



ॐ श्री गुरुभ्यो नमः

राष्ट्रीय सौवा रिग्पा संस्थान लेह लद्दाख

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SOWA RIGPA

Ministry of AYUSH, Govt. of India

आयुष मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार



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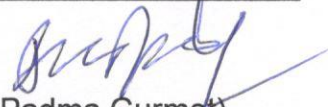
Dated. 16/12/2022

Public Notice

The proposed State Tree and State Flower for Union Territory of Ladakh is hereby placed in the Public Domain for suggestion and comments from experts and general public by the Committee constituted by Union Territory of Ladakh under the Chairmanship of Dr Padma Gurmet, Director, National Institute of Sowa-Rigpa, Leh vide order No.01/MS-LBC/2022 dated 08/03/2022 of Ladakh Biodiversity Council.

The Committee after detail deliberations, research and consultation with experts has suggested *Juniperus polycarpus* (Bhoti: Shuk-pa) as State tree and *Meconopsis aculeata* (Bhoti:Tser-sNon) as State flower of Union Territory of Ladakh. Before submitting the final recommendation to the Union Territory of Ladakh it is decided by the committee to seek comments and suggestion from experts and general public. A brief introduction about the proposed Tree and Flower along with photographs is enclosed for public display in media and social media etc.

It is requested to experts and general public to submit suggestion or comments on the if any subject. The last date for submission is 07th January 2023 on Email: nrisr.leh@gmail.com to Dr Padma Gurmet, Chairman, State Tree and Flower Committee, U.T Ladakh with subject **Selection of State tree and flower**


(Dr Padma Gurmet)
Chairman,
State Tree and Flower Committee,
U.T Ladakh

To

1. Member Secretary, Ladakh Biodiversity Council, U.T Ladakh for information and necessary action.
2. Technical Director, NIC with request to upload the draft in official website.
3. Assistant Director, Information Department, Leh for wide publicity for public information.
4. The News Editor Doordarshan Kendra, Leh with the request for wide publicity of above Public Notice through local news bulletins.
5. The News Editor, All India Radio, Leh with the request for wide publicity of above Public Notice through local news bulletins.
6. President, Press Club Leh-Ladakh for wide publicity for public information.

Proposed State Flower for Union Territory of Ladakh

Meconopsis aculeata Royle (Vernacular Name: *Tser-sNon*)

Meconopsis aculeata Royle (syn: *Meconopsis bikramii* B.S. Aswal; *Meconopsis guilelmi-waldemarii* Klotzsch; *Papaver guilelmi-waldemarii* (Klotzsch & Garcke) Christenh. & Byng) belongs to a Papaveraceae family. It is one of the most beautiful flowers of Himalaya is locally known as *Tser-sNon* in Ladakh. It is assessed as one of the Critically Endangered plant in the CAMP workshop 2021.

Meconopsis aculeata, commonly known as “Himalayan Blue Poppy” is one of the most beautiful flowering plants in the alpine regions of Himalaya. It is a delicate perennial herb, stem reaching up to 60-80 cm with bristly hairs. Leaves deeply and irregularly pinnately lobed, bristly-haired. Flowers are usually blue, borne on long stalks. Flowering and fruiting occur in Mid-June to August. Fruit is a many-seeded capsules. Due to its attractive flowers the plant is having aesthetic value and is a potential ornamental plant. It is confined to the moist rocky slopes above 3500m asl. In Ladakh the species is found in Zanskar, Suru, Rangdum, Penza-la, Karnak etc.

The whole plant is used as medicine in *Sowa-Rigpa* system of medicine and is considered to have bitter taste and cooling potency. The herb has analgesic, antifungal, antibacterial and anti-inflammation activities. The species is highly valued as an ornamental and medicinal plant while the status of the plant is declining in Ladakh.

Declaration of *Meconopsis aculeata* as the state flower will increase awareness about the plant among the population and will highlight the significance of this beautiful flower of Ladakh. It will also strengthen the conservation efforts to save the plant.

If any suggestion or comments please write before 07th January 2023 to Dr. Padma Gurmet, Chairman, State Tree and Flower Committee, U.T Ladakh at Email: nrisr.leh@gmail.com with subject State tree and flower



Proposed State tree for Union Territory of Ladakh

Juniper polycarpus (Vernacular Names: *Shuk-pa*)

Juniperus polycarpus C. Koch (syn. *J. excelsa* sub sp. *polycarpus* (C.Koch) Takht; *Juniperus macropoda* Boiss. also referred as *Juniperus semiglobosa* Regel) from Cupressaceae family, is commonly known as "Himalayan pencil cedar" and locally as 'Shuk-pa'.

This tree is confined to the dry arid tracts of Western and North-Western Himalaya between 2800 – 3800 m above sea level. This tree is the most important representative of the genus *Juniperus* in the Indian Trans-Himalayas. It is adapted to grow in extremely harsh climatic conditions. There are only few relict patches of *Shuk-pa* now in Ladakh which are considered the representatives of ancient 'Steppe Forests'. This tree has immense socio-cultural and religious significance for the local communities in the Ladakh region. Juniper is also used as medicine in *Sowa-Rigpa* system of medicine for treating throat inflammation, spleen disorder, uterus disorder, serum in joint and stiffness of limbs etc.

The populations of *Shuk-pa* is declining in Ladakh largely due to low germination of seeds, trampling of seedlings by animals and over exploitation. It is assessed as one of the Endangered plant in the CAMP workshop of 2021.

Considering ecological, economic and cultural significance of *Juniperus polycarpus*. Declaration of this species as the state tree of Union Territory of Ladakh will increase awareness and popularity of tree among the locals and will highlight the significance of *Juniper* in Ladakhi society. It will also strengthen the conservation efforts to save and multiply *Juniper* trees. If planted on large scale, it will add more scenic beauty to the beautiful landscape of Ladakh

If any suggestion or comments please write before 07th January 2023 to Dr. Padma Gurmet, Chairman, State Tree and Flower Committee, U.T Ladakh at Email: nrisr.leh@gmail.com with subject State tree and flower

