



Flower of states and union territories of India: An overview

S K Tayade, S S Pathak*

Post-Graduate, Department of Botany, PSGVP Mandal's Arts, Science and Commerce College, Shahada, Nandurbar, Maharashtra, India

Abstract

It 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 seals, symbol, animal, bird, tree and flower. In all twenty-nine plant species represents their flower as a state and union territory flower, from which twenty-one belongs to Dicotyledon and eight belongs to Monocotyledon. The six States flower belongs to the family Orchidaceae and three States and two Union territories flower belongs to the family Fabaceae.

Keywords: flowers, 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 state flowers with scientific name, family, name of the state, common name and note of the tree.

Methodology

State and Union territory flower plant species have been selected from literature (Bentham and Hooker, 1862-1883; Patil, 2003 Singh and Kartikeyan 2000; and Singh, Sharma, Singh, Kartikeyan and Laxminarasimhan 1996, Laxminarasimhan, Kartikeyan and Prasanna, 2001)^[1, 6, 7, 8, 9]. Plant species have been enumerated based on characteristics features observed in respective species with scientific name, family, common name, state or Union territory name morphology and flowering period.

Enumeration

1. *Bauhinia variegata* L

Family- Caesalpiniaceae

Common name- Kachnar

State flower- Bihar

A small deciduous tree grows up to 10-12 meter in tall and often grown as ornamental. The leaves are simple, cordate, dull green and alternate. Flowers are large, white, pink or purple, showy.

Flowering- February to May

2. *Butea monosperma* (Lam.) Taub.

Family- Fabaceae

Common name- Flame of the forest, Palash

State flower- Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand

Union territory flower- Chandigarh

A small to medium sized deciduous tree, usually reaching a height of 5-10 meter. Leaves are trifoliate, alternate,

stipulate and cauducous. Flowers are attractive, showy, bright orange-red in terminal or axillary raceme.

Flowering- March to May

3. *Cassia fistula* L

Family- Caesalpiniaceae

Common name- Amaltas

State flower- Kerala

The medium sized fast growing tree, reaching a height of 10-20 meter. The leaves are deciduous, compound with 3 to 8 pairs of leaflets. The flowers are produced in pendulous raceme, which are large, showy bright yellow in colors.

Flowering- March to May

4. *Couroupita guianensis* Aubl

Family- Lecythidaceae

Common name- Cannon ball tree, Kailashpati, Naglinga

Union territory flower- Puducherry

It is a large deciduous tree reaches in height up to 35 meter. Leaves are occur in clusters at the ends of branches, simple, margin serrate, usually narrowly obovate-elliptic and alternate. The flowers are showy, strongly scented, reddish to pink, yellow in color at apex.

Flowering- January to February

5. *Crpripedium reginae* L

Family- Orchidaceae

Common name- Lady slipper

State flower- Chattisgarh

It is a large terrestrial orchid growing 3 fit in height with many stems from the same rootstock, each stem has 3 to 5 alternate, pubescent, ovate shaped leaves. Flowering stems one to three large, white and pink flowers with pouch shaped labellun. The flowers are beautiful, showy and upper petals are white. The lip of the flower is slipper shaped.

Flowering- June to July

6. *Cymbidium goeringii* (Rchb. F.) Rchb.f

Family- Orchidaceae

Common name- Noble orchid

State flower- Sikkim

It is terrestrial evergreen orchid with underground pseudobulb, which grow along with rhizome. Leaves are grass like, long, simple, linear and elliptic. Flowers are usually single rarely two and covered by number of alternating whites to green sheath, green in color and fragrant.

Flowering- January to March

7. *Gladiolus grandiflorus* L

Family- Iridaceae

Common name- Sword lily

State flower- Punjab

A perennial herb with underground corm. Leaves are narrow, sword-shaped, longitudinal grooves and enclosed in sheath. Lower leaf is shortened to a cataphyll. The flowers are large, spikes, one sided and subtended by two leathery green bracts. The flowers are variously colored ranging from pink to reddish or light purple with contrasting markings or orange red.

Flowering- May to June

8. *Gloriosa superba* L

Family- Liliaceae

Common name- Glory lily

State flower- Tamilnadu

This plant is a perennial herb growing from a fleshy rhizome and climbing using modified leaf-tip tendrils and reaching 4-meter-long. Leaves are alternate, lance shaped and bright green in color. The leaf tip elongates into a slender tendril that coils around nearby support to get a grip. The flowers are beautiful, attractive with bright red to orange colors. The perianths have wavy and curling margins.

Flowering- November to March

9. *Jasminum officinale* L

Family- Oleaceae

Common name- Jasmine, Chameli

State flower- Andhra Pradesh

It is a shrubby climber. Leaves are, opposite and pinnate, leaflets are 3-7, ovate and pointed. Flowers are white highly fragrant.

Flowering- February to November

10. *Lagerstroemia hypoleuca* Kurz

Family- Lythraceae

Common name- Andaman crape myrtle

Union territory flower- Andaman and Nicobar

It is a large deciduous tree with thin whitish bark. Leaves are simple, distichous, nearly opposite, and elliptic to ovate. Oblong to lance shaped, thinly leathery and pale beneath. Flowers are many, showy, borne in large cylindrical or narrowly pyramidal panicle at branch ends, purple or lilac in colors. It is endemic to Andaman Islands.

Flowering- July to August

11. *Lagerstroemia speciosa* (L.) Pers.

Family- Lythraceae

Common name- Taman

State flower- Maharashtra

It is small to medium sized tree growing to 20 meters tall. The leaves are deciduous, oval to elliptic. The flowers are produced in erect panicle, brightly colored mauve or pink with crinkled petals.

Flowering- March to June

12. *Lilium mackliniae* L

Family- Liliaceae

Common name- Siroi lily, Shirui lily

State flower- Manipur

It is bulbous herb with height of 22-40 centimeter. Leaves are many irregular, spirals, linear-elliptic. Flowers are one to few in raceme, campanulate in shape and brick red colored. It was first discovered by English botanist Kingdon F Ward in 1946 and named it '*Lilium mackliniae*' after the maiden name of his wife Jean Macklin.

Flowering- July to August

13. *Medicago sativa* L

Family- Fabaceae

Common name- Alfalfa

Union territory flower- Delhi

An evergreen herb, perennial leguminous plant and reaching 30-60 centimeter in height, Leaves are trifoliate with obovate leaflets. The flowers are violet to pale lavender in color and corolla papilionaceous in form.

Flowering- Throughout the year

14. *Mesua ferrea* L

Family- Clusiaceae

Common name- Nag kesar

State flower – Tripura

It is an evergreen, large, glabrous tree grows over 30 meters tall, often buttressed at the base with trunk. Leaves are simple, opposite, decussate, narrow oblong to lanceolate, blue grey to dark green in color. The emerging young leaves are red to yellowish pink and drooping. The flowers are fragrant, showy, solitary or in pairs white-orange yellow.

Flowering- March to July

15. *Nelumbo nucifera* Gaertn

Family- Nymphaeaceae

Common name- Lotus, Kamal

State flower- Karnataka and Haryana

It is perennial aquatic plant with rhizome, grows in mud, lakes, lagoons marshes. Leaves are large, waxy, petiolate, rise above the water surface on 1 to 2 meter long. The strikingly water repellent leaf surface has inspired the term 'lotus effect'. Flowers are large, cupped, fragrant, pink or white. It is most sacred plant of India.

Flowering- August to November

16. *Nyctanthus arbor-tristis* L

Family- Oleaceae

Common name- Shephali, Parijat

State flower- West Bengal

A deciduous shrub or small tree grows up to 10 meters tall. Leaves are simple, opposite, long and broad. Flowers are fragrant with 5 to 8 lobed, corolla white with an orange-red center.

Flowering- Throughout the year

17. *Paphiopedilum insigne* (Wall.exLindl.) Pfitzer

Family- Orchidaceae

Common name- Lady's slipper

State flower- Meghalaya

It is rare, endangered, endemic, terrestrial orchid grows up to 10-12 centimeter. Leaves are 6-12, linear-ligulate, sheathing

at base, strap shaped, pointed and pale green. Flowers are 1 or 2 dark green- brown, purple-pubescent inflorescence that has an ovate, pubescent, glabrous floral bract. The flowers are showy, vary in size and color.

Flowering- October to December

18. *Plumeria alba* L

Family- Apocynaceae

Common name- Golanchi, Parijatak

State flower- Goa

It is deciduous spreading shrub or small tree, grows up to 2-8 meter tall. Leaves are simple, large and alternate; leaves tend to fall in early winter as sensitive to cold. Flowers are pink to white with yellow centers. The flowers give off their fragrance in the morning and in the evening. The petals are small and overlapping.

Flowering- March to September

19. *Renanthera imschootiana* Rolfe

Family- Orchidaceae

Common name- Red vanda

State flower- Mizoram

It is medium sized epiphytic endangered plant, which reaching a height of 90 centimeter. Leaves are linear, leathery, truncately rounded, bilobed apically. Flowers are bright-red, dorsal sepal linear-lanceolate, lateral sepal elliptic-ovate, clawed, petals spatulate, 3 lobed with short spur.

Flowering- March to September

20. *Rhododendron arboretum* Sm

Family- Ericaceae

Common name- Burans

State flower- Nagaland

It is evergreen shrub or small tree growing to 12 meters. Leaves are oblong-lanceolate, broad, dark green. Flowers are deep scarlet to red, bell shaped, showy in dense globose cymose. This plant holds the Guinness Record for world's largest *Rhododendron*.

Flowering- March to September

21. *Rhododendron campanulatum* D. Don

Family- Ericaceae

Common name- Bell Rhododendron, Chimura, Semru

State flower- Himachal Pradesh

A shrub or small tree grows up to 5 meters tall. Leaves are simple, alternate, oblong to elliptic, rounded or cuneate at base. Flowers are arranged in terminal clusters corymbose racemes, pale purple, pink tinged white or pink to rosy purple in colors and bell shaped.

Flowering- April to June

22. *Rhododendron ponticum* L

Family- Ericaceae

Common name- Rhododendron

Union territory flower- Jammu and Kashmir

It is a dense, suckering shrub or small tree growing up to 5 meters tall. The leaves are evergreen, glabrous, dark green, glossy above, paler beneath and oblong to elliptic. The flowers are violet-purple, often with small greenish- yellow in colors.

Flowering- May to June

23. *Rynchosyilis retusa* (L.) Blume

Family- Orchidaceae

Common name- Foxtail orchid, Kopouphul

State flower- Assam and Arunachal Pradesh

It is epiphytic herb grows up to 50 centimeter in height. Leaves are sessile, oblong, curved. Flowers are arranged in racemes, lateral, drooping as leaves and many flowered, light pink with deep blotches, sepals ovate and petals oblong, obtuse, lip erect, oblong, slightly widening upward, sepals white, petals with pink blotches and a pink flower lip.

Flowering- June to September

24. *Saraca asoca* (Roxb.) Willd

Family- Caesalpiniaceae

Common name- Asoka

State flower- Odisha

It is evergreen tree. Leaves are compound, paripinnate, alternate, copper red when young and green when mature. Flowers are fragrant, come in heavy, lush bunches, bright orange-yellow in color and turning red.

Flowering- February to April

25. *Saussurea obvallata* (Dc.) Edgew

Family- Asteraceae

Common name- Brahma kamal

State flower- Uttarakhand

A small perennial herb grows up to 0.3 meter. Leaves are both basal and cauline, basal leaves are rosulate, petiolate, elliptic-spatulate or lanceolate, slightly broadened and sheathing at base, denticulate, cuspidate and scarious at margins, acute to obtuse or cuspidate at apex. Inflorescence capitula enclosed by creamy white or pale-yellow involucre. Florets are bisexual with tubular, bluish purple or violet corolla. The plant is considered sacred.

Flowering- July to September

26. *Senna auriculata* (L.) Roxb

Family Caesalpiniaceae

Common name- Ranwara, Tarwar

State flower- Telangana

This plant is a shrub or small tree grows up to 7 meters tall. Leaves are alternate, paripinnately compound, stipule large and leafy. Flowers are irregular, bisexual, large and bright yellow in color.

Flowering- More or less throughout the year

27. *Strobilanthes kunthiana* T. Anders ex Benth

Family- Acanthaceae

Common name- Neelakurinji

Union territory flower- Lakshadweep

It is shrub, usually grows up to 30 to 60 centimeter high. Leaves are simple opposite. Flowers are purplish blue in color and shows unusual flowering behavior. The spectacular mass flowering happens only once in 12 years. It is considered world's rarest flower.

Flowering- Once in lifetime in 12 years

28. *Tagetes erecta* L

Family- Asteraceae

Common name- Marigold

State flower- Gujarat

It is an herbaceous annual or perennial plant, grows up to height ranges from 30-110 centimeter. Leaves are alternate at the top and opposite at the bottom, pinnate, composed of

11 to 17 pinnae. Flowers are grouped in Capitulum with green involucre. Ray florets are few to hundreds and disc florets are 50-120 with yellow to orange, red brown in color. Flowering- Throughout year

29. *Tecomella undulate* (Sm.) Seem

Family- Bignoniaceae

Common name- Rohira, Rohitaka and Roheda

State flower- Rajasthan

It is a deciduous or nearly evergreen tree of desert or dry region. It occurs on flat and undulating areas including gentle hill slopes and sometimes also in ravines. Leaves are narrow, lance shaped with wavy margins. It produces beautiful showy tubular flowers in yellow, orange and red colors.

Flowering- December to February

Discussion

All twenty-eight states and six Union territories have their state flowers. In all total twenty-nine plant flowers are designated as state and union territory flowers of which twenty-one belongs to Dicotyledons and eight belongs to Monocotyledons. The flower of Orchidaceae family dominating with six States flower of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chattisgarh, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Sikkim of North-East part of India. India is though primary and also secondary center of origin of orchids. The family Orchidaceae is one of the largest family of flowering plants in the world. In India, 1300 orchids species pertain to 158 genera (Chada KL 1992, Cooke T 1958, and Deb BD 1983) [2, 3, 4]. The North-East region has 876 orchid species, which constitute 70 % of the total orchid flora of India. Orchids are perhaps one of the most wonderful of nature's creations. The floral structure is most diversified and possesses an almost indefinite variety of architectural pattern. (Dikshit, KR; Jutta K Dikshit, 2014) [5]. The flower of family Fabaceae represents the state flower of Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh and Union territories of Chandigarh and Delhi. The states Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand have same state flower e.g. *Butea monosperma*. The States like Bihar, Kerala, Odisha and Telangana have State flower of the family Caesalpiniaceae. The two Union territories such as Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu and Ladakh are not designated their flower.

Acknowledgment

The authors are thankful to the to the Principal, P.S.G.V.P. Mandals, Arts, Science and Commerce College, Shahada, Dist-Nandurbar (M.S.), for Library facility and constant inspiration.

References

1. Bentham G, Hooker JD. Genera plantarum. Reeve and Co., Williams and Nargate, London, England, 1862-1883, 1-3.
2. Chada KL. The Indian Orchid Scenario. J Orchid Soc. Ind., 1992;6(1-2):1-4.
3. Cooke T. The Flora of the Presidency of Bombay. Vol III (Reprt Ed) Bot Surv India, Calcutta, India, 1958.
4. Deb DB. The flora of Tripura State. Vol.II. Today & Tomorrow's Printers and Publishers, New Delhi, India, 1983.

5. Dikshit KR, Dikshit JK. Natural Vegetation: Forest and Grassland of North-East India. In: North-East India: Land, People and Economy. Advances in Asian Human-Environmental Research. Springer Dordrecht, 2014.
6. Patil DA. Flora of Dhule and Nandurbar, jalgoan District (Maharashtra). Bhishan Singh Mahendra Pal Singh, Deharadun, India, 2003.
7. Sharma BD, Karthikeyan S, Singh NP, P Laxminarsimhan. Flora of Maharashtra State: Monocotyledones. Boat Surv. India, Pune, India, 1996.
8. Singh NP, Kartikeyan S Flora of Maharashtra State: Dicotyledones, BSI Calcutta, India, 2000, 2.
9. Singh NP, Laxminarasimhan P, Kartikeyan S, Prasanna PV. Flora of Maharashtra State: Dicotyledones, BSI Calcutta, India, 2001, 1.