

State Symbols

State Tree : Ashok

Hindi Name : **Ashok**

Scientific Name : **Saraca asoca**

It allays grief (*Shok*) therefore named as *Ashok*. Ayurvedic medicine "*Ashokarisht*" is prepared from its bark. It is one of the constituent member of "Panchvati" plants. On the first day of Hindu calendar people eat its flower to allay grief from their homes for the coming year. Belonging to the family Leguminaceae and sub family Caesalpinaceae. It is an evergreen tree with a dense, spreading crown and growing in moist areas. It flowers in the last week of March to early April. The flowers are orange-red in clusters. The fruit is a slightly curved pod, upto 25 cm long, tapering at both ends, black when mature and seen in August-September. This species has become vulnerable.



State Flower : English Name : Flame of the Forest

Hindi Name : **Palash, Dhak, Tesu**

Scientific Name : **Butea monosperma**

It is called "*Palash*" as it bears leaves of special importance. Taking food or *prasad* in its leaf is considered highly beneficial. Its seeds are used to treat worm infestations and allergic skin conditions. Best tree for obtaining ayurvedic *alkali*. It is a tree of open country and is slow growing, medium sized deciduous, crooked tree belonging to family 'Fabaceae'. It is commonly known as *Palash*, *Dhak* and Flame of the Forest. Its compound leaves have three large, leathery leaflets forming a patchy, open crown. Leaves are shed

in February. The bright orange-red flowers are seen from February to March on leafless branches. Fruits are pods that are upto 20 cm long, velvety with a single seed.

It is used for resin, fodder, medicine and dye. The leaves are used for making plates and bowls. Dhak is used to rear lac-insects. The flowers yield an orange dye. The leaves can be stitched together and used as plates. It is a "pioneer" species, the first to regenerate and withstands heat, frost, drought and poor soils.



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Uttar Pradesh
State Biodiversity
Board



State Fish : English Name : Chitla; Hindi Name : Chital/Mohi; Scientific Name : Chitala chitala

It bears fancy spots (*Chitti*) on its body therefore known as a *Chital*. *Chitala* is a threatened fish species commonly called as Feather back. It is considered as a potential freshwater food as well as ornamental fish, command high market demand.

It is found in *Ganges* river basin in U.P. This species has also been recorded from the *Gomti*, *Gerua*, *Ken*, *Betwa* and *Yamuna* rivers. *Chitla* is inhabitant of large rivers, lakes, reservoirs, stagnant backwaters and confined water bodies. Scales are small. The only species in which sub adults and adults have a series of about 15 transverse gold or silver bars on the dorsum. Its maximum length is found up to 150 cm with weight of 14 kg. *C. chitala* is bisexual and male attains maturity earlier (2+year) than female (3+year). The species is near threatened.

State Animal: English Name : Swamp Deer

Hindi Name : **Barasingha**

Scientific Name : **Rucervus duvaucelii**

The most striking feature of a *Barasingha* is its antlers, with an average of 12 tines on a mature stag therefore named as *Barasingha*. It habitats in swampy areas therefore known as swamp deer. It is native of India and is found only at three places— terai forests of U.P., Assam and M.P. In Uttar Pradesh, it is generally found in Dudhwa National Park, Kishanpur and Katarnia Ghat Wildlife Sanctuaries. Swamp deer occupies a place in the list of vulnerable species of the world. Basically herbivores in nature, the height of Barasinghas range 130-135 cms. with weight approximately 180 kg and average length of antlers 75 cms. Its natural habitat is marshy/ swampy areas with tall grasses near rivers. They are found in large herds, grazing in the grasslands. The breeding season is Nov-Dec.



State Bird: English Name : Indian Sarus Crane

Hindi Name : **Sarus**

Scientific Name : **Grus antigone**

It is found along perennial lakes (*Sar*) therefore called as Sarus. Male and female live in pairs and are seen in villages as symbol of ideal spouse. Their presence is indicator of water bodies of hygienic and healthy ecosystem. It is the tallest flying bird standing six feet tall and has a wingspan of eight feet. The Indian sarus crane population is found in northern and central India, Pakistan and Nepal. The body plumage is light grey and the crown is covered with smooth greenish skin. White feathers form a collar between the bare reddish skin of upper neck and the gray feathers of the



lower neck. Due to wetland loss and degradation of natural habitat, Sarus population has become vulnerable.

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