How Tech Can Help Save Trees & Lives

Mature Trees Are Under Stress & Prone To Collapse During Storms. This Is Preventable With Planning

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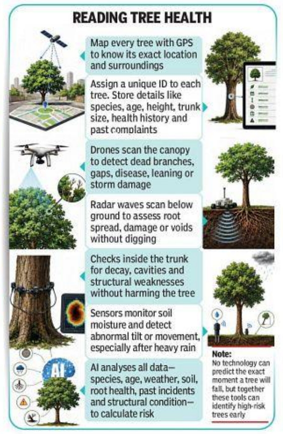
File photo



The death of 11-year-old Vihaan Srivastava in Mumbai's Chembur, when a 70-year-old peepul tree fell on his school van during heavy rain, was a grim reminder of how deadly urban trees can be when hidden structural weaknesses go unnoticed. The incident is now being probed to check whether the tree's roots were damaged by concreting of a nearby road — raising uncomfortable questions about how Indian cities care for their ageing trees.

These questions are especially relevant for Delhi-NCR, where thousands of mature roadside trees line avenues, colonies, parks and highways. Every monsoon brings stories of trees falling on roads, vehicles, houses and power lines. Most cause only traffic disruption, but some have caused death and injury — and climate change, along with urbanisation's toll on root systems, is making the problem more urgent.

An ageing green asset

Delhi has one of India's largest urban tree covers, with lakhs of neem, peepul, banyan, jamun, arjun and amaltas planted decades ago. NCR — Gurgaon, Noida, Ghaziabad, Faridabad — has added to this cover, which lowers temperatures, improves air quality and provides shade in one of India's hottest metros.

But trees age too. Roots weaken, trunks rot from within, branches grow unstable, and disease erodes strength over time. Yet comprehensive health records of mature trees are limited. Municipal agencies typically prune before monsoon to remove weak branches, but this cannot detect hidden trunk decay or root damage below ground. Visual inspection is equally limited — a tree can look healthy while its roots are badly damaged, or look fragile yet remain sound.

Invisible damage

Infrastructure expansion — road widening, metro corridors, underground utilities, drainage upgrades — routinely disturbs tree roots. Excavation can sever main anchoring roots; concrete laid close to tree bases restricts water infiltration; utility trenching often damages roots in ways that remain invisible long after construction ends.

The Chembur tragedy shows such damage may not surface immediately. Civic officials there have acknowledged concerns about protecting the peepul tree's roots during road concreting earlier this year; the investigation will establish if that work played a role.

Delhi faces similar risk, with agencies like Municipal Corporation of Delhi, New Delhi Municipal Council, Delhi Development Authority, Public Works Department and utility providers often working in isolation.

A tree may look healthy for months or years after being harmed, its hidden weaknesses turning fatal only in heavy rain or strong wind.

GPS, GIS and more

Global cities are moving from reactive to data-driven tree management, starting with a digital inventory: a database of roadside trees with unique IDs and GPS locations, logging species, age, height, trunk diameter and maintenance history. This enables risk-based inspection instead of waiting for trees to fail.

GIS mapping adds another layer, combining tree data with roads, schools, hospitals and metro stations to flag high-footfall zones for frequent inspection.

AI is beginning to analyse species, age, soil conditions, rainfall and past tree-fall incidents to estimate storm vulnerability — no technology predicts exactly when a tree will fall, but it can narrow the list needing urgent attention.

Ground-penetrating radar lets engineers assess root health under pavements without digging. Sonic tomography and resistograph drills detect hidden trunk decay; soil moisture and tilt sensors track shifting ground and dangerous leaning; thermal drones inspect canopies after severe weather. None of this replaces trained arborists — it simply helps them find high-risk trees faster.

Reaction to prevention

Fallen trees across Delhi-NCR are typically treated as one-off emergencies — cleared and forgotten once monsoon passes. That has to change. Tree safety should be part of urban disaster preparedness, alongside flood control and building safety, with special focus on school routes, bus stops, metro stations and dense residential areas.

A tree should never be cut for age alone. Many centuries-old trees remain healthy, while younger ones weakened by disease or construction can be more dangerous. Intervention should follow scientific assessment, not assumption.

India has no standardised criteria for urban tree risk assessment — municipal bodies follow different inspection schedules, pruning practices and documentation systems. Having a national framework might help by mandating pre-monsoon health audits, standardise pruning protocols, introduce stricter root-protection rules for infrastructure projects, and build digital tree registries that classify risk.

Public participation could help too: mobile apps letting residents report leaning trees or exposed roots, with reports routed directly to municipal control rooms. Emergency protocols should also clearly define the roles of municipal departments, fire services, disaster authorities and power utilities when failures occur.

MONSOON TREE SAFETY CHECKLIST

- Map every tree, assign a unique ID and maintain records online
- Follow species-specific pruning guidelines by trained professionals
- Grade trees based on health and location
- Enable citizens to report leaning, damaged or unsafe trees quickly
- Regularly inspect high-footfall and sensitive public corridors
- Quick inspection post extreme weather

A balancing act

Tree conservation and public safety are often pitted against each other. They shouldn't be. Replacing healthy mature trees with saplings after every accident would worsen the heat island effect, since young trees take decades to deliver the benefits of mature ones.

But trying to save every tree regardless of condition is equally irresponsible. The goal must be scientific management: healthy trees protected, manageable defects treated, and only genuinely high-risk trees removed after professional evaluation.

Lesson for Delhi-NCR

The Chembur inquiry may establish whether that tragedy was caused by construction, hidden decay, extreme weather, or a combination. But the larger lesson holds regardless: climate change is increasing the frequency of severe storms even as growing infrastructure stresses mature trees. The technology to identify vulnerable trees already exists — the challenge is integrating it into routine civic planning and ensuring departments work together instead of in silos.

Delhi-NCR doesn't have to choose between saving trees and saving people. With scientific management and better coordination, it can do both.

HC: Can't allow cases of matrimony to become humiliation contest

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New Delhi: Taking a dim view of a husband filing intimate photographs of his estranged wife to bolster his matrimonial dispute, the high court has called it a "grave lapse" and cautioned litigants and advocates from indulging in such practices.

Though refusing to initiate contempt proceedings against the man and his lawyers at the behest of the wife, the court said filing such photographs, without even taking adequate safeguards such as a sealed cover, undermines privacy and dignity.

The court also noted that the wife, in response, had also placed on record certain photographs and videos of the husband to portray him in an unfavourable light.

"While the gravity of the two sets of material is not comparable, the larger principle applies viz. matrimonial litigations must not be allowed to degenerate into contests of mutual humiliations through weaponisation of private images and intimate material," Justice Sachin Dutta noted.

The court also warned the lawyers concerned, reminding them that the "zeal to advance a client's cause in a matrimonial litigation can never justify the sacrifice of the dignity of the opposite party, least of all where the opposite party is a woman and the material in question is of such intimate character."

The court said though filing of the offending photographs was a significant lapse on the part of the husband's legal team, however, "when being confronted with the same, the respondents did not seek to justify the same." The high court further requested the family court to consider removing the private photographs submitted earlier from its records and to place them in a sealed cover.

Maoist dump unearthed in Odisha

Koraput: Odisha Police on Friday unearthed a Maoist arms and explosives dump during a search operation in the dense forests of Koraput district, dealing another blow to Naxal activities in the region, officials said.

The dump was detected at Tentuliguma within Boipariguda police station limits of the district.

Officials said the District Voluntary Force (DVF) launched the operation around 6 am based on intelligence gathered during the interrogation of surrendered Maoists. The dump was located in a forested area along the Odisha-Chhattisgarh border adjoining Darbha police station limits in Bastar district.

Police recovered one country-made revolver, six country-made guns, 11 tiffin bomb improvised explosive devices (IEDs) of varying capacities, 25 detonators, 20 metres of cordex wire, six rounds of .38 calibre ammunition, two camera flashlights and gunpowder.

Koraput SP Rohit Verma said the recovered arms and explosives were suspected to belong to cadres of the Andhra-Odisha Border Special Zonal Committee (AOBSZC) of the CPI(Maoist). He said the recovery reflected the sustained efforts of district police and security forces to eliminate the remnants of Maoist infrastructure in the region. PTI

Woman dies by suicide in hotel room in Hyd

Hyderabad: A 26-year-old woman allegedly died by suicide in a hotel room here while on a video call with a friend, police said on Friday. Renuka, a club dancer, checked into a lodge at Langar Houz in the early hours of July 2 with one Farooq, with whom she allegedly had an illicit relationship. The duo spent time together having drinks till evening when Faroo q had gone out to attend a function. She had a jovial conversation with a woman friend Satya and her brother over the phone. During the conversation, Renuka told her friend that she would die, which the friend took lightly. Renuka later made a video call to her friend and died by suicide by hanging to the ceiling fan using a bed runner in the room. PTI

Kerala man gets 34 years in jail for minor girl's sexual assault

Idukki (Kerala): A 26-year-old man was on Friday sentenced to a cumulative 34 years of imprisonment by a Kerala court for sexually assaulting an 11-year-old girl at her residence in Idukki two years ago when no one else was at home.

Idukki fast track court judge Nobel D S sentenced the man to a total of 34 years in prison under various provisions of the IPC and the Pocso Act.

The judge also imposed a fine of ₹2.7 lakh on him, special public prosecutor Shijomon Joseph said.

The SPP said that the convict would have to serve only 20 years in jail, as that was the highest punishment awarded to him, and all the sentences are to run concurrently. The court ordered that the fine amount, if recovered from the convict, be given to the victim.

The SPP said that the convict was the victim's neighbour and had a close relationship with her family.

The incident occurred in 2024 when, in the absence of her parents, the convict entered her home and sexually assaulted her after she returned from school, the prosecutor said. PTI

ENTERTAINMENT

PVR·INOX
VADODARA : Race Cource Road : 11.15 am, 2.15, 5.15, 8.15 & 11.15 pm | ECX EVA Mall : 9.30, 10.45 am, 12.30, 1.45, 3.30, 6.30, 9.30 & 10.30 pm | NILAMBAR TRIUMPH : 10.45 am, 12.45, 1.45, 3.45, 7.45, 9.15, 10.45 & 11.45 pm. | TAKSH - Galaxy Mall : 9.30 am, 12.30, 3.30, 6.30, 9.30 & 11.00 pm. | TRANSCUBE : 10.15 am, 1.15, 4.15, 7.15, 10.15 & 11.15 pm | Reliance Mega Mall : 10.15 am, 4.15, 7.15, 8.15 & 11.15 pm.
SURAT : RAHULRAJ : 10.00, 11.00 am, 1.00, 2.00, 4.00, 7.00, 8.00 & 10.00 & 11.00 pm. | Raj Imperial : 9.30 10.30 am, 12.30, 1.30, 3.30, 4.30, 6.30, 7.30, 9.30 & 10.30 pm | Reliance Mega Mall : 10.30 am, 1.30, 3.25, 4.30, 7.30, 8.30, 10.30, 11.30 pm | VR MALL : 9.30, 10.30 am, 12.30, 1.30, 3.30, 4.30, 5.30, 7.30, 8.30, 9.30, 10.30 & 11.30 pm.
RAJKOT : R. World : 10.30 am, 1.30, 4.30, 7.30, 8.30, 10.30 & 11.30 pm. Reliance Mall : 10.00 am, 1.30, 4.00, 7.00, 10.00 & 11.00 pm.
JAMNAGAR : CRYSTAL Mall : 10.00 am, 1.00, 2.00, 5.00, 8.00 & 11.00 pm. JCR Firestone Mall : 10.00 am, 1.00, 4.00, 8.00 & 10.00 pm.

cinépolis | CONNPLEX | RAJHANS CINEMAS | MUKTA A2 | MOVIETIME | MIRAJ | DEVGN | CINEMARC | BANSAL Multiplex | Valentine | and other cinemas in Gujarat & Saurashtra.

a yash raj films worldwide release

PARAS

GOVERNMENT OF GUJARAT
NARMADA, WATER RESOURCES, WATER SUPPLY & KALPSAR DEPARTMENT.
TENDER NOTICE NO. 04 (Third Attempt) of 2026-27

In the name of Governor of Gujarat Online tenders (E-Tendering System) are invited by the Executive Engineer, Drainage Division Gandhinagar, State Water Data Center, Sector-8 Gandhinagar-382008 (Phone No-079-23248006) from the eligible contractors for below mentioned work who have experience in similar type of work as mentioned in draft tender documents. Detail of work is as under.

Sr.No.	Name of Work	Online Uploading and Last Date
1	General Annual Item Unit Rate for the various emergency work under the Jurisdiction of Drainage Division Gandhinagar. (3rd Attempt)	From 04/07/2026 to 13/07/2026 up to 18:00 hours

1) Physical Submission of Tender Fee, EMD, and Other Documents (In Separate Envelopes): From 14/07/2026 to 20/07/2026 during office hours (strictly via R.P.A.D. / Speed Post / Courier only).
2) Opening of Primary Bid (Technical Bid): On 14/07/2026 at 12:00 hours (if possible).
3) Opening of Price Bid: The Price Bids of only those bidders who qualify will be opened on 21/07/2026 at 12:00 hours (if possible).
- The Name of Work and Tender ID must be compulsorily written on the envelope.
- Other details regarding the tender document and e-tendering will be available on https://tender.nprocure.com. INF/782/2026-27

Government of Gujarat
NARMADA, WATER RESOURCES, WATER SUPPLY & KALPSAR DEPARTMENT
Online Tender Notice No. 03 of 2026-27

Online Tenders (E-Tendering) for following work publicly invited by Executive Engineer, Gandhinagar Irrigation Construction Division, Gandhinagar Form the eligible contractors

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Tender Cost (lakh)
1	THIRD-PARTY INSPECTION for the work of "Watershed Development of Sabarmati River Banks with waterbody from Shahpur Bridge to Mota Chiloda Bridge Ta-Dist-Gandhinagar. (Phase-6)"	198.75
2	Third Party Inspection for the work of Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) Work for Designing and Construction of Ged Barrage, Protection work & other allied activities across river Sabarmati between Hirpura barrage & Lakroda weir, Ta.Prantij, Dist.Sabarkantha including Operation and Maintenance for 10 Years.	119.38

Date of Uploading & Last Date for Receipt Of Online Bid.	From 04/07/2026 to 24/07/2026 up to 18.00 hours
Last Date & Place of Sending Bid, EMD & Tender Fee (RPAD/ Speed Post/Courier)	Dt. 03/08/2026 till 18.00 Hrs. through RPAD/ Speed Post/Courier at Office of the Executive Engineer, Gandhinagar Irrigation Construction Division, A-wing, Sahyog Sankul, Sector-11, Gandhinagar
Date of opening of bid & Place	Dt.27/07/2026 at 12-00 Hrs, (If Possible) at Superintending Engineer, Ahmedabad Irrigation Project Circle, A-block, Nineth Floor, Bahumali Bhavan, Vastrapur, Ahmedabad 380052 (Tel No. 079-27912505)

Further details can be seen at https://tender.nprocure.com INF/780/2026-27

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
(Regd. Office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)
Corporate identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website : www.pspcl.in
Mobile No. 96461-55525
E-Tender Enq. No. 7827/P-3/EMP-13371 Dated 01.07.2026
Dy. Chief Engineer/ Headquarter (Procurement Cell-3) GGSSTP, Roopnagar invites E-Tender ID No. 2026_POWER_171189_1 for Procurement of Hydrogen Gas for GGSSTP Unit Generators at GGSSTP Rupnagar. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 03.07.2026/ 5.00 PM onwards.
Note : Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in
RTP-65/26, DPR/Pb.:1079/12/2026-27/12958

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता जन स्वास्थ्य अभियान्त्रिकी विभाग वृत टोंक
Email:- sephedtonk@gmail.com
क्रमांक वृत टोंक/निविदा/2026-27/2230 - 37 दिनांकः 19.06.2026
ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या 01 से 02/2026-27
राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से निम्नलिखित निर्माण / आपूर्ति कार्य हेतु सक्षम श्रेणी में मान्यता प्राप्त पंजीकृत संवेदकों से निविदा संख्या 01-02/2026-27 हेतु दिनांक 22.06.2026 प्रातः 10.00 बजे से दिनांक 06.07.2026 सायं 06.00 बजे तक ऑनलाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। बिड से संबंधित समस्त जानकारी प्रोक्योरमेंट पोर्टल http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in एवं http://sppp.raj.nic.in पर देखी जा सकती है।
NIB No. - PHE2627A1118

NIT No.	UBN No.	NIT No.	UBN No.
01/2026-27	PHE2627WSOB02203	02/2026-27	PHE2627WSOB02204

अधीक्षण अभियंता
जन स्वास्थ्य अभियांत्रिकी विभाग
वृत टोंक।
DIPR/C/11381/2026

PUBLIC NOTICE
Public are hereby informed that our client intends to enter a transaction of Lease in respect or the immovable property admeasuring approx. 12646 Square Meters situated at village.Ranchhodgadh, Taluka.Halavad, District.Morbi, Gujarat more particularly described in the Schedule hereunder and referred to herein as the "Schedule Property". The said land is vesting in the ownership of landowners as stated in "Schedule Property". All persons and/or entities including inter-alia any bank and/or financial institution and/or authority having any right, title, benefit, interest, share, claim or demand of whatsoever nature in respect of the Said Land or any part/s thereof, by way of sale, transfer, exchange, lease, sub-lease, assignment, mortgage, charge, lien, inheritance, bequest, succession, gift, maintenance, easement, trust, tenancy, sub-tenancy, leave and license, care-taker basis, occupation, possession, family arrangement/settlement, decree or order of any Court of Law, contracts/agreements, or otherwise howsoever, are hereby required to make the same known in writing, along with documentary evidence, to the undersigned within 14 (fourteen) days from the date hereof, failing which such right, title, benefit, interest, share, claim and/ or demand of whatever nature, if any, shall be deemed to have been waived and/or abandoned and no such claim will be deemed to exist.
Schedule Description of Said Land
Village - Ranchhodgadh, Taluka: Halvad, District: Morbi, Gujarat

Survey No.	Old Survey No.	Area (In Square Meters)	Owner
196 Paiki 1	-	12646	1. Bachubhai Manjibhai Patel 2. Hansaben Bachubhai Patel Sakhe Thoriya 3. Rameshbhai Bachubhai Patel Sakhe Thoriya

Place: Morbi, Date: 03/07/2026
Office: Jakat Naka, OPP. Rokadiya Hanuman Temple, ChotilaRoad,Bal Krishna Complex, Ta.Jasdan Dist.Rajkot-360050
Bhaveshbhai V. Sapra (Advocate)
Enrollment No. G/791/2019
Mo. 7016873735

SBI STATE BANK OF INDIA
SBI Chhaya Branch : Opp. Maher Samaj, Main Road, Chhaya, Dist. Porbandar - 360 578
SALE FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES UNDER SARFAESI ACT
APPENDIX IV-A-(SEE PROVISO TO RULE 8(6))
E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets an Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) respectively of the Security Interest (Enforcement Rules, 2002). Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable properties Mortgaged / Hypothecated / Charged to the Secured Creditor, the **Physical** (as per table below) Possession of which have been taken by the Authorized Officer of **State Bank of India** "The Secured Creditor", will be sold on **"As is Where is", "As is What is" and "Whatever is there is" basis on 05.08.2026** for recovery of due to Secured Creditor.

Sr. No.	Details of Property	Amt. to be Recovered	Possession Type / Date	Name of Borrower / Guarantor	Title deed Holder	Reserve Price / EMD / BID Increase	Date & Time of Inspection & Auction Date
1	Property : City Survey Ward No. 3, Survey No. 1372 Paiki, Shop No. 11 A, Mark 3 Complex, S. T. Road, Porbandar	Rs 17,88, 488/- + Accrued Interest + Charges As per Demand Notice Dated 16.05.2025	Physical Possession (23.11.2025)	Varun Maheshkumar Makwana & Others	Jagdishbhai Amrutlal Makwana	Rs. 18,16,000 / Rs. 1,81,600 / Rs. 5,000	03.08.2026 From 11.00 AM to 04.00 PM (Auction Date : 05.08.2026)

LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF EMD : 04.08.2026, till 6:00 PM • DATE AND TIME OF E-AUCTION : 05.08.2026 AT 10:00 AM To 05.00 PM - WITH UNLIMITED EXTENSION OF 10 MINUTES EACH. DATE & TIME FOR SUBMISSION OF REQUEST LETTER OF PARTICIPATION / KYC DOCUMENTS / PROOF OF EMD "Interested bidders may deposit Pre-Bid EMD with Baanknet (PSB Alliance) before the close of e-Auction. Credit of Pre-bid EMD shall be given to the bidders only after receipt of payment in Baanknet's Bank account and updation of such information in the e-auction website. This may take some time as per banking process and hence bidders, in their own interest, are advised to submit the pre-bid EMD amount well in advance to avoid any last minute problem."
(Ajay Raval - M. 76000 36701)

TERMS & CONDITION : THE AUCTION WILL BE CONDUCTED ON LINE THROUGH OUR E-Auction service provider **M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited** having its Registered Office at 4th Floor, Metro House, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Dhobi Talao, Near New Marine Lines, Mumbai - 400 020 (Helpdesk Numbers : +91 82912 20220) at the web portal **https://baanknet.com**
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please contact **SBI Chhaya Branch** : Opp. Maher Samaj, Main Road, Chhaya, Dist. Porbandar - 360 578 & **Contact Person : Ajay Raval - M. 76000 36701**

STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT, 2002

(1) The Borrower / Guarantors are hereby noticed to pay the sums mentioned above before the date of Auction, failing which the property/ies will be auctioned and balance if any will be recovered from them with interest and cost by legal avenues. (2) It shall be the responsibility of the successful bidder to remit the TDS@1% as applicable u/s 194 1-A if the aggregate of the sums credited or paid for such consideration is Rs. 50 lakhs or more. TDS Should be filed online by filling form 26QB & TDS certificate to be issued in form 16B. The purchaser has to produce the proof of having deposited the income tax into the government accounts within 15 days of e-auction. (3) GST applicable if any will be borne by the bidder

Date : 04.07.2026, Place : Porbandar
Authorised Officer, State Bank of India