

Chapter 21

Tree Treasures

Trees in India, known for their grandeur and majesty are like the green pearl in the Indian crown. Trees occupy an important place in the history of India. Trees have always been associated with wisdom and immorality in India. Hindu literature describes a celestial tree as having its roots in heaven and its branches in the underworld that unites and connects beings of every kind.



Neem tree is popularly known as the Miracle tree. It is a useful tree in rehabilitating the waste land areas. Even today Neem tree is the focal point of village life and the village council meetings under the shade of this huge tree.

Brahmi is the small creeping herb with numerous branches. Herpestis monniera is another known species of Brahmi plant. It is rich in Vitamin C. Brahmi is the name derived from Lord Brahma. Brahmi represents the creative energy of the earth.



Hundreds of trees are protected as living natural monuments in India and **Peepal** is one of them. It is popularly known as the Bodhi tree in India, under which Lord Buddha attained enlightenment. It is the sacred tree of India.

Eucalyptus is the tall evergreen tree. There are more than 700 species of Eucalyptus all over the world. Eucalyptus is mainly used as the pulpwood in the manufacture of the paper as well as raw material.



Indian **Mahogany** is a fast upright growing tree with a broad rounded symmetrical crown. Swietenia mahagoni is the scientific name given to the Indian mahogany. It is mostly propagated through seeds.

Tulsi is the sacred plant of India dearer to the Lord Vishnu. Tulsi symbolises purity. Many people wear the Tulsi beads, which are said to have certain physical and medicinal properties. It is known as Holy Basil in English and Tulsi in Sanskrit.



Amla is the wonder plant, a unique gift of mother nature to mankind. Its fruit is the richest source of Vitamin C. It holds the special reputation of being the most powerful rejuvenating herb. It is popularly known as Indian Gooseberry.

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Ashwagandha is an evergreen shrub that grows up to the height of 0.5 m to 1.5 m. Ashwagandha is a powerful herb that is believed to increase health and longevity. One can find this medicinal plant in the Ranthambore National Park in India.





Garden Asparagus is an herbaceous perennial and is well-known for its edible young shoots. Garden Asparagus is known to have more than 250 species all over the world. The delicate flavour of Asparagus makes it favourite among the vegetable lovers.

Arjuna is a large deciduous tree. Terminalia Arjuna tree is common throughout India especially in the sub Himalayan tracts and Eastern India. In Indian mythology, Arjuna is supposed to be Sita's favourite tree.





Aloe Vera is a popular herb with the botanical name of Aloe barbadensis. Aloe Vera has been used as the source of medicines for thousands of years. It is believed to have been used for the preservation of the body of Jesus Christ.

Banyan tree is the National tree of India. It has the widest reaching roots of all known trees, easily covering several hectares. It is said that more than 10,000 people can sit under its shade at one time.



Think Fast

Identify the leaves and name the trees :

1 

2 

3 

4 

5 

6 

7 

8 

9 

10 

11 

12 

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