Sal

Shorea Robusta

Code: TREE-412C315021268DA **Location:** XIM University Campus **Local / Vernacular name:** ସାଲ ଗଛ

Botanical Details

Leaf habit: Deciduous Flowers / Fruits: Flowers are creamy white, fragrant, and appear in branched clusters. Fruits are small nuts with 3–5 large wing-like sepals for wind dispersal. Native range: Native to the Indian subcontinent, mainly India, Nepal, Bhutan, and Bangladesh.

Uses & Importance

Ecological: The sal tree is a dominant species in sal forests, shaping entire ecosystems by providing habitat for elephants, deer, insects, and birds. Its deep roots stabilize soil, reduce erosion, and improve water retention, while fallen leaves support decomposers that maintain nutrient cycling and forest health.

Medicinal: Sal tree resin and bark are widely used in Ayurveda for their antiseptic, anti-inflammatory, and wound-healing properties. The resin treats skin infections, ulcers, and joint pain, while bark decoctions help with diarrhea and fever. Its medicinal compounds support tissue repair and provide relief in chronic inflammatory conditions.

Cultural: The sal tree is sacred in Hindu and Buddhist traditions, believed to be associated with the birth and enlightenment of Buddha. Its wood and leaves are used in rituals, offerings, and cultural ceremonies. Sal groves are protected as sacred landscapes, symbolizing purity, strength, and divine presence.

Location

GPS: 20.15860192, 85.76535449

Directions: https://www.google.com/maps/dir/?api=1&travelmode=walking&destination=20.15860192%2C85.76535449