Design Resource **Lalbagh Flower Show** Botanical Garden of Bengaluru by Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and Manmi Dutta NID Campus, Bengaluru

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Source:

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Introduction

Located in the southern region of Garden city Bengaluru, Lalbagh is one of the most important Botanical garden of South Asia. It is spread across a land of up to two hundred and forty acres surrounded by high-rise compound walls with four main gates to enter into the garden, each of which is distributed in east, west, north and south of the garden. The Eastern Gate is a wide road, ideal for parking vehicles, facing towards the Kengal Hanuman thaiah Road (Double Road). The Western Gate is situated near Siddapur Circle; the sylvan atmosphere of the garden can be relished if one enters from this gate. The Southern Gate is also referred to as the main gate, situated next to Lalbagh road and next to MTR. The Northern Gate is considered the main exit with a wide big road. This gate leads directly to the Glass House. The Lalbagh Botanical Garden has been described as a pendant in the necklace of Bengaluru's parks and set in the heart of this pendant is a diamond in the form of the Glass House which holds flower shows twice a year.

The Glass house is now a national venue for conducting various meetings and public functions and events. The green paradise with its century's old trees and blooming flowers transforms this place into a utopia. Rulers, British officials and horticulturists have contributed to the splendour of this garden. Over the years Lalbagh Botanical Garden has acquired India's first lawn clock and the subcontinent's largest collection of rare plants. Lalbagh's rock formation is one of the oldest formations on earth which dates back to 3,000 million years, inviting tourists from all over the world. Lalbagh consist of 673 genera and 1,854 species of plants and trees. The garden is artistically designed with lawns, flower beds, fountains, pools with a watering system for irrigational purpose. During the rule of the Mysore Wadiyars the Lalbagh botanical garden was a key centre of horticulture. Lalbagh is said to be the only garden in the world to be visited by princes and princesses of almost all British Colony. During the week of Republic day and Independence Day every year flower shows are conducted in the centre stage (Glass House) to educate people about the varieties of flora and fauna as well as plant cultivation and conservation. Numbers of park benches are set in the garden for visitors to rest under the shade of the year's old trees. Lalbagh has become an attraction to the birds and humans because of its large spread scenic beauty and floral richness.



Different types of Orchids from the orchid family called as Ascocenda Orchid.

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Type of white flower belonging to the rose family used to decorate the trees and pillars in the Lalbagh.



Alcea Rosea white belongs to Malvaceae family, origin to China.



Bed of flowers kept for display in the flower show.

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Prickly pears cactus planted in pots for exhibition.



A wide range of flowering plants, medicinal herbs, ornamental plants and bonsai trees are displayed in the flower show.



Pink Bougainvillea Flower exhibited in a pot.

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History

In the 18th century Lalbagh Botanical Garden foundation was laid down by one of the most famous emperor of Mysore, Hyder Ali in the year 1760. Initially Lalbagh Botanical garden was a private orchard of the royal origin covering an area of 40 acres which later extended to an area of 240 acres. It was designed in the elegance of a traditional Mughal Garden whose aesthetics were a depiction of Paradise on earth; this garden was further developed by Hyder Ali's son Tipu Sultan by adding horticulture wealth. By importing trees, plants, seeds and saplings from different countries like Persia, Afghanistan, Cape Town, Turkey, Mauritius and France, the Lalbagh botanical garden was completed and which has a collection of almost 1000 different and rare species of flora and fauna. This garden also has a variety of trees that are over hundred years old.

Till the year 1856 Lal Bagh garden was known as Mango Tope and the Cypress Garden. Later the Garden was named Lal Bagh because of a collection of red roses that remain blooming all through the year in this garden. Hyder Ali deployed traditional gardening families known as thigalars, a Tamil speaking community, to implement his plan. The botanical garden is enriched with exotic or indigenous flora of wide ranging diversity from different parts of the world. The first lawn clock of India was set up by Hindustan Machine Tools (HMT) in Lalbagh garden itself. After the death of Tipu sultan in the year 1799, the East India Company took Lalbagh into its possession.

The golden era of Lalbagh can be marked as the year 1874, when the then Superintendent of Government gardens James Cameron proposed the construction of Glass house (also called the Albert Victor Conservatory) on the lines of Crystal Palace in London. The construction was started in the year 1888 and the Glass house was completed in the year 1890 at a cost of Rs 75,000.The Lalbagh Botanical garden hold the distinction of having the largest collection of rare and exotic plants in India. Earlier Lalbagh not only held the collections of flora but also wild animals like Lion, Tigers, bears, deer, panther, peacocks, swans and a variety of monkey species, these animals were shifted on the year 1920 to Mysore zoo. Lalbagh is now under the Directorate of Horticulture, Government of Karnataka. From the year 1856 Lalbagh has remained a Government Botanical Garden and has been worldwide famous as a centre for scientific study of plants and their conservation. Lalbagh Botanical Garden is regarded as one of the best gardens in the world for its layout, maintenance, scientific treasures and scenic beauty.



Different shades of Cosmos Sulphureus flower.

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Flower bed of golden and orange Marigold.



Various shades of Chethy or Thetty flowers arranged in the form of a mountain for an eye catching view.



A set of Hampi is arranged for the flower show in Lalbagh decorated with different types of Anthurium flower.

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Kempegowda tower constructed on the million-year-old rock situated within Lalbagh.



White Bougainvillea displayed in the flower show.

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Attractions

Few of the major attractions of Lalbagh are listed below:

1. Floral Clock:

The Floral Clock is inserted near the entrance of the Southern Gate (main gate). The Clock is embedded in a multi-coloured flower bed. Figures of the famous fairy tale characters like Snow White and Seven dwarfs are installed around the clock making it a great attraction for children.

2. Maharaja Statue:

Sri Chamarajendra Wadiyar Bahadur: (1881-1894) this statue in established front of Lalbagh glasshouse was dismantled from Curzon Park of Mysore and installed here in 1908. The statue is set up on marble platform of about ten feet height.

3. Aquarium:

It is a spherical building and has four entrances, one in each direction. There is a running gallery round the building at its exterior and interior walls. Aquarium is housed in interior galleries. The Aquarium is being preserved by the Department of Fisheries.

4. Band Stand:

The band stand is located almost in the centre of Lalbagh garden, and is surrounded by lush green lawns. A granite platform supporting the wooden structures with an elevated roof top forming the band stand. Band stand has completed hundred years of its existence. It is called band Stand, because military band used to be played in this structure since its construction. The Band stand is one of the most gorgeous structures of all after the Glass house.

5. Lake:

The lake is the main reason for the establishment of the garden. This 30 acre lake serves as a source of water for watering the garden plants. The lake sight is eye catching and beautiful.

6. Band Stand:

The band stand was established during the British regime in the year 1870. Flower shows were conducted in this place during the early 90s. The army troops used to play the army band at this stand.

7. Silk Cotton Tree:

A two hundred years old White Silk Cotton Tree scientific name Ceiba pentandra is found in Lalbagh Botanical Gardens, Bangalore. It usually blooms in spring and has huge orange scarlet flowers with five petals and grows to a height of 25 to 30 metres. White silk cotton obtained from the fruits is used in manufacturing pillows and beds.

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8. Tree Fossil:

A 20 million year old petrified coniferous tree fossil set up between the band stand and topiary garden. It was collected from Tamil Nadu.

9. Lotus Pond:

Lalbagh Lotus pond is near to the Lalbagh Lake, and during the blooming season, the whole pond is flooded with pink lotuses. One can spot few birds and reptiles in the Lotus pond.

10. Glass House:

The Prince of Wales, his Royal Highness, Albert Victor, laid the foundation of the Glass House on 30th November 1889; it was completed in the year 1890 and was named after him as 'AlbertVictor Conservatory' (Glass house). During main events like the Republic Day and Independence Day flower shows are held in this glass house which acts as a centre stage attracting tourists from far places.

11. Dove Cot:

This is a tiny cylinder-shaped structure constructed in the 19th century created for housing pigeons. About 100 pairs of pigeon can be housed in this structure.

12. Horticulture Information Centre:

This centre is seen close to the Kempe Gowda Tower and near the Siddapur gate (Western Gate). It is a research centre for source of information on the Department of Horticulture in the state.

13. Bonsai Garden:

The Bonsai garden is spread over an area of two and a half acres. There are 700 bonsai plants aging from 5 to 35 years. It comprises of different species of trees. These plants are displayed for public viewing during flower shows.

14. Kempe Gowda Tower:

During Kempe Gowda's period (1513-1569) the famous four towers were built in order to mark the boundary to which he had expected Bangalore would develop in course of time. These towers are known as Kempe Gowda Towers that stands on a wide stretch of rock called peninsular gneiss, said to be 3,000 million years old. The tower is well-maintained and offers a limited view of the city.

15. Topiary Garden:

Temperature plants like Juniperus and Cypress are maintained on steel structures of different shapes of animals like elephant, panda, lion, and tigers so that they take the shape of the structure grown on. This garden is another fascination for children.

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Events

Biannual Flower Show:

Every year in Lalbagh Botanical Garden the Directorate of Horticulture, Karnataka organizes the Biannual Flower show in January and August on the occasion of Republic Day and Independence Day respectively. The extensive flower show held in the Glass house biannually is known to have the largest collection of tropical plants in India. The Flower show displays a large number of different species and varieties of plants and shrubs including vegetables and fruits for the visitors. The Lalbagh Botanical Park has hosted over two hundred flower shows in past 102 years of the park. Bengaluru climate helps a lot in nurturing the plants as it remains pleasant all throughout the year. Every year over three hundred varieties of flowers are been put on display at the exhibition(Flower Show) that includes Roses, Marigolds, celosia, Geranium, orchids and many more. A lot of effort is involved in seed sowing and raising plants in pots to displays their blossom twice a year. The Flower show being the centre of attraction is also very creative and enthralls all the visitors. Over the last 102 years Flower shows have been conducted attracting tourists and dignitaries from across the globe. This show stands unique as it is the only one in the country that displays cut and potted plants along with vertical gardens and rooftop gardens etc.



Lalbagh is located in Bengaluru and is one of most the important Botanical garden of South Asia.

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Visitors admiring the beauty of different varieties of roses showcased in the flower show.



The garden is designed with lawns and beds of wide ranges of flowers and plants.



Red Salvia flowers organized in a row.

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Varieties of flowers arranged in the form of a flower.



Various shapes and size of Golden Barrels belonging to cactus family.



Different shades of Dianthus Japonicus flower showcased for the flower show.



Red Anthurium commonly used in flower bouquets and decorations.

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