

Paragraph writing 'Banyan Tree'

The national tree of India is the Banyan tree. It often refers specifically to the Indian banyan or *Ficus benghalensis*. It is a fig that starts its life as an epiphyte (a plant growing on another plant). The leaves of the banyan tree are large, leathery, glossy green and elliptical in shape. The leaf bud is covered by two large scales. The huge tree of Banyan towers over its neighbors and has the widest reaching roots of all known trees. Its size and leafy shelter are valued in India as a place of rest and reflection. The banyan tree is considered sacred. It is also known as Bar-gad, Vata vriksh and Barch.