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@subalternspeak



When the entire nation is under the grip of a life-threatening pandemic, it is imperative to remember Dronagiri's therapeutic herbs: Mruthasanjeevani, Vishalyakarani, Sandhanakarani and Savarnyakarani (Srimad Valmiki Ramayana, 74th chapter, Yuddakanda, Slokas 29-34).

1. In Hinduism, Sanjeevani is a magical herb which has the power to cure serious nervous system disorders. It is believed that medicines prepared from this herb could revive the patient in any situations where death is almost certain

2. When Lakshmana is badly wounded and is nearly killed by Indrajita, Hanuman (the Sankatmochan) was called upon to fetch this herb from the Mount Dronagiri (Mahodaya) or Gandhamardhan hills, far to the north of the Vindhyas on the slopes of the Himalayas

3. The mountain of herbs is identified as the Valley of Flowers near Badri in Uttarakhand on the slopes of the Himalayas. It is sometimes called Gandhamardan, and at other times Dronagiri.

4. Several plants have been proposed as possible candidates for the Sanjeevani plant, including: Selaginella bryopteris, Dendrobium plicatile (synonym Desmotrichum fimbriatum), Cressa cretica, and others.

5. The Himalayan state of Uttarakhand in northern India committed an initial 250m rupees (£2.8m) of state money to search for Sanjeevani Booti starting in August 2016. The search was focused on the Dronagiri range of the Himalayas near the Chinese border.

6. Before that in 2008, Acharya Balkrishna of Patanjali Yogpeeth had reported that phen kamal (Saussurea gossypiphora) which grows above 4,300 m is the Sanjeevani.

7. A study by Dr KN Ganeshaiah, Dr R Vasudeva and Dr R Uma Shaanker of the University of Agricultural Science, identifed three plants that resembled Sanjeevani or the word sounding phonetically similar to it: Selaginella bryopteris, Cressa cretica and Desmotrichum fimbriatum

8. A 2005 research by the Department of Biotechnology, Madhav Institute of Technology and Science, Gwalior on Selaginella bryopteris showed that it can promote growth and protect against heat shock and apoptotic activities of ultra

violet rays and oxidative stress.