



ST. ALOYSIUS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS)

JABALPUR, MADHYA PRADESH

Reaccredited 'A+' grade by NAAC
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India covers more than **45,000 variety** of plants due to its wide range of climatic conditions, out of which many are exclusive to it. India can be divided into **eight distinct-floristic-regions**, ranging from the western Himalayas to the Andamans. **TREES OF INDIA** hold great **medicinal value** and have been used since ancient times. They have great **religious and cultural importance**. Tree worship is still the element of modern Indian traditions. Let us look into some trees and their unique values.



1. KADAM TREE



Neolamarckia cadamba or commonly called Cadamba or **Kadam** is an evergreen, tropical tree, prevalent in the districts of Chamba, Kangra, Manipur, Bilaspur, Kullu and Sirmour. It is an **ornamental plant** that is also used for **timber and paper-making**. It has crucial significance in **Indian mythology and religion**. Various religions in India have strongly believed that God lives inside a Cadamba tree based on its **enormous significance to humankind**.

2. RAKTACHANDANA

Pterocarpus santalinus, or red sandalwood, a species of *Pterocarpus* endemic to the Southern Eastern Ghats Mountain range of South India. The wood is traditionally considered **not aromatic**. The rare “**wavy**” grain variant is highly valued for its acoustic properties and is used to make **musical instruments**. In addition, the extraction of **Santalin** (a red pigment used as dye and colorant in food), **medicine and cosmetics**. Its IUCN Red List status is “**Endangered**.”



3. THE INDIAN BUTTER TREE



The Mahua tree (*Madhuca longifolia*) dots the dry tropical forests of southern India. Indigenous communities use the bark of the tree as **medicine**, the fruit as **food** and of course the flowers as the **prime ingredient in the eponymous liquor**. According to **WHO (2003)** approximately **65%** of the world's population integrate the medicinal plant for treatment. Every part of the tree-the leaves, fruits, flowers, seeds, bark and roots are valuable

4. KHORASANI IMLI

Mandu ki Imli, a local parlance for the **Baobab**, is a special kind of tamarind used by the people of **Mandu** in the State of Madhya Pradesh, India. The fruit which looks like papaya is considered to be highly nutritious as it is a good source of **Vitamin C and calcium**. Mandu is the only place in the whole of Asia where one can find Baobab trees. In African Cultures and Indian Mythology, it is called– **The Tree of Life**.



5. KUSUM TREE



Scheleichera oleosa or as Ayurveda calls it the **Koshamra** or the **Kusum** is one of the main trees of undisturbed forests in **Madhya Pradesh and the Deccan Plateau**. It is considered as a **multipurpose tree** and has been traditionally used for **medicine, fuel, kusum oil, fodder, dyes, tannins** and many more things. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species in 2018 listed it as **Least Concern species**, one step from being near threatened.

FUN FACTS

1. By planting nearly **20 million trees**, the Earth, and its population will be provided with **260 million more tons of oxygen**. Those same 20 million trees will also remove the **10 million tons of CO₂**.

2. The *Ailanthus altissimo*, or **tree of heaven**, is said to be the only tree that can grow in cement.

3. **Pine trees** grow on **six of seven continents**, with Antarctica being the only one left out.

4. There are **Eucalyptus trees** in **Hawaii** with natural **rainbow-colored barks**.



Trees are a poem the earth writes across the sky.

Mother Nature is as much a gift to us as she is our responsibility, we must treat her with love and care. Her generosity knows no bounds; nor does her wrath when she is slighted and mistreated.

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