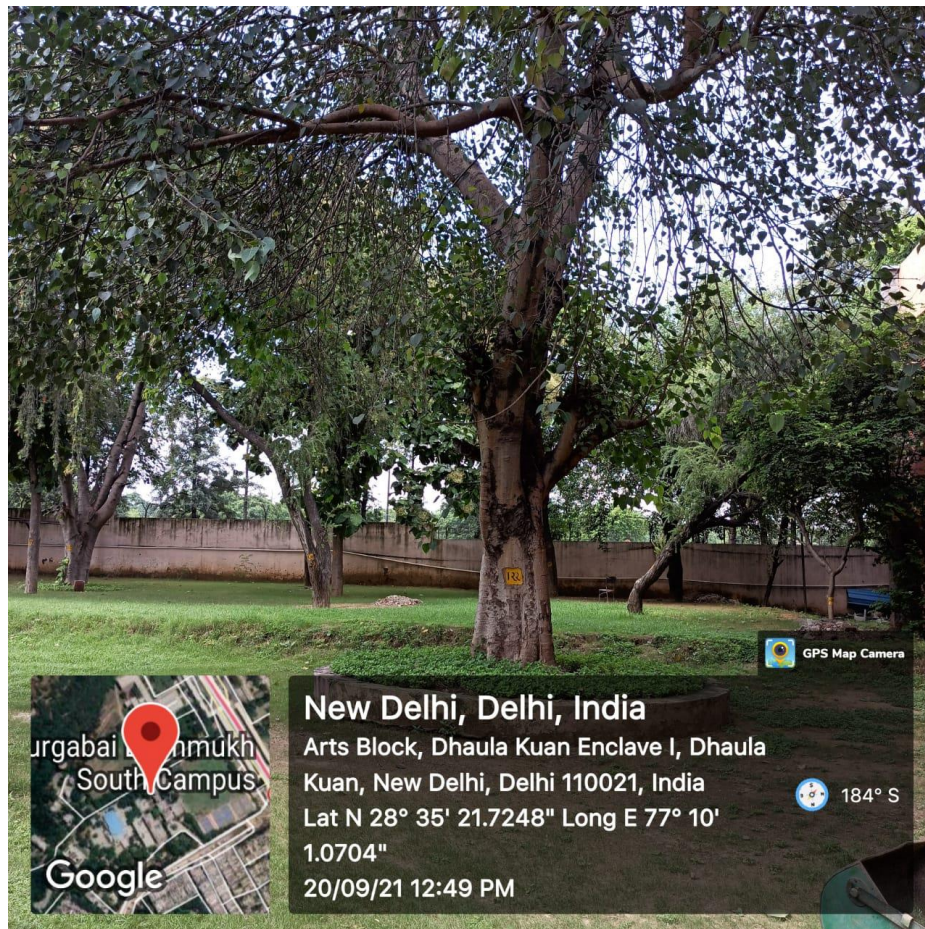


Ficus religiosa



Common Name: Peepal or Sacred Fig or Bodhi tree

Scientific Name: *Ficus religiosa*

Family: Moraceae

It is a large dry season-deciduous or semi evergreen tree that grows up to 30 meters and has a wide trunk of 3 meters in girth. It is native to the Indian subcontinent. The leaves are cordate in shape with a distinctive extended drip tip. It bears small figs, green ripening to purple. It is a very hardy tree and has an average life span of 900 to 1500 years.

Medicinal Uses: It is used in traditional medicine for about fifty types of disorders including asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, sexual disorders etc.

Cultural Significance: Prayer beads are made from the seeds and are considered sacred because Lord Buddha attained his enlightenment under this tree.

Economically Important Part: Seeds

Economic Uses: It is also grown in nurseries as an ornamental tree and planted in gardens and parks.