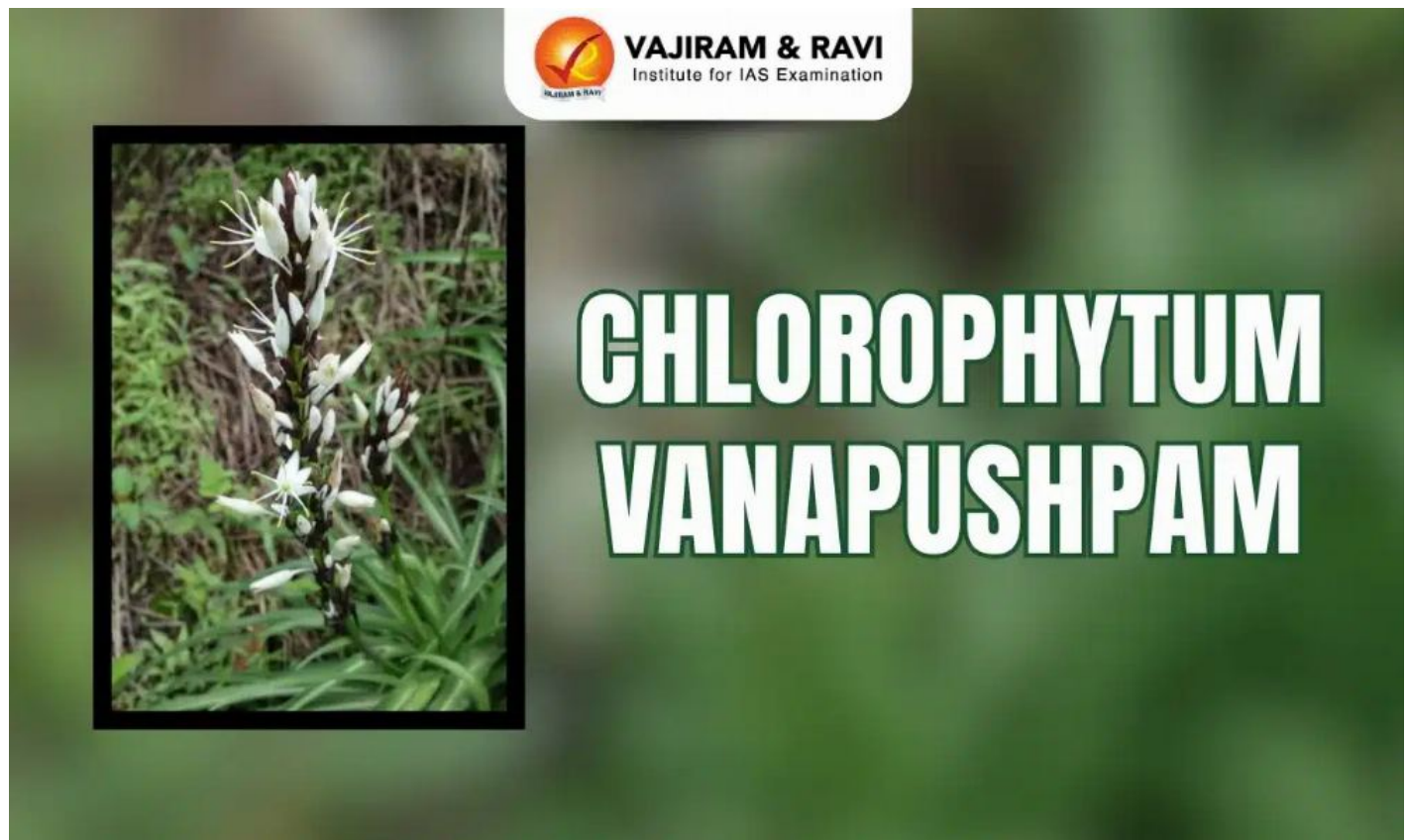


Chlorophytum Vanapushpam

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Researchers during a field exploration in Idukki district's Vagamon hills have identified a new species of the genus Chlorophytum and named the new species as Chlorophytum vanapushpam.

About Chlorophytum Vanapushpam

- It is a **perennial herb** belonging to the **genus Chlorophytum** (family Asparagaceae).
- It is a **close relative of the safed musli**.
- It has been found in the rocky hills of Vagamon and Neymakkad – parts of the **Western Ghats regions** of Idukki district – at **elevations between 700 m and 2124 m**.
- The species **name vanapushpam** is a composite of 'Vanam' and 'Pushpam,' the Malayalam for forest and flower respectively.
- **Features of Chlorophytum vanapushpam:**
 - It has **white flowers** in small clusters and slender leaves and grows **up to 90 cm in height**.

- But unlike its more famous cousin *Chlorophytum borivillianum*, *Chlorophytum vanapushpam* lacks tubers.
- Its seeds are **about 4 to 5 mm across**. Flowering and fruiting occurs **from September to December**.
- The Western Ghats region is thought to be a centre of **origin of the genus *Chlorophytum***.
- A total of 18 species have been identified here so far, with many of them exhibiting medicinal properties.
- One of these is the ***Chlorophytum borivillianum***, more familiar to Indians as the 'safed musli,' a herb widely used in traditional medical preparations and also popular as a leaf vegetable.

Source: TH

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