



A Field Guide to  
**Flowering Plants**  
of the Mekal Hills,  
Central India



Shivaji Chaudhry  
Naveen Kumar Sharma  
Nidhan Singh



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Flowering Plants of  
The Mokal Hills, Central India**

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**Shivaji Chaudhry  
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# इंदिरा गाँधी राष्ट्रीय जनजातीय विश्वविद्यालय Indira Gandhi National Tribal University

*Inspiring Students, Empowering Society*

(संसद के अधिनियम द्वारा स्थापित केन्द्रीय विश्वविद्यालय)  
(A Central University Established by an Act of Parliament)

**Prof. T.V. Kattimani**  
Vice-Chancellor

Ref. No. / IGNTU/

Date: 15.03.2019

## Foreword

Ever since I took over as the Vice-Chancellor of the Indira Gandhi National Tribal University (IGNTU), Amarkantak (Madhya Pradesh), the country's first national tribal university, it has been my mission to encourage my young colleagues to take up the issues that are not only topical but in either ways related to the vast but little documented traditional knowledge of the 8.2% tribal population of the country. The University is located amidst the picturesque setting where Vindhyan and Satpura ranges meet, with the Mekal Hills being the fulcrum. This is the birth place of mighty rivers Narmada and Son. The forest-clad area is dominated by the Sal trees. One of the objectives entrusted upon the IGNTU is to explore, document and promote proper management and justful use of the natural resources, including biological resources, of the area heavily inhabited by the native tribal population.

In addition to the above-stated academic underpinnings, throughout the year, the area receives visitors from various parts of the country, primarily due to the religious importance of Amarkantak in Hindu mythology. In this context, it is my pleasure to welcome "**Field Guide to Flowering Plants of The Mekal Hills**" written by my colleagues Mr. Shivaji Chaudhry (Assistant Professor at the Department of Environmental Science, IGNTU, Amarkantak) and Prof. Naveen Kumar Sharma (Department of Botany, IGNTU, Amarkantak) along with Dr. Nidhan Singh from IB (PG) College, Paniput, Haryana. I hope that the book will be greatly received by naturalists, foresters, academicians and nature lovers. For this, the authors deserve hearty congratulation.

विद्यया विन्दत प्रसन्नम्

(Prof. T.V. Kattimani)





# **PREFACE**

This is a small endeavor from our side to document the plant wealth of the Mokal Hills. This densely forested and thinly populated range is birth place to several streams and rivers including Narmada and Son Rivers. The hills are inhabited by many tribal populations notably amongst them are - the Baigas and the Gonds. The book is an outcome of a minor project sanctioned by the Madhya Pradesh State Biodiversity Board, to one of us, Mr. Shivaji Chaudhary. It aims to familiarize the flora of the hills amongst botanists, tourists, forest people and nature lovers without bothering much of taxonomic nitty-gritty. The main strength of the book lies in pictorial depiction of the taxa and their description in simplest words.

**Shivaji Chaudhry**  
**Naveen Kumar Shrama**  
**Nidhan Singh**

IGNTU, Amarkantak & Panipat, Haryana  
Dated 15 March 2019



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