

National Tree of India, Banyan Tree, Photo, Significance

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National Tree of India: The Banyan Tree, scientifically known as *Ficus benghalensis*, holds the prestigious title of National Tree of India, a recognition bestowed by the government in 1950. This iconic tree is found across India, adapting to a variety of climates and terrains, making it a symbol of the country's diverse geography. Known as the "Kalpavriksha" or "wish-fulfilling tree," the Banyan is revered not only for its physical presence but also for its cultural and spiritual significance. In Hinduism, it is regarded as sacred, often associated with longevity and prosperity.

Which is the National Tree of India?

The Banyan tree (*Ficus benghalensis*), National Tree of India, symbolizes the nation's pride and cultural identity. Known for its unique growth, the tree's branches extend and root themselves, forming new trunks. This process gives the tree an immortal character, symbolizing longevity in Hindu philosophy and often associated with the 'Kalpa Vriksha' or 'Tree of Wish Fulfillment.' Revered in Indian myths, the Banyan tree also serves as a vital part of village life, offering shade for councils and gatherings. Native to India, its medicinal properties and role in village communities reinforce its status as a national symbol, deeply embedded in the country's traditions and natural heritage.

Banyan Tree

Below in the table is the National Tree of India Overview to learn on tips the keywords that can be useful during the exams in general awareness section:

National Tree of India Overview	
Aspect	Description
Kingdom	Plantae
Name	Banyan Tree
Family	Moraceae
Adopted in	1950
Distribution	Indian Subcontinent
Dimensions	Height: 10-25 m; Spread: as far as 100 m
Habitat	Terrestrial
Conservation Status	Not-threatened
Scientific Name	Ficus benghalensis

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National Tree of India Significance

The major important features of the National Tree of India, Banyan Tree, has been provided below:

- The banyan tree is revered in Hinduism as a symbol of eternal life. Lord Krishna refers to it as “I am the banyan tree among trees” in the Bhagavad Gita.
- Known as Ashwath Vriksha, the banyan tree represents the concept of ever-expanding life, symbolizing growth and continuity.
- The banyan is also called Kalpavriksha, meaning “wish-fulfilling divine tree,” signifying its power to grant blessings and desires.

- The banyan tree appears in the national coat of arms of Indonesia, symbolizing unity with its extensive roots connecting the country's many islands.
- In Brian Aldiss' novel Hothouse, the banyan tree is imagined to cover half of Earth in the future, where trees merge and grow together with adventitious roots.
- Famous for the banyan trees growing around and through the walls, Ta Prohm at the Angkor Wat temple complex in Cambodia is an iconic example of nature merging with ancient architecture.
- Older banyan trees are recognized for their aerial prop roots, which grow downward and develop into woody trunks, creating a vast, interconnected structure.
- With age, the banyan's roots spread laterally, covering wide areas, making it one of the largest trees in terms of coverage.
- The largest banyan tree, located in Kolkata, India, has an expansive canopy and is a major tourist attraction.
- A famous banyan tree in Lahaina, Hawaii, planted in 1873, has grown to cover nearly two-thirds of an acre, highlighting the tree's immense size and growth potential.

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