

# Forest dept bans planting of conocarpus trees

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Ahmedabad: The Gujarat forest department has banned planting of the water- guzzling conocarpus tree in the state. It has asked nurseries not to distribute these trees for any mass plantation drives. Ahmedabad city has several thousand conocarpus trees along the Sabarmati riverfront.

S K Chaturvedi, principal chief conservator of forests, and head of the forest force, issued an order on Tuesday announcing the ban, saying the trees not only damage underground utility services but also cause health issues for residents in areas where they have been grown.

The tree is a popular choice when it comes to landscaping roads and gardens due to its hardy nature and low maintenance cost. In the past, botanists had cited harmful effects of its roots and pollen and advised against planting them close together as they need space to grow.

The notification states that roots of the conocarpus tree penetrate deep into the ground and extend horizontally. On several occasions, it has come to the notice of the authorities that their roots damage underground electricity cables, communication lines, drainage lines and drinking water pipes.

Pollen from the tree also triggers asthma and allergies, the notification states, directing officials to conduct an awareness campaign among farmers and people.

Native to parts of North and South America as well as parts of Africa, conocarpus has been used by public authorities across India for landscaping of road medians, and in public gardens.

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Six forest staffers, 16 villagers face charges for cutting treesThe forest department in Dehradun is taking action against six forest staffers and 16 villagers for their alleged involvement in illegal tree felling. Around 90 to 100 Deodar and Kail trees, some as old as 200 years, were illegally felled. The forest department confiscated the logs during raids. The villagers are facing charges under the Indian Forest Act, while the staffers will be dealt with according to service rules. The investigation revealed that the practice of drying out big trees for personal use has been going on for a long time.103919711

He has archived 4.5k The Speaking Tree articlesBS Sathyanarayana, a septuagenarian from Bengaluru, has spent the last three decades collecting and organizing newspaper articles, biographies, and spiritual stories. After retiring in 2008, he turned his hobby into a full-time endeavor. Sathyanarayana has meticulously pasted the articles on A3 sheets, laminated them, and categorized them based on religion and spirituality. He has also handwritten biographies of famous personalities. Sathyanarayana hopes to one day exhibit his collection for the public to appreciate.103879036

State seeks time to reply to PIL on tree felling in BurhanpurThe state government in Madhya Pradesh has requested more time to respond to a public interest litigation (PIL) filed by residents of Burhanpur. The PIL claims that forest trees are being cut down and the land is being encroached upon. Instead of stopping the deforestation, the government is reportedly granting land rights for farming and construction. The petitioners argue that this is disrupting the ecological balance. The hearing for the case has been postponed to October 18.103796281



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