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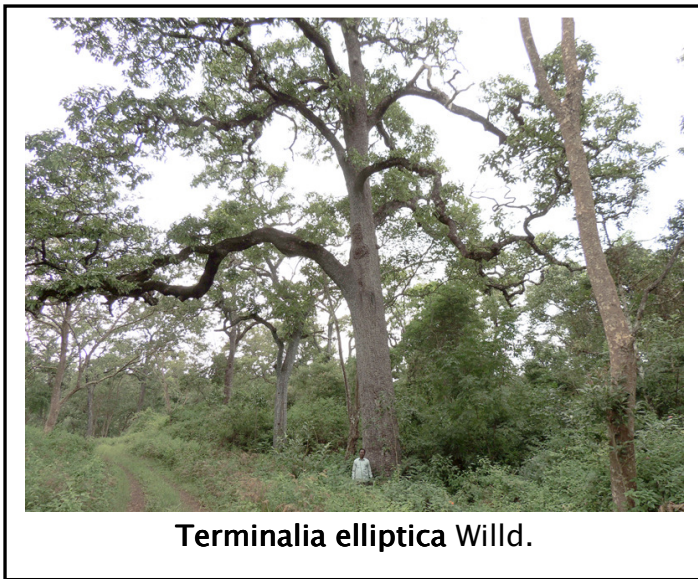
State Tree: Ain, Asan (Marathi).

Botanical Name: *Terminalia elliptica* Willd.

Family: Combretaceae.

Common Names: Crocodile Bark Tree, Indian Laurel, Silver Grey Wood, White Chuglam (English); Asan, Saj (Hindi); Banappu, Karimathi, Mathi, Sadada, Unapu Mara (Kannada); Sahaju (Odiya); Karu-Maruthu (Tamil); Inu Maddi, Nalla Maddi (Telugu).

Etymology: The generic name, **Terminalia** is derived from the Latin word, **terminus** meaning boundary, which denotes the arrangement of leaves at the end of twigs; the specific epithet, **elliptica** denotes its elliptic-shaped leaves.



Description: Deciduous tree with spreading branches and heavy crown, growing up to 32 m tall; bark with deep longitudinal fissures and transverse cracks, grey-black. Leaves elliptic to ovate with 1 or 2 glands at lamina and petiole junction. Flowers in panicles, terminal and axillary, small, dull yellow. Fruits a drupe with 5 broad

wings, up to 5 cm long.

Flowering: February – May; **Fruiting:** June – October.

Distribution: India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam. It is common in the tropical moist deciduous forests and tropical dry deciduous forests, especially in the humid regions of India including the sub-Himalayan tracts of North-West provinces, and also southwards throughout the Peninsular India. It is common associate of sal and teak in their respective zones.



Tree in fruiting



A fruiting-twig -

Economic Importance: The timber, for its strength and durability is widely used for making furniture, railway wagons and construction works. Bark is a source of tannin used in leather industry. In some parts of India, the leaves are used in sericulture, for feeding the silkworms.

Traditional Use: Water stored in the stem is often used for drinking purpose by the forest folk.

Medicinal Uses: The plant is known to possess many medicinal properties like antifungal, antioxidant, anti-hyperglycaemic, antidiarrhoeal and antileucorrhoeal.

Conservation: As this species is threatened by over-exploitation and habitat degradation, conservation measures are to be augmented.

Propagation: The plant reproduces through natural regeneration. The species can be best raised by direct sowing and by planting root and shoot cuttings.

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