Oleander Flowers

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Kerala has banned the use of **Oleander flowers** (Nerium Oleander) **(locally known as Arali)** in temple offerings after a woman died from accidentally chewing poisonous oleander leaves.

- Oleander, also called **rosebay**, is a widely cultivated plant found in **tropical**, <u>subtropical</u>, and <u>temperate</u> regions around the world.
 - It is popular for its ability to **withstand drought** and is commonly used for **landscaping** and **ornamental purposes**.
- Oleander as a Traditional Medicine:
 - <u>Ayurveda</u> prescribes this for treating chronic and obstinate skin diseases, including leprosy.
 - The Bhavaprakasha (a renowned treatise on Ayurveda) has mentioned it as a poisonous plant and recommended its use in the treatment of infected wounds, skin diseases, microbes and parasites, and itching.
- The plant contains cardiac glycosides (a type of chemical), including oleandrin, folinerin, and digitoxigenin, which can have pharmacological effects on the heart.
 - **Symptoms of oleander toxicity include** nausea, diarrhea, vomiting, rashes, confusion, dizziness, irregular heartbeat, slow heartbeat, and in extreme cases, death.



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