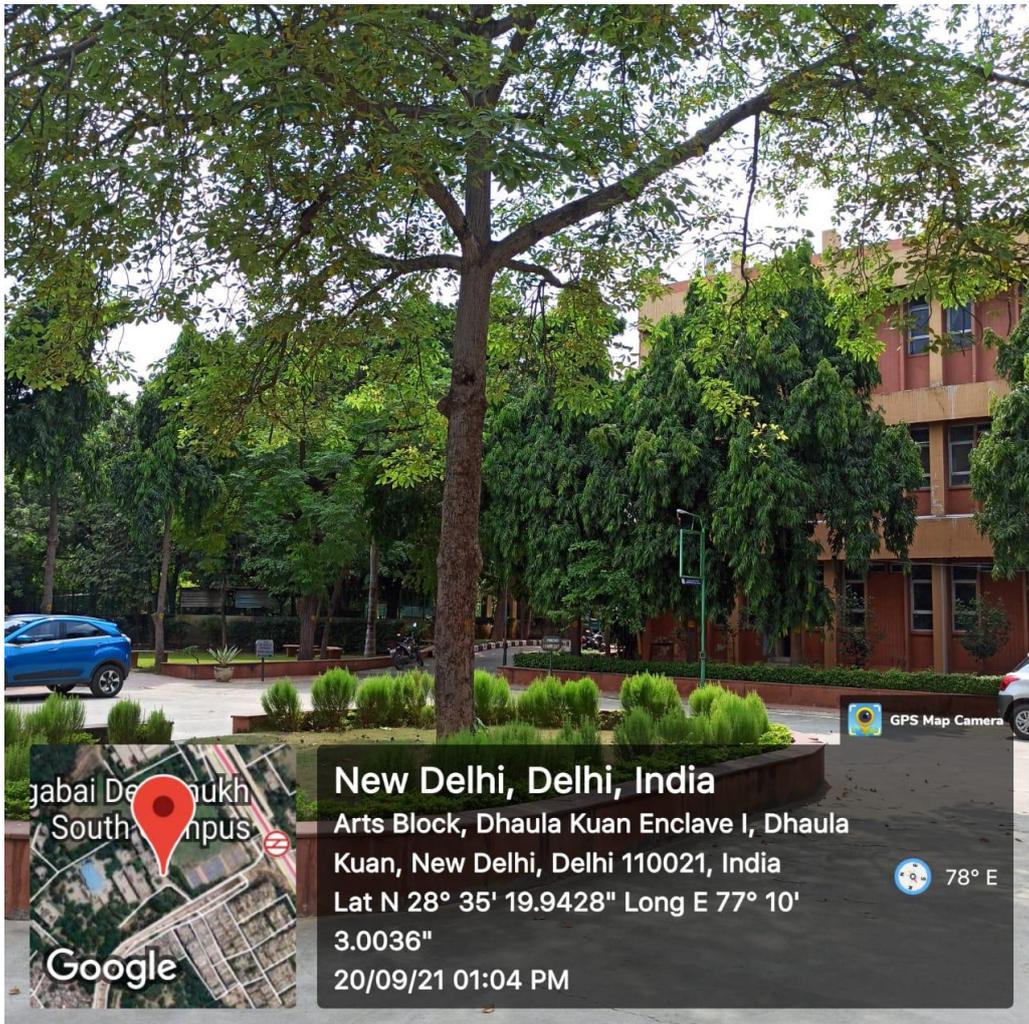


Bombax ceiba Linn.



Common Name: Red Silk Cotton tree

Scientific Name: *Bombax ceiba* Linn.

Family: Malvaceae

It is a cosmopolitan deciduous tree native to Asia.

It can reach a height of 20 meters and up to 60 meters in old tropical regions. It has a stout trunk. The leaves are palmate with about 6 leaflets radiating from a central point (tip of petiole), an average of 7–10 centimetres wide, 13–15 centimetres in length. Cup-shaped flowers solitary or clustered, axillary or sub-terminal, fascicles at or near the ends of the branches.

Economically Important Part: Seed Fiber

Economic Importance: The white fluffy fibres are carded into thread and woven into textiles in Nepal and India. In North India, the fibres are also used in pillows.