**Ashoka Tree**

**Scientific classification:**

**Kingdom :** Plantae

**Division :** Magnoliophyta

**Class :** Magnoliopsida

**Order :** Fabales

**Family :** Caesalpinaceae

**Genus :** *Saraca*

**Species :** *S. asoca*

**Scientific Name :** *Saraca* *asoca* *Roxb.*

**Common Names:**

* **English :** Ashoka Tree
* **Hindi:** Sita Ashoka, Vand Ichitra
* **Kannada:** Achenge, Ashanke, Kenkalimara, Ashokadamara
* **Marathi:** Ashok, Jasundi, Sita Ashoka

**Description:**

1. **Habit and Habitat:** Terrestrial, grows at an altitude of 750 m above the sea level6 and in fertile and semi-fertile soil. Height up to 9-10mts. Perennial, which can range from dark green to greyish green in colour.
2. **Distribution:** It is found all over Indian subcontinent. Native to the Western Ghats and Deccan plateau. It also found in central and Eastern Himalayas.
3. **Morphology:**
   * + **Leaf:** It is a Paripinnately Compound leaves, alternate, distichous and 7-30 cm long and its petiolule 0.1-0.6 cm long and opposite leaflets, 4-6 pairs, narrow elliptic-oblong or lanceolate, and its apex acute to acuminate, base acute to rounded or subcordate, glabrous, midrib raised above and tertiary nerves reticulate.
     + **Inflorescence:** Dense Corymbs
     + **Flower:** Bracteate, brateolate, Calyx small petaloid, Corolla tube long, 5 petals.
     + **Androecium:** 10 stamens, long, yellow at the base red at tapering ends, bilobed.
     + **Gynoecium:** Ovary superior, many ovules, style long, stigma very small.
     + **Fruit:** Pod, compressed, oblong, about 15cms long, dehisce longitudinally.
     + **Seeds:** obovate-orbiculate.
4. **Propagation:** Through seeds.
5. **Importance:**

* Grown as ornamental tree in gardens.
* Highly Medicinal valued. It is anti-microbial, anti-ulcer, anti-oxidant, anti-cancerous, larvicidal activity, anti-inflammatory, anti-diabetic, anti-helminthic.

1. **Location:** Anant Manohar Garden opposite to RPD office.