

Medicinal uses of religious plants of India

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ABSTRACT

Plants have a special role in religious and social ceremonies of every society. In Hindu community, varieties of plant species have been used during different religious ceremonies. The importance of plants for worshipping god and goddesses has been described in different Vedas and it could be seen in many hymns. Medicinal aspects of such sacred plants have been recorded in the ancient books viz. Vedas and Samhitas etc and knowledge has been transmitted from generation to generation. Thus, our ancestors linked various God and Goddess with several Ayurvedic medicinal plants for their conservation and named as sacred plants. These ancient beliefs show the human relation with plants which was also helpful in the conservation of plant species for their valuable qualities. The present study reveals 83 religious plants species of great medicinal value that have been associated with God and Goddess for their religious significance.

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INTRODUCTION

Since time immemorial plants have played an important role in evolution of different human civilizations. Man has been using plants in various ways since existence of life on the earth [1, 13]. Hinduism has been regarded as one of the oldest religion in the world that has a large following in Indian subcontinent. The Hindu peoples are very much concern about the use of specific plants for each and every religious occasion from birth to funeral ceremony [11, 17]. The religious plants of India are actually worshipped throughout the nation owing to their mythological significance. Traditionally Hindu use a large numbers of plant species for worshipping different gods and

goddesses. Their flowers, fruits and leaves are used during worship for pushpa-puja and patra-puja [8, 16]. Such sacred plants have also been recorded in the hindu religious books viz. Vedas, Puranas and Samhitas etc and knowledge has been transmitted from generation to generation. As mentioned in Hindu scriptures, flowers, leaves or fruits are symbolic manifestations of one's spiritual and worldly ambitions in life. No Hindu worship is complete without offering flowers, leaves or fruits to the deities. They use it in many ways including worshipping gods and goddess for the protection and betterment of human life. People rendered divine honour and worship trees and plants. Probably, tree worship is one of the earliest forms of religion in ancient India. On the other hand, one of the earliest Indian references to the Medicinal properties of Plants is found in the *Rigveda* (3500 - 1800 BC). *Ayurveda*, the ancient Indian system of

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medicine based on medicinal properties of plants [9, 14]. Many useful medicinal plants have been described under Ayurvedic medicinal system by several authors at that time i.e. '*Charak*' and '*Susruta*' etc [12, 14]. About two thousand plants are mentioned in the Ayurvedic system of medicine [3, 4, 6, 7, 10, 18]. Thus, our ancestors linked various God and Goddess with several Ayurvedic medicinal plants for their conservation and named as sacred plants. These ancient beliefs show the human relation with plants which was also helpful in the conservation of plant species for their valuable qualities. The present study reveals 83 such religious plants species that are of great medicinal value and were closely associated with worship of various God and Goddess.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Documentation of plant species commonly used in Ayurvedic medicinal system and different traditional worshipping rituals among Hindu community of India was carried out during this three years study. The informations about sacred plants were collected by attending various types of worship and festivals. The worshippers, priest and vaidyas were also contacted to record the information about the plants which are used in performing various types of worship and also used in Ayurvedic system of medicine. The local markets were also surveyed and available materials were purchased for their identification. The information has also been gathered from ancient Indian literature, Ayurvedic system of medicine and author's personal observations during exploration works.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Man has been worshipping gods, goddesses and Nature since the inception of human civilization. In Hindu communities, many plant species are used in traditional worships. No Hindu worship is complete without offering flowers, leaves or fruits to the deities. In India amongst Hindus, many plant species are associated with religious ceremonies, rituals and also in celebration of festival. Hindu gods and rituals are just as flamboyant as the culture itself. Here, the gods have their favourite days,

colours and also particular plant part i.e. flowers, leaves and fruits. It has been observed that large numbers of plants are being used for the worship of gods and goddesses by Hindu communities, which serve as a useful tool for conservation of plants. The present study reveals 83 sacred plants species of great medicinal value that were closely associated with different God and Goddess and have religious as well as medicinal significance. Details of the recorded plant species in terms of their vernacular name, scientific name, family, life form and their religious and medicinal uses are given in Table 1.

CONCLUSION

Man has been worshipping gods, goddesses and nature since the inception of human civilization. The study on religious plants used in various Hindu traditional worships exhibits the important role of plants in human life. The author recorded 83 species belonging to 69 genera and 45 families used especially for worships by the Hindus. Out of the 83 plant species having religious importance in, maximum (7 species) belongs to Oleaceae. Rest of the species are followed by Poaceae (5 species), Acanthaceae, Solanaceae & Fabaceae (4 species each) and Apocynaceae, Caesalpiniaceae, Moraceae, Mimosaceae & Clusiaceae (3 species each). The traditional culture and religion of human beings have deep faith in the nature and its components in every walk of life. Many of these sacred plants are found in almost every household in the study area and are used in religious purposes as well as health care. The sacred plants are even worshipped by the local people for getting blessing of health and wealth by positive powers of nature. In this way these sacred plants play a major role in the mental as well as physical health of local people. The study also reflects that the beliefs not only show the antiquity of relationship between plants and humans but also help in conserving these species.

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Table 1. List of plant species frequently used in worshipping different gods and goddesses in Hindu religion and their medicinal significance.

SN	Botanical name, Family & VSN	Habit	Sanskrit name	Religious importance & association	Uses in Ayurvedic and other traditional system of medicine
1.	<i>Acacia arabica</i> Auct. (Mimosaceae)	Tree	Kinkirat	The flowers are used for worshipping Lord Shiva	Gum - Bone fractures, diabetes, diarrhoea, dysentery, leprosy, sore throat, urinary discharges. StemBark - Bronchitis, burning sensation, cough, diarrhoea, dysentery, leucoderma, piles, urinary discharges. Leaves - Bone fractures, bronchitis, eye diseases, gonorrhoea, piles.
2.	<i>Acacia catechu</i> Willd. (Mimosaceae)	Tree	Kher	The flowers are used for worshipping Lord Vishnu. Twigs are used in sacred fire (Havans).	StemBark - Anaemia, boils, bronchitis, cough, diarrhoea, diseases of the tooth, elephantiasis, indigestion, inflammation, itching, leprosy, leucoderma, psoriasis, sore throat, skin diseases, ulcers, urinary discharges, worms. Resinous extract - Cough, diarrhoea, leprosy, leucoderma, leucorrhoea, piles, throat diseases, toothache, ulcer, urinary diseases, vaginal discharges.
3.	<i>Achyranthes aspera</i> L. (Amaranthaceae)	Herb	Chichida, Apamarg	The flowers are used for worshipping Goddess Durga, Lord Shiva. Twigs are used in sacred fire (Havans).	Root - Abdominal pain, blood diseases, cancer, colic, deafness, disease of the tooth, heart diseases, itching, leucoderma, liver disorders, stone in bladder, tumor, vomiting, wound. Leaves -Gonorrhoea, leprosy. Seeds - Cold, colic, cough, hydrophobia, leprosy, scabies, toothache.
4.	<i>Aegle marmelos</i> (L.) Corr. ex Roxb. (Rutaceae)	Tree	Bel, Bilvpatra	The flowers/leaves/fruits are used for worshipping Goddess Durga, Lord Surya, Lord Shiva, Lord Vishnu. Dried fruit shells are used in sacred fire (Havans).	Ripe Fruit - Diarrhoea, biliousness, dysentery, dyspepsia. Root - Abdominal pain, colic, fever, dyspepsia, dysuria, nervous disorders, oedema, rheumatism, urinary trouble, vomiting. Leaves - Deafness, inflammation, ophthalmia.
5.	<i>Aganosma dichotoma</i> (Roth) K. Schum. (Apocynaceae)	Climber	Malti	Lord Surya, Lord Vishnu, Goddess Durga	Used as an ingredient of an Ayurvedic compound Vishgarbha thaila which has anodyne and sedative properties and used in paraplegia, sciatica and neuralgia.
6.	<i>Anogeissus latifolia</i> (Roxb. ex DC.) Wall. ex Guill. & Perr. (Combretaceae)	Tree	Dhav	The flowers are used for worshipping Lord Vishnu	Bark - Anaemia, erysepelas, piles, skin diseases, urinary discharges.
7.	<i>Areca catechu</i> L. (Arecaceae)	Palm	Supari	Nuts are offered to Lord Vishnu in Satyanarayan katha.	Nuts - Anthelmintic, aphrodisiac, astringent, cooling, digestive, diuretic, General debility, urinary disorders.
8.	<i>Barleria cristata</i> L. (Acanthaceae)	Shrub	Kurab, Kurbak	The flowers are used for worshipping Lord Vishnu	Leaves - Coughs, Inflammation. Root -Coughs, Inflammation.

9.	<i>Barleria prionitis</i> L. (Acanthaceae)	Under Shrub	Karantak, Pili katsaraya, Kurantak	The flowers are used for worshiping Lord Surya, Lord Vishnu	Leaf juice - Abdominal disorders, catarrha, fever. Bark - Cough. Decoction of Plant - Cough, dropsy, Paralysis, toothache. Paste of Root - is applied on boils & glandular swelling.
10.	<i>Barleria strigosa</i> Willd. (Acanthaceae)	Shrub	Baan, Vaan, Kali katsaraya	The flowers are used for worshiping Lord Surya, Lord Vishnu	Leaves - Coughs, Inflammation. Root -Coughs, Inflammation.
11.	<i>Bauhinia variegata</i> L. (Caesalpiniaceae)	Tree	Kachnar, Kovidar	The flowers are used for worshiping Lord Vishnu	Bark - Asthma, blood diseases, dysmenorrhoea, leprosy, leucoderma, stomach trouble, Tuberculous glands, ulcers, wound. Flowers - Blood diseases, bronchitis, headache, vaginal discharges.
12.	<i>Boswellia serrata</i> Roxb. ex Coleb. (Burseraceae)	Tree	Shallaki, Salai, Loban	The flowers are used for worshiping Goddess Durga. The gum resin of the plant is used in sacred fire (Havans).	Bark - Asthma, dysentery, skin diseases, ulcers. Resin - Arthritis, asthma, bronchitis, cough, dysentery, fevers, jaundice, stomachache, syphilis.
13.	<i>Butea monosperma</i> (Lamk.) Taub. (Fabaceae)	Tree	Palash	The flowers are used for worshiping Goddess Durga, Lord Surya, Lord Shiva. Twigs are used in sacred fire (Havans).	Root - Elephantiasis, nightblindness. Bark - Bone fractures, dysentery, hydrocele, piles, tumour, ulcer. Leaves - Eye diseases Gum - Cough, dysentery, stomach troubles. Flower - Burning sensation, eye diseases, gout, leprosy, skin diseases, strangury. Fruits - Abdominal pain, piles, scorpion sting, skin diseases, tumours, urinary discharges. Seed - Abdominal pain, piles, scorpion sting, skin diseases, tumours, urinary discharges.
14.	<i>Calophyllum inophyllum</i> L. (Clusiaceae)	Tree	Punnag	The flowers are used for worshiping Lord Surya	Bark - Pruritus, skin diseases, strangury, wounds. Seed oil - Gonorrhoea, leprosy, scabies, skin diseases.
15.	<i>Calotropis gigantea</i> (L.) Ait.f. (Asclepiadaceae)	Shrub	Arka, Aak, Madar	The flowers are used for worshiping Goddess Durga, Lord Surya, Lord Shiva, Lord Ganesha	Diseases of the spleen, the liver, the abdomen, Leprosy, leucoderma, piles, tumour, ulcer. RootBark - Asthma, syphilis. Flower - Ascites, inflammation, tumour. Milk - Ascites, diseases of the abdomen, leucoderma, tumour.
16.	<i>Calotropis procera</i> (Ait.) R.Br. (Asclepiadaceae)	Shrub	Arka, Aak, Madar	The flowers are used for worshiping Goddess Durga, Lord Surya, Lord Shiva. Twigs are used in sacred fire (Havans).	Analgesic, anthelmintic, anti-inflammatory, depurative, digestive, emetic, expectorant, laxative, resolvent, stomachic.
17.	<i>Cannabis sativa</i> L. (Cannabaceae)	Herb	Bhang	The leaves are used for worshiping Lord Shiva	Leaves - Anthelmintic, cuts, ear trouble, skin diseases, wounds. Flowers - Diarrhoea, dysentery, gonorrhoea.

18.	<i>Cassia fistula</i> L. (Caesalpiaceae)	Tree	Amaltas, Kaniyar	The flowers are used for worshipping Goddess Durga	Root - Burning sensation, leprosy, skin disease, syphilis, Tuberculous glands. Bark - Boils, colic, constipation, diabetes, dyspepsia, fever, leprosy, pustules, ringworm. Leaves - Fever, leprosy, skin disease, ulcers. Flowers - Burning sensation, bronchitis, cough, pruritus, skin disease. Fruit - Burning sensation, cardiac disorders, colic, fever, gout, inflammation, jaundice, pruritus, rheumatism, Skin disease.
19.	<i>Chrysanthemum indicum</i> L. (Asteraceae)	Herb	Sevanti	The flowers are used for worshipping Lord Vishnu	Leaves - Migraine.
20.	<i>Cinnamomum iners</i> Reinw.ex Blume (Lauraceae)	Tree	Tilak	The flowers are used for worshipping Lord Surya, Lord Vishnu, Goddess Durga	Bark contains a volatile oil with the odour of cloves and musk seeds used for children for cough and dysentery.
21.	<i>Clitoria ternatea</i> L. (Fabaceae)	Climber	Aprajita, Asphota, Girishalini	The flowers are used for worshipping Lord Shiva, Lord Vishnu	Root - Amentia, asthma, bronchitis, burning sensation, elephantiasis, fevers, helminthiasis, inflammation, leprosy, leucoderma, Tubercular glands, ulcers. Leaves - Eruptions, hepatopathy, Otagia.. Seed - Visceralgia.
22.	<i>Cocos nucifera</i> L. (Arecaceae)	Palm	Shriphal, Nariyal	Fruit auspicious, in every worship, Dried endocarp is used in sacred fire (Havans).	Root - Bronchitis, helminthiasis, strangury. Juice of the young spadix - Diarrhoea, dysentery, dyspepsia, diabetes, leprosy. Shell - Strangury. Kernel - Bronchitis, Skin diseases, Tumours. Water - Diarrhoea, Dyspepsia, Strangury. Oil - Bronchitis, cough, diabetes, strangury.
23.	<i>Convolvulus pluricaulis</i> Choisy. (Convolvulaceae)	Herb	Shankh- pushpi	The flowers are used for worshipping Lord Shiva	Effective on brain and heart, effective on thyroid high secretion; increases memory, positive effect on blood pressure, reduces blood pressure and tension, useful in epilepsy, insomnia & mental diseases.
24.	<i>Crocus sativus</i> L. (Iridaceae)	Herb	Keser, Kumkum	The flowers are used for worshipping Goddess Durga, Goddess Saraswati, Lord Surya, Lord Shiva, Lord Vishnu	Dried stigmas - Bronchitis, epilepsy, fever, inflammations, skin diseases, vomiting.
25.	<i>Clerodendrum phlomidis</i> L.f. (Verbenaceae)	Shrub	Jayanti	The flowers are used for worshipping Lord Shiva	Root - Anemia, constipation, diabetes, dyspepsia, fever, inflammation, piles, swelling.

26.	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i> (L.) Pers. (Poaceae)	Herb	Dub, Durva, Shwet dub, Hari dub	The leaves are used for worshiping Lord Ganesha, Goddess Saraswati, Lord Surya. Whole plants is used in sacred fire (Havans).	Abortion, Burning sensation, conjunctivitis, diarrhea, dysentery, general debility, haemorrhages, haemorrhoids, leprosy, skin diseases, vomiting, wounds.
27.	<i>Dalbergia sissoo</i> Roxb. (Dipterocarpaceae)	Tree	Sisham	The flowers are used for worshiping Lord Shiva	Root - Diarrhoea, dysentery. Leaves - Buring sensation, colic, diarrhoea, dysentery, dyspepsia, gonorrhoea, menorrhoea, vomiting. Bark/heartwood - Amenorrhoea, dysmenorrhoea, burning sensation, bronchitis, dysentery, dyspepsia, fever, gout, hiccough, inflammation, leprosy, leucoderma, scabies, sciatica, skin diseases, syphilis, ulcers, vomiting.
28.	<i>Datura stramonium</i> L. (Solanaceae)	Herb	Dhatura	The flowers/fruits are used for worshiping Lord Shiva	Seed - Biliousness, itching, jaundice, leucoderma, piles, skin diseases, ulcer.
29.	<i>Datura metel</i> L. (Solanaceae)	Herb	Kala Dhatura	The flowers/fruits are used for worshiping Lord Shiva	Leaves - Asthma, dandruff, epilepsy, lumbago, mumps, neuralgia, otalgia, sciatica, swellings. Seed - Asthma, otalgia, skin diseases.
30.	<i>Desmostachya bipinnata</i> (L.) Stapf. (Poaceae)	Grass	Kus, Kush, Darbh, Daabh, Daab, Kusha	The plant is used for worshiping Goddess Durga, Lord Surya, Lord Shiva, Lord Vishnu. Whole plant is used in sacred fire (Havans).	Root - Anemia, constipation, diabetes, dyspepsia, fever, inflammation, piles, swelling.
31.	<i>Eclipta alba</i> (L.) Hassk. (Asteraceae)	Herb	Bhangraya	The flowers are used for worshiping Goddess Durga	Debility, elephantiasis, fever, hypertension, inflammation, jaundice, leprosy, otalgia, pruritus, skin diseases, ulcers, wounds.
32.	<i>Erythrina suberosa</i> Roxb. (Fabaceae)	Tree	Parbhadra, Mandara	The flowers are used for worshiping Lord Vishnu, Lord Ram	Bark - Colic, conjunctivitis, cough, dyspepsia, fevers, inflammation, insomnia, leprosy, otalgia, skin diseases. Leaves - Dysmenorrhoea.
33.	<i>Ficus benghalensis</i> L. (Moraceae)	Tree	Vat, Nyagrodha	The plant is considered as a residing place of some gods.	Biliousness, erysipelas, fever, inflammation, ulcers, vaginal complaint, vomiting.
34.	<i>Ficus glomerata</i> Roxb. (Moraceae)	Tree	Gular	Twigs are used in sacred fire (Havans).	Root - Hydrophobia. Fruits - Biliousness, blood diseases, burning sensation, fatigue, leprosy, menorrhagia, nose bleeding, urinary discharges.
35.	<i>Ficus religiosa</i> L. (Moraceae)	Tree	Pipal, Piper, Aswattha	It is believed that the pipal tree is a symbol of lord Vishnu. Twigs are used in sacred fire (Havans).	Burning sensation, biliousness, diseases of the blood, uterus, vagina; leucorrhoea, ulcers. Fruits - Biliousness, burning sensation, diseases of the blood & heart. Root - gout RootBark - Leucorrhoea, stomatitis, ulcers. Seed - Urinary discharges.
36.	<i>Garcinia xanthochymus</i> Hook.f. ex T. Anders. (Clusiaceae)	Tree	Tamal	The flowers are used for worshiping Goddess Durga	A sherbet made from dried fruits is used in biliousness.

37.	<i>Hibiscus rosa-sinensis</i> L. (Malvaceae)	Shrub	Adhul, Japakusum	The flowers are used for worshipping Goddess Durga, Lord Surya, Lord Shiva, Lord Vishnu	Cough, fever, anti-inflammatory, anti-bacterial, anti-fungal, antispasmodic, anti-viral, gonorrhoea, leucorrhoea.
38.	<i>Hiptage benghalensis</i> (L.) Kurz. (Malpighiaceae)	Climber	Madhavi, Atimuktaka, Vasanti, Madhvilata	The flowers are used for worshipping Goddess Durga, Lord Surya, Lord Vishnu	Bark - Asthma, burning sensation, cardiac debility, cough, leprosy, rheumatism. scabies, skin diseases, ulcers, wounds. Leaves - Asthma, burning sensation, cardiac debility, cough, leprosy, rheumatism. scabies, skin diseases, ulcers, wounds. Flowers - Asthma, burning sensation, cardiac debility, cough, leprosy, rheumatism. scabies, skin diseases, ulcers, wounds.
39.	<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L. (Poaceae)	Grass	Jau	Seeds are used in sacred fire (Havans).	Grains - Anaemia, asthma, bronchitis, burns cough, dyspepsia, fever, stranguary, ulcers.
40.	<i>Jasminum arborescens</i> Roxb. (Oleaceae)	Shrub	Bela	The flowers are used for worshipping Goddess Durga, Lord Surya, Lord Shiva, Lord Vishnu	Leaves - Colic, Cough, Faltulence, General debility, Menstrual disorders.
41.	<i>J. auriculatum</i> Vahl. (Oleaceae)	Climbing shrub	Juhi, Yuthika	The flowers are used for worshipping Lord Vishnu, Lord Ram	Root - Skin disease. Flowers - Burning sensation, Hyperdipsia, Ophthalmopathy, Strangury, Ulcers.
42.	<i>J. grandiflorum</i> L. (Oleaceae)	Shrub	Chameli, Jati, Sumana, Jatipuspa	The flowers are used for worshipping Lord Shiva, Lord Surya, Lord Vishnu, Goddess Durga	Root - Amenorrhoea, constipation, dysmenorrhoea, flatulence, leprosy, mental debility, paralysis, ringworm, skin diseases. sterility, strangury. Leaves - Corns, dysmenorrhoea, leprosy, otalgia, skin diseases, strangury, ulcers, wounds. Flowers - Dysmenorrhoea, leprosy, pruritus, skin diseases, strangury, ulcers.
43.	<i>J. humile</i> L. (Oleaceae)	Shrub	Suwarnjati, Hrd	The flowers are used for worshipping Lord Vishnu	A yellow dye extracted from the roots which is used also for ringworm. Milky juice of the bark used in sinuses and fistulae.
44.	<i>J. multiflorum</i> (Burm. f.) Andrews. (Oleaceae)	Shrub	Kund, Kunda	The flowers are used for worshipping Goddess Durga, Lord Surya, Lord Vishnu	Flowers - Cephalagia, Inflammation, Rheumatism.
45.	<i>J. sambac</i> (L.) Ait. (Oleaceae)	Shrub	Vasantinevari, Navamallika, Mallika	The flowers are used for worshipping Lord Vishnu	Leaves - Fever, skin diseases, ulcers. Flowers - Fever, leprosy, hiccough, insanity, pruritus, ulcers, vomiting.
46.	<i>Justicia adhatoda</i> L. (Acanthaceae)	Shrub	Adusa	The flowers are used for worshipping Lord Vishnu	Asthma, blood impurities, chronic bronchitis, cold, cough, diseases of the mouth, fever, gonorrhoea, haemorrhagic diseases, heart troubles, jaundice, leprosy, ophthalmia, respiratory disorders, rheumatism, skin diseases, tumors, urinary diseases, whooping cough.

47.	<i>Leucas cephalotus</i> (Roth) Spreng. (Lamiaceae)	Herb	Drona, Guma	The flowers are used for worshiping Goddess Durga, Lord Shiva, Lord Vishnu	Asthma, bronchitis, cold, cough, dyspepsia, eruptions, eye complaint, headache, inflammation, jaundice, leucoma, paralysis, scabies, skin diseases, snake bite, swelling.
48.	<i>Limonia acidissima</i> L. (Rutaceae)	Tree	Kaith	The fruits are used for worshiping Lord Ganesha	Fruits - Asthma, biliousness, blood diseases, cough, dysentery, earache, heart diseases, hiccough, leucorrhoea, ophthalmia, throat diseases, tumour, vomiting. Seed - Headache, heart diseases. Leaves - Dysentery, hiccough, vomiting.
49.	<i>Mangifera indica</i> L. (Anacardiaceae)	Tree	Aam, Aamrat, Aamda, Amda, Kapitan	The flowers/leaves/ inflorescence are used for worshiping Lord Vishnu	Unripe Fruits - Biliousness, blood impurities, dysentery, throat trouble, ulcer, urinary dischargers, vaginal trouble. Flower - Blood diseases, bronchitis, dysentery, leucorrhoea. Ripe Fruit - Blood impurities, heart trouble, ulcers, urinary discharges. Seed - Dysentery, vomiting. Seed oil - Stomatitis.
50.	<i>Mesua ferrea</i> L. (Clusiaceae)	Tree	Nagchampa, Nagkeser	The flowers are used for worshiping Lord Surya, Lord Shiva	Seeds yield fatty oil which is used for skin troubles, rheumatism. Flowers - Cough. Bud - Dysentery.
51.	<i>Michelia champaca</i> L. (Magnoliaceae)	Tree	Champa	The flowers are used for worshiping Goddess Durga, Lord Surya, Lord Shiva, Lord Vishnu, Lord Ram	Root/ RootBark - Amenorrhoea, constipation, dysmenorrhoea, inflammations. StemBark - Bronchitis, cough, debility, fever. Flowers/ Floral bud/ Fruits - Amenorrhoea, bronchitis, burning sensation, colic, cough, dysmenorrhoea, dyspepsia, fever, flatulence, gout, leprosy, skin diseases, ulcers, wounds.
52.	<i>Mimusops elengi</i> L. (Sapotaceae)	Tree	Bakul, Molsari	The flowers are used for worshiping Goddess Durga, Lord Surya, Lord Shiva, Lord Vishnu	Bark - Dental troubles, diarrhoea, dysentery, pyorrhoea, stomatitis. Flower - Cough, headache, leucoderma, skeletal fracture, worms.
53.	<i>Musa sapientum</i> L.	Herbaceous tree	Kela	The fruits are used for worshiping Lord Ganesha, Lord Vishnu, Goddess Laxmi, Lord Sun. The fruits are used for worshiping Lord Satyanarayana.	Root - Helminthiasis, leprosy, scabies, skin diseases. Leaves - Blisters, burns, inflammations, scabies. Fruits - Bronchitis, helminthiasis, pruritus, scabies, strangury. Flowers - Diabetes, dropsy, dysentery.
54.	<i>Nelumbo nucifera</i> Gaertn. (Nelumbonaceae)	Aquatic herb	Shwet Kamal, Padma	The flowers are used for worshiping Goddess Durga, Goddess Saraswati, Lord Shiva, Lord Vishnu	Stem - Helminthiasis, leprosy, skin diseases, vomit. Root - Cough, diarrhoea, dyspepsia, leucoderma, small pox, spermatorrhoea. Leaves - Burning sensation, fever, leprosy. Flowers - Bronchitis, cholera, cough, diarrhoea, fever. Fruit & Seeds - Burning sensation, fever, leprosy, leucorrhoea, pruritus, vomit.

55.	<i>Neolamarkia cadamba</i> (Roxb.) Bosser (Rubiaceae)	Tree	Kadamb	The flowers are used for worshipping Goddess Durga, Lord Surya, Lord Vishnu, Lord Krishna	Bark - Cough, debility, diarrhoea, dyspepsia, fever, inflammation, ulcers, vomiting, wound. Leaves - Ulcers, wounds. Fruits - Fever.
56.	<i>Nerium indicum</i> Mill. (Apocynaceae)	Shrub	Kaner, Karveer	The flowers are used for worshipping Goddess Durga, Lord Surya, Lord Shiva, Lord Vishnu	Root - Asthma, leprosy, ulcers. Leaves - Scabies.
57.	<i>Nyctanthes arbor-tristis</i> L. (Oleaceae)	Tree	Safalika, Harsingar, Kalnevari, Parijat	The flowers are used for worshipping Lord Vishnu, Goddess Laxmi	Leaves - Baldness, bronchitis, constipation, cough, dyspepsia, fever, helminthiasis, inflammation, sciatica. Seed - Scurvy.
58.	<i>Nymphaea nouchali</i> Burm. f. (Nymphaeaceae)	Aquatic herb	Neelkamal	The flowers are used for worshipping Lord Surya, Lord Shiva, Lord Vishnu	Rhizome - Diarrhoea, dysentery, dyspepsia, debility, gonorrhoea. Seed - Diarrhoea, dyspepsia.
59.	<i>Ocimum sanctum</i> L. (Lamiaceae)	Shrub	Tulsi	The leaves/inflorescence are used for worshipping Lord Vishnu, Lord Ram, Lord Krishna, Lord Hanuman	Asthma, bronchitis, hiccup, leucoderma, lumbago, ringworm, skin diseases, urino- genital disorders, vomit.
60.	<i>Pandanus fascicularis</i> Lamk. (Pandaneaceae)	Small tree	Kataki, Kevda	The flowers are used for worshipping Goddess Durga, Lord Vishnu, Lord Ram	Root - Abortion, colic, diabetes, dyspepsia, fever, flatulence, general debility, leprosy, sterility, ulcers, wounds. Leaves - Leprosy, leucoderma, scabies, small pox, syphilis, tumours. Flower - Leucoderma.
61.	<i>Pentapetes phoenicea</i> L. (Sterculiaceae)	Herb	Dopahariya, Bandhuk	The flowers are used for worshipping Goddess Durga, Lord Shiva	Roots - Burning sensation, Diarrhoea, Fever. Fruits - Fever, Gastropathy.
62.	<i>Phyllanthus emblica</i> L.	Tree	Aonla	This tree is worshiped on Aonla navmi.	RootBark - Diarrhoea, gonorrhoea, jaundice. Leaves - Conjunctivitis, diarrhoea, dysentery, dyspepsia, inflammation. Fruits - Anaemia, asthma, bronchitis, colic, cough, diabetes, diarrhoea, dysentery, dyspepsia, fever, flatulence, inflammation, jaundice, leprosy, leucorrhoea, menorrhagia, peptic ulcer, skin diseases.
63.	<i>Piper betle</i> L. (Piperaceae)	Climber	Nagavalli, Tambul	Leaves are used for worshipping Lord Vishnu and other Gods in Puja.	Plant - Asthma, bronchitis, cough, diarrhoea, dyspepsia, fever, leprosy, rheumatism.
64.	<i>Prosopis cineraria</i> (L.) Druce (Mimosaceae)	Tree	Shami	The flowers/leaves are used for worshipping Goddess Durga, Lord Surya, Lord Shiva, Lord Vishnu, Lord Ganesha. Twigs are used in sacred fire (Havans).	Pods - Astringent, demulcent, pectoral. Besides its bark is used efficaciously in rheumatism and roots as antidiysenteric.
65.	<i>Pterospermum acerifolium</i> (L.) Willd. (Sterculiaceae)	Tree	Karnikar	The flowers are used for worshipping Goddess Durga, Lord Surya	Flower - Inflammations, ulcers, tumours, leprosy.
66.	<i>Randia dumetorum</i> Poir. (Rubiaceae)	Shrub to small tree	Madan	The flowers are used for worshipping Goddess Durga	Bark - diarrhea, dysentery.

67.	<i>Rosa centifolia</i> L. (Rosaceae)	Shrub	Ghulab, Kubjak	The flowers are used for worshiping Lord Surya, Lord Shiva, Lord Vishnu	Appitiser, cardiac tonic, digestive, Burning sensation, Skin diseases.
68.	<i>Saccharum spontaneum</i> L. (Poaceae)	Herb	Kas, Kash, Kans	The flowers are used for worshiping Lord Surya, Lord Shiva	Roots - Burning sensation, Dysentery, Dysentery, Dyspepsia, General debility, Haemorrhoids, Menorrhagia, Renal & Vesical Calculi.
69.	<i>Santalum album</i> L. (Santalaceae)	Tree	Chandan	The sandal wood paste is applied to the idols.	Wood - Bronchitis, burning sensation, heart diseases, small pox, vaginal discharges.
70.	<i>Saraca asoca</i> (Roxb.) De Wilde (Caesalpiniaceae)	Tree	Ashok	The flowers are used for worshiping Goddess Durga, Lord Surya, Lord Vishnu	Anti-bacterial, anti-cancer, anti-fungal, anti-tumour, cardiac stimulant, disuria, leucoderma, menorrhagia, piles, ulcers.
71.	<i>Sesamum indicum</i> L. (Pedaliaceae)	Herb	Til	Seeds are used in sacred fire (Havans).	Leaves - Cholera, Dermatopathy, Dysentery. Seeds - Burns, Dysentery, Haemorrhoids, Migrain, Obesity, Ulcers. Oil - Burning sensation, Cephalalgia, Gonorrhoea, Obesity.
72.	<i>Sesbania grandiflora</i> (L.) Poir. (Fabaceae)	Tree	Agastya	The flowers are used for worshiping Goddess Durga, Lord Surya, Lord Shiva	Leaves - Gout, itching, leprosy, night blindness. Flowers - Bronchitis, gout, night blindness. Fruits - Anaemia, bronchitis, fevers, pains, tumours.
73.	<i>Solanum indicum</i> L. (Solanaceae)	Herb	Badi kateri	The flowers are used for worshiping Lord Shiva	Root - Leucoderma, fever, asthma, bronchitis, vomiting, pruritus. Fruits - Pruritus, leucoderma, bronchitis, fever, vomiting, eye diseases.
74.	<i>Solanum virginianum</i> L. (Solanaceae)	Shrub	Bhatkataiyya	The flowers are used for worshiping Goddess Durga	Leaves - Gout, itching, leprosy, night blindness. Flowers - Bronchitis, gout, night blindness. Fruits - Anaemia, bronchitis, fevers, pains, tumours.
75.	<i>Stereospermum chelonoides</i> (L.f.) DC. (Bignoniaceae)	Tree	Patal, Patala	The flowers are used for worshiping Lord Surya, Lord Vishnu	Root -Asthma, cough. Leaves - Chronic dyspepsia.
76.	<i>Symplocos racemosa</i> Roxb. (Symplocaceae)	Tree	Lodh	The flowers are used for worshiping Goddess Durga, Lord Surya	Diarrhoea, dysentery, elephantiasis, eye troubles, fever, leprosy, leucorrhoea, liver troubles, piles, ulcer.
77.	<i>Syzygium aromaticum</i> (L.) Merr. & Perry (Myrtaceae)	Tree	Lavang	The flowers are used for worshiping Lord Vishnu	Dried flower bud - Anthelmintic, asthma, blood purifier, cold, colic, cough, diuretic, flatulence, tuberculosis.
78.	<i>Syzygium cumini</i> (L.) Skeels (Myrtaceae)	Tree	Jamun	The fruits are used for worshiping Lord Ganesha	Bark - Asthma, biliousness, blood diseases, bronchitis, dysentery, Sore throat, ulcer. Fruits - Biliousness. Seed - Diabetes.
79.	<i>Tabernaemontana divaricate</i> (L.) R. Br. ex Roem. & Schult. (Apocynaceae)	Tree	Nandyavarta	The flowers are used for worshiping Lord Vishnu	Root - Paralysis, strangury. Flowers - Burning sensation. Latex - Wounds.

80.	<i>Valeriana wallichii</i> DC. (Valerianaceae)	Herb	Tagar	The flowers are used for worshipping Goddess Durga, Lord Shiva, Lord Vishnu	Roots - Amenorrhoea, Ascites, Asthma, Bronchitis, Colic, Constipation, Dysmenorrhoea, Dyspepsia, Epilepsy, Flatulence, General debility, Intermittent Fever, Jaundice, Leprosy, Seminal weakness, Skin diseases, Strangury, Ulcers, Wounds.
81.	<i>Vetiveria zizanioides</i> (L.) Nash (Poaceae)	Herb	Khas	The flowers are used for worshipping Lord Shiva	Roots - Anaemia, asthma, burning sensation, colic, dyspepsia, fever, hiccup, leprosy, menorrhagia, skin diseases, ulcers, vomiting.
82.	<i>Vitex negundo</i> L. (Verbenaceae)	Tree	Sinduwar	The flowers are used for worshipping Goddess Durga	Asthma, biliousness, bronchitis, enlargement of the spleen, eye diseases, inflammation, leucoderma.
83.	<i>Ziziphus mauritiana</i> Lam. (Rhamnaceae)	Tree	Ber, Badri	The fruits are used for worshipping Lord Shiva	Root - Biliousness, headache. Bark - Boils, diarrhoea, dysentery. Leaves - Biliousness, diarrhoea, obesity. Fruits - Biliousness, blood diseases, vomiting. Seed - Asthma, burning sensation, cough, eye diseases, leucorrhoea, vomiting.

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