Areca Palm

Dypsis lutescens

Code: XIM-T-066 **Location:** XIM University Campus **Local / Vernacular name:** ଅଳଙ୍କାରକି ଗଛ ଗଛ

Description

XIM University campus biodiversity register (2026–27). Recorded individuals: 45; abundance rank: 9.

Botanical Details

Leaf habit: Evergreen Flowers / Fruits: Flowers are small, cream-white, and borne in long hanging clusters. Fruits are oval, smooth drupes that turn orange-red when ripe. Native range: Native to Southeast Asia, especially Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, and India’s coastal regions.

Uses & Importance

Ecological: The Areca palm contributes significantly to tropical ecosystems by producing fruits that feed birds, bats, and small mammals, helping seed dispersal. Its dense root system protects soil from erosion, while its trunk and foliage provide microhabitats, nesting sites, and shade that support understory biodiversity.

Medicinal: Areca nut from the Areca palm has traditional medicinal uses in Ayurveda and folk medicine, where it is used as a digestive stimulant, anthelmintic, and mild energizer. Extracts are applied for treating constipation, intestinal worms, and oral infections, although excessive consumption is harmful and associated with serious health risks.

Cultural: Areca nut holds deep cultural significance across South and Southeast Asia, where it is chewed with betel leaf during rituals, ceremonies, and social gatherings. It symbolizes hospitality, respect, and sacred offerings in Hindu, Buddhist, and tribal traditions, making it a central element in weddings and community celebrations.

Location

GPS: 20.15860192, 85.76535449

Directions: https://www.google.com/maps/dir/?api=1&travelmode=walking&destination=20.15860192%2C85.76535449