

Tree of states and union territories of India: An overview

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Abstract

Republic of India is made up of 28 states and 8 union territories. All Indian states have their own government and the Union territories come under the jurisdiction of the Central Government. All States and Union territories have their own administrative seals, symbols, animals, birds, flowers and trees. All twenty eight States have their State tree and six Union territories have designated their tree. The members of the seventeen families of angiosperm represent as a State and Union territories tree and one member of gymnosperm of the family Pinaceae designated as a State tree of Himachal Pradesh.

Keywords: trees, state, union territories, India

Introduction

India is seventh largest country in the world and also the second populous. It lies in southern Asia. It is officially known as the Republic of India. It is governed by a parliamentary form of government. It gets very difficult to manage the large country from one place. So Indian Constitution gives right to the central government to make states as it feels suitable. This article talks about the list of States tree with scientific name, family, name of the state, common name and note of the tree.

Methodology

State and Union territory trees have been selected from literature (Bentham and Hooker, 1862-1883; Patil, 2003; Singh and Kartikeyan 2000; and Singh, Laxminarasimhan, Kartikeyan and Prasanna, 2001) ^[1, 3, 5]. Plant species have been enumerated based on characteristics features observed in respective species with scientific name, family, common name, State or Union territory name and morphology.

Enumeration

1. *Aegle marmelos* (L.) Correa.

Family: Rutaceae

Common name: Bael Fruit Tree

Union territory tree: Puducherry

A deciduous spiny tree grows height up to 12 meters tall. Leaves alternate, trifoliate, leaflets sessile, ovate-elliptic or elliptic-lanceolate, oblique at base. The inflorescence axillary and terminal, racemose or corymbose. Flowers are bisexual, greenish white or yellow fragrant. Fruit is berry, globose, ovoid, woody and yellow in color.

2. *Alnusnepalensis* D. Dan

Family: Betulaceae

Common name: Alder

State tree: Nagaland

A large deciduous tree with silver grey bark. The tree reaches upto 30 meters in height. The plant has unisexual flower. Leaves are simple, alternate, obovate and lanceolate.

The flowers are unisexual, green; male flowers in spikes in terminal drooping panicle, bracts 3-flowered, with 3-5 adnate bracteoles; perianth 4 lobed; female flowers in short erect spikes, flowers pendulous, bracteoles 2-4, perianth absent. Fruit a strobilate spike.

3. *Alstoniascholaris* (L.) R. Br.

Family: Apocynaceae

Common name: Chatim

State tree: West Bengal

It is an elegant evergreen tree. It grows with a height of 40-60 meters. The tree is often exploited for its valuable timber. Leaves simple occur in whorls of four to ten, narrowly obovate and spatulate in shape. The flowers are greenish white in color with a very fragrant. The fruit is follicle in hanging pairs and green to brown.

4. *Aquillariaagallocha* Lamx.

Family: Thymelaceae.

Common name: Agar, Aguru

State tree: Tripura

It is large evergreen tree grows upto 23 meters in height. Agar wood oil is obtained from the resin of the tree. Leaves are thin leathery, lanceolate to ovate-oblong and shiny. Flowers are small, white greenish in colors. Fruits slightly compressed, yellowish, to men tose capsules.

5. *Artocarpusaltilis* (Parkinson) Fosberg.

Family: Moraceae

Common name: Bread fruit

Union territory tree: Lakshadweep

It is a large attractive, evergreen tree reaching a height 20-30 meters. Leaves thick deeply cut into pinnate lobes. It is monoecious plant bears both male and female flowers on the same plant. Male flowers are developed on club shaped spike inflorescence. Female flowers are small and globose. After pollination of female flowers develop into a spherical to cylindrical, smooth to rough skinned fruit.

6. *Azadirachta indica* A Juss.

Family: Meliaceae
Common name: Neem
State tree: Andhra Pradesh

Evergreen tree with a greenish brown bark grows up to 20 meters, bark grayish-brown. Leaves are compound imparipinnate, exstipulate, leaflets 7-15, opposite, margin serrate and alternate. Flowers are bisexual, white and in axillary panicle. Fruit drupe, greenish-yellow and one seeded.

7. *Borassus flabellifer* L. Family-Arecaceae

Common name: Palmyra palm
State tree: Tamil Nadu

Palmyra palm is an evergreen tall single stemmed palm tree growing to 30 meters. The leaves are fan shaped, 3-meter-long with robust black teeth on the petiole margins. It is dioecious with male and female flowers on separate plants. The male flowers are less than 1 cm long and form cluster. The female flowers are golf ball sized and solitary. The sap obtained from top shoot in hanging earthen pot called toddy. The fruit is drupe, yellow and globose.

8. *Cedrus deodara* (Roxb. Ex. D. Don) G. Don

Family: Pinaceae
Common name: Deodar
State tree: Himachal Pradesh

It is a large evergreen coniferous tree reaching 40-50 meter tall. It has a conic crown with level branches and drooping branchlets. The leaves are needle like mostly 2.5-5 cm long, occasionally up to 7 cm long, slender, borne singly on long shoots, and in dense clusters of 20-30 on short shoots; they vary from bright green to glaucous blue-green in color. The female cones are barrel-shaped, 7-13 cm long and 5-8 cm broad, and disintegrate when mature to release the winged seeds. The male cones are 4-6 cm long, and shed their pollen in autumn.

9. *Cocos nucifera* L. Family- Arecaceae

Common name: Coconut
State tree: Kerala and Goa

Unbranched, monoicous tree with smooth, columnar trunk, usually 9-18 meters in height. Leaves compound pinnate, 4-7-meter-long. Flowers are small light yellow, male flowers are small & more numerous. Female flowers are fewer and larger. Fruit a fibrous drupe with watery endosperm. The fruit is used in various festivals and performing veneration.

10. *Dalbergia sissoo* D.C. Family- Fabaceae

Common name: Indian Rosewood, Shisam
State tree: Punjab

Medium to large tree grows up to 25 meters in height. The wood is used for cabinetry and furniture. Leaves are leathery, alternate, Pinnately compound. Flowers are whitish to pink and fragrant. Fruits are pod, linear-oblong with kidney shaped seeds.

11. *Delonix regia* (Hook.) Raf.

Family: Caesalpiniaceae
Common name: Gulmohar
Union territory tree: Delhi

It is a fast-growing tree with umbrella shaped spreading crown with a long horizontal branch grows up to 3 meters. Leaves are compound, imparipinnate, alternate, Flowers are large showy in clusters with bright red color. The fruit is large, elongated, flattened and woody pod.

12. *Dipterocarpus macrocarpus* – Vesque.

Family Dipterocarpaceae
Common name: Hollong
State tree: Arunachal Pradesh and Assam

It is large tree 45 meters tall. It is a timber and sacred tree for *Maran* community of Assam. It is used in plywood industry. Leaves elliptical-oblong shortly acuminate at apex. Flowers are bisexual, solitary pinkish. Fruits are ovoid.

13. *Ficus benghalensis*

Family: Moraceae
Common name: Banyan
State tree: Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat

It is a large evergreen to deciduous tree grows up to 25 meters tall with wide leafy crown and branches spreading with pillar like prop root and accessory trunks. Leaves are simple, alternate, stout and ovate-cordate. Inflorescence is a hypanthodium. Unisexual male flowers numerous ostiolar with short pedicel and female flower sessile. Fruits are syconus.

14. *Ficus recemosa* Linn.

Family: Moraceae
Common name: Cluster fig, gular
State tree: Odisha

It is a deciduous tree up to 30 meter tall. The red furry figs grow in clusters directly at the trunk of tree. Leaves are simple, alternate, stipulate and lanceolate. Flowers are unisexual, inflorescence a hypanthium. Fruits are syconus.

15. *Ficus religiosa* L.

Family: Moraceae
Common name: Peepal, Ashwatha
State tree: Bihar and Haryana

It is a deciduous tree up to 30 meters tall. The leaves are simple cordate in shape, alternate, young leaves are frequently pink in color. Flowers are unisexual, inflorescence a hypanthium. It is most sacred tree Plant. Fruits are syconus.

16. *Gmelina arborea* Roxb.

Family: Verbenaceae
Common name: White teak
State tree: Meghalaya

It is a deciduous tree grows up to 30 meter in height. The wood is one of the best timbers useful for, plywood,

furniture. Leaves are simple, opposite, exstipulate, tomentose and broadly ovate. Flowers bisexual, occur in narrow branching clusters at the end of branches. The yellow flower, tinged with brown, is trumpet shaped. The trumpets flare open into a gaping mouth with 5 distinct lobes. Fruit is yellow, ovoid, pulpy and drupe.

17. *Magnifera indica* L.

Family: Anacardiaceae

Common name: Mango

State tree: Maharashtra and Chandigarh

It is evergreen tree reaches in height up to 30 meters. The leaves are simple, alternate, clustered at the tip of branchlets, narrow oblong-elliptic or lanceolate, exstipulate, glabrous, shiny and pulvinate. The flowers are polygamous and yellowish-green in terminal panicle. Fruit is a drupe green when unripe but becomes yellowish-red when ripe with fleshy mesocarp. It is sacred plant and fruit often called as King of fruits.

18. *Mesua ferrea* L.

Family: Calophyllaceae

Common name: Iron wood, Nagkesar, Nagesar

State tree: Mizoram

The evergreen glabrous tree grow over 30 meter tall with buttressed at the base with a trunk. The leaves are simple, opposite narrow oblong to lanceolate. The bisexual flowers are with white petals and numerous orange yellow stamens. Fruit is ovoid to globose berry.

19. *Petrocarpus dalbergioides* DC.

Family: Fabaceae

Common name: Andaman Red wood

Union territory tree: Andaman and Nicobar Island

A large deciduous tree with buttresses. Leaves are alternate pinnately compound, imparipinnate, pulvinate, leaflets 5-9, ovate-lance shaped, alternate. Flowers are small yellow in panicles. Fruits are flat, round, winged and long stalked pod with a single kidney-shaped seed.

20. *Platanus orientalis* L.

Family: Platanaceae

Common name: Chinar

Union territory tree: Jammu and Kashmir

It is a very large, wide spreading and long-lived deciduous tree. Leaves are alternate, deeply 3-7 lobed, palmate or maple-like, with coarsely toothed margins. It usually has flaking bark, occasionally not flaking and becoming thick and rugged. The flowers are small, non-showy, monoecious flowers appear in small rounded clusters in April. Female flowers give way to bristly, long-stalked, spherical fruiting balls that ripen to brown in October and persist into early winter. Flowers and fruit are round, borne in clusters of between 2 and 6 on a stem. The Chinar tree is an integral part of Kashmiri culture. Almost every village in the valley has a Chinar tree.

21. *Prosopis cineraria* (L.) Druce.

Family: Mimosaceae

Common name: Khejri

State tree: Rajasthan and Telangana

It is a small evergreen tree ranging in height from 3-6-meter. Leaves are bipinnate with seven to fourteen leaflets on each of one to three pinnae. Branches are thorny along internodes. Flowers are small and creamy yellow-green in color. The fruit is pod, oval shaped and brown in color.

22. *Rhododendron arboretum* Sm.

Family: Ericaceae

Common name: Burans

State tree: Uttarakhand

An evergreen shrub or a small tree grows up to 20 meters in height. The bark is rough and pinkish brown. The leaves are crowded towards end of branches, oblong-lanceolate and narrowed at ends, dark green with silvery, fawn or brown hairy coating beneath. The flowers are many in terminal, large, bright red or pink in color. Fruits are capsular.

23. *Rhododendron niveum* Hoo k.f.

Family: Ericaceae

Common name: Rhododendron

State tree: Sikkim

Evergreen small tree reaches up to 6 meters. Leaves are alternate, simple oblong-lanceolate to elliptical, shining green above, snow white below and turning silvery grey on maturity. Flowers are deep magenta to deep lilac, rounded cluster with 15-20 flowers.

24. *Santalum album* L.

Family: Santalaceae

Common name: Sandalwood

State tree: Karnataka

A medium size hemi-parasite tree evergreen tree grows up to 20 meter in height. Leaves thin simple opposite ovate or elliptical. Flowers are purplish brown small straw-colored reddish green to violet. Fruit a globose, fleshy drupe, red purple to black in color.

25. *Saraca asoca* (Roxb.) De Wilde.

Family: Caesalpiniaceae Common name: Ashoka, Asoka

State Tree: Uttar Pradesh

It is small evergreen tree. It is one of most important sacred tree. Leaves are compound, paripinnate and alternate. The flowers are orange or orange yellow in color with good fragrance. The fruit is leathery, flat, four to eight seeded pod.

26. *Shorea robusta* Gaertn.

Family: Dipterocarpaceae

Common name: Sal

State tree: Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand

It is moderate slow growing tree, which can grow up to 30-50 meters tall. The leaves are ovate oblong, simple alternate and lanceolate-ovate to oblong-elliptic. Flowers are large, fragrant, yellow or cream white.

27. *Toona ciliata* M. Roem.

Family: Meliaceae

Common name: Indian Mahogany

State tree: Manipur

A large deciduous tree generally with wide spreading and handsome crown attaining a height of 45-meter. Leaves are alternate, pinnately compound, with 5 to 17 leaflets. Flowers are unisexual, white and fragrant. The fruits are capsule

Discussion

All the twenty eight States and Union territories have designated angiosperm plants as a State or Union territory tree, except the State Himachal Pradesh has designated their State tree belongs to the family Pinaceae of gymnosperm i.e. *Cedrus deodara*, as this plant is dominating their vegetation. The genus *Ficus* of the family Moraceae is dominated as a State tree of Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha. *Ficus* is relatively ancient genus; it has cultural importance throughout the country, both as objects of worship and for their many medicinal uses (Shah Aparna). *Ficus* tree can play important role in ecological restoration. The *Ficus* trees are supporting the regeneration of plant communities of the general landscape (H. Eden *et al*, 2016)^[2]. The members of the family Dipterocarpaceae represent State tree of four States, such as Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand. The two coastal States Kerala and Goa having the same State tree i.e. *Cocosnucifera*. The two Union territories Dadara and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu and Ladakh not designated their tree.

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