

Mahua

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Mahua Latest News

Mahua: The Lifeline of Central India’s Tribal Communities

About Mahua

Aspect	Details
Botanical identity	The Mahua tree (<i>Madhuca longifolia</i>) is a medium-sized deciduous tree that grows to a height of 16-20 metres , predominantly found in the forests of Central India .
Seasonal blooming cycle	The tree produces creamy-white flowers between March and April , which fall before dawn. The fruits ripen from June to August .

Cultural and Religious Value	Mahua is revered as a “Tree of Life” among tribal communities and is considered sacred . Its flowers, leaves, fruits, seeds, and even fruit shells are used in everyday tribal practices, including funeral rites .
Geographical distribution	It is commonly found in West Bengal, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar , parts of Northern and Central India , and also in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala .
Nutritional and Economic Role	The flowers are consumed raw or sun-dried and are highly nutritious . They are traditionally fermented to produce a strong alcoholic drink , which is a major source of livelihood for tribal families.
Livelihood support	The collection and processing of Mahua flowers support tribal economies , offering food security, employment, and income generation , especially for women collectors .
Ecological importance	Mahua’s night-blooming, strong-smelling flowers attract bats , aiding in pollination and seed dispersal . Sloth bears and other forest animals also feed on its flowers, showing its importance in the forest food web .
Inter-species Competition	Sloth bears and humans often compete for Mahua flowers and leaves, indicating their high ecological and economic demand.
Innovation and Value Addition	A new product called Mahua Nutra Beverage has been developed by TRIFED , in collaboration with the Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer (FIIT) , to enhance tribal income .
Nutritional enhancement	The Mahua Nutra Beverage is blended with pomegranate juice to improve aroma, flavour, texture , and nutritional value , while masking the strong Mahua flavour .
Policy significance	This is the first such initiative in Jharkhand and in India , reflecting TRIFED’s focus on value addition of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through scientific innovation and technology transfer .

Source: DTE

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/mahua/>

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