Punjab Government Gazette

EXTRAORDINARY

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LEGISLATIVE SUPPLEMENT

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PART-I

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB

DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AND LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS, PUNJAB

NOTIFICATION

The 24th September, 2026

No.15-Leg./2026.- The following Act of the Legislature of the State of Punjab received the assent of the Governor of Punjab on the 02nd day of September, 2026, is hereby published for general information :-

THE PUNJAB PROTECTION OF TREES ACT, 2026

(Punjab Act No.13 of 2026)

AN

ACT

to maintain green cover for ensuring ecological balance, preventing degradation of environment and conserving the soil, it is considered necessary to regulate the felling and replanting of trees in the State of Punjab;

Whereas to provide institutional mechanism to compensate the environmental loss caused by the felling of trees;

Whereas the State Government after due consideration, proposes to make an Act for betterment of the environment, conservation of soil and to regulate tree felling in the state;

AND whereas in the circumstances referred to above, it is deemed expedient to make "The Punjab Protection of Trees Act, 2026" for the abovesaid purposes;

BE it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Punjab in the seventy-seventh year of the Republic of India as follows:

Short title, extent and commencement

1. (a) This Act may be called "The Punjab Protection of Trees Act, 2026".

(b) It extends to all the urban areas of Punjab as specified in the schedule III appended of this Act or such areas notified by State Government from time to time.

(c) It shall come into force on the date of publication in the Official Gazette of the State Government.

Act not to apply to certain areas and trees

2. This Act shall not apply to the exempted area and exempted trees as specified in the schedule I and II respectively appended of this Act or such areas or trees notified by State Government from time to time.

Definitions

3. In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the context-

(a) "Appellate authority" means an authority appointed by the State Government for the purposes of this Act;

(b) "Damage to trees" means harming or causing an injury to tree by use of cement- concrete, decorative lights, defacing with materials like flex, grill, wire, nail, plastic cable or poisoning, partial burning or by any other means;

(c) "Environmental compensation" means cost levied upon the violator for restoration of damage caused to the environment by application of Polluter Pay's Principle;

(d) "Exempted area" means areas included in the Schedule – I of this Act or such areas notified by State Government from time to time;

(e) "Exempted trees" means 'tree species' included in the Schedule-II of this Act or such trees notified by State Government from time to time;

(f) "Fell a tree", with its cognate expressions, means cutting, girdling, pollarding or damaging a tree in a way so as to cause its death/drying;

(g) "Form A" means written application for Felling/Disposing of Tree in Non-Forest Areas in respect by a Person.

(h) "Heritage Tree" means tree which is over 100 years in age and has some unique historical, cultural, religious values.

(i) "Prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act;

(j) "State Government" means Government of Punjab through Department of Forest and Wildlife Preservation;

(k) "Tree" means any woody plant whose branches spring from and are supported upon a trunk or body and whose trunk or body is not less than 'thirty five centimeters' in girth at the ground level;

(l) "Tree Protection Officer" means an Executive Officer in Urban local bodies in Punjab or any other officer so notified by the State Government;

(m) "Urban area" means an area, which is included within the limits of a Nagar Council, Municipal Corporation, Notified

Area Committee, Town Area Committee, or of any Urban Development Authority/Body mentioned in the Schedule III of this Act;

(n) The words and expressions used in this Act and defined in Indian Forest Act, 1927 and or other related Act(s), but not defined in this act shall have the meaning respectively assigned to them in those Act(s).

Restriction on felling, removal and damage to trees

4. Except as provided in this Act or the rules made there under, no person or Organisation or Agency or Government Agency shall-

(a) fell any tree standing on any urban area;

(b) cut, remove or otherwise dispose of any tree which is completely dead or has fallen in any urban area.

(c) damage a tree standing on any urban area.

Permission to fell or remove trees

5. The Tree Protection Officer may, incase other than the area mentioned in section 3(d) of this Act, on receipt of the application as prescribed under section 6(a) of this Act, of any owner or person entitled to fell a standing tree or to cut, prune, remove or otherwise dispose of a fallen tree, after making such inquiry, as it thinks fit, grant permission to him to do so;

(a) Provided that such permission shall be considered if the tree constitutes danger to a person or property or is causing traffic hazard;

(b) Provided further that such permission shall not be required for the felling of exempted trees specified in Schedule-II of this act in the urban areas;

(c) Provided also that in exigencies such as floods, storms, warlike situation or any other natural or manmade calamities, such immediate steps as are necessary to remove any obstruction or nuisance or to prevent any danger to public life and/or property such permission shall not be required for the felling of trees.

(d) In the cases where permission of 'Tree Protection Officer' is not required; as above sub section b and c, the concerned agency shall inform the details of felling/ removal of such trees to the Tree Protection Officer within 24 hours of the same.

(e) The Heritage tree shall not be cut or removed except in rarest of rare cases due to pressing development need or grave danger with prior permission by State Government, on recommendation from Tree Protection Officer, to be issued with a well reasoned order.

Procedure for obtaining permission to fell or remove trees

6. (a) Every application under Section 5 shall be in writing as per 'Form A' and shall be made in such manner and shall contain such particulars as may be prescribed and such application shall be accompanied by attested copies of such documents as may be prescribed in support of ownership over the land, the number and kind of trees to be cut, their girth measure at a height of 1.35 metres from ground level and the reasons there for, copy of sajra showing clearly the site and khasra numbers of the property.

(b) The 'Tree Protection Officer' shall give her/his decision in the case of an application in respect of tree felling within 'Thirty (30) days' from the date of receipt of such application, and in the case of an application in respect of a "dead or fallen tree or tree that constitute danger to a person or property" within a maximum of 'Seven (7) days' from the date of receipt of such application.

(c) Every permission granted under this Act shall be in such form and subject to such reasonable conditions, as may be imposed by the 'Tree Protection Officer'.

(d) If the 'Tree Protection Officer' fails to give his/ her decision within the stipulated time in cases requiring 7 days time under sub-section (b), the permission referred to in Section 5 shall be deemed to have been granted.

(e) Any person aggrieved by the decision of the 'Tree Protection Officer' under sub-section (b) may file an appeal within 'Thirty (30) days' from the date of such decision, to the Appellate Authority and the decision of appellate authority on such appeal shall be final.

Obligation to plant trees

7. Every person, to whom permission has been granted under this Act to fell, cut, remove or dispose of any tree, shall be bound to plant and tend 'ten

(10) trees' in lieu of every tree cut/ felled as far as possible in the same area, from where such tree has been felled, cut, removed or disposed of by him under such permission; provided that in case of a Heritage Tree, he shall be bound to plant and tend 'twenty five(25) trees'.

Provided that in case of constraint of land for such plantation or any other constraints, the Tree Protection Officer may for reasons to be recorded in writing, permit lesser number of trees to be planted, or trees to be planted in any different area, or to deposit such sum of money in the special account of the Tree Protection Officer as deemed appropriate for the purpose of such plantation.

Implementation of directions given under Section 7

8. (a) Every person who is under an obligation to plant trees under Section 7 shall comply with the same and report within three months that all the conditions as stipulated in the felling permission of Tree Protection Officer have been complied with;

(b) In case of failing to do so the Tree Protection Officer may impose a fine of 'Rupees TenThousand per tree for the first time non-compliance, 'Rupees Thirty Five Thousand per tree for the second time non-compliance' which further will extend upto 'Rupees Fifty Thousand' per tree if the non-compliance continues.

Penalty for felling or removal or damage of trees in contravention of Section-4

9. (a) Whoever fells or causes to be felled any standing tree, or cuts, removes or otherwise disposes of any fallen tree, in contravention of the provisions of Section 4 (a), (b) or contravenes any condition of permission granted under this Act, is liable to be imposed 'Environmental compensation' as notified by the State Government from time to time and penalty of upto 'Rupees ten thousand per tree' by the Tree Protection Officer.

(b) Whoever causes damage to any standing tree, in contravention of the provisions of Section 4 (c) or contravenes any condition of permission granted under this Act, is liable to be imposed 'Environmental compensation' as notified by the State Government from time to time and penalty of upto 'Rupees two thousand per tree' by the Tree Protection Officer.

(c) All such monies received as fine and penalty shall be deposited in the State treasury under the appropriate heads of budget. The sum of monies collected under the environmental compensation shall be deposited in the special account of the Tree Protection Officer and shall be used for the greening activities in the respective urban local bodies.

Officers to be public servants

10. The officers exercising powers or discharging any duties or functions under this Act shall be deemed to be public servants within the meaning of Section 2(28) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023.

Execution of order for payment of money.

11. Any sum, including any amount for compounding of an offence, the payment of which has been directed to be made by any person under this Act shall, without prejudice to any other mode of recovery under any law for the time being in force, be recoverable from him as an arrear of land revenue.

Indemnity for acts done in good faith

12. No suit or proceedings shall lie against the State Government or against any person empowered to exercise power or to perform duties or discharge functions under this Act, for anything in good faith done or purporting to be done under this Act.

Power of the State Government for preservation of trees

13. The State Government may in the interest of general public, declare by notification that any class of trees shall not be felled for such period as is specified in that notification.

Power of State Government to exempt

14. Subject to such conditions, if any, as may be imposed, the State Government may, if it is considered necessary to do so in the public interest by notification in the Official Gazette, exempt any areas or any species of trees by amending the respective schedules from all or any of the provisions of this Act.

Provisions of this Act to be in addition to any other law for the time being in force

15. The provisions of the Act shall be in addition to and not in derogation of the provisions of any other law for the time being in force prohibiting or regulating the felling of trees.

Power to make rules

16. The State Government may by notification can make rules to carry out the purposes of this Act.

Removal of difficulties and ambiguities

17. For the purpose of removal of any difficulty in implementation of the provisions of this Act or remove any ambiguity, the State Government may, by

order publish in the official Gazette, make such provision(s) not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, but no order shall be made under this section after the expiry of a period two years from the date of commencement of this Act.

Repeal and savings

18. 'The Trees Preservation Policy for Non Forest Government and Public Lands-2024' is hereby repealed.

SCHEDULE-I

EXEMPTED AREAS

[Refer Section 3 (d)]

1. Areas notified as Reserved and Protected forests under India Forest Act,1927
2. Areas notified under Punjab Land Preservation Act-1900.
3. All Un-classed Forest in the records of Forest Department
4. All wildlife Protected Areas notified under Wildlife Protection Act, 1972
5. Areas of Cantonment, Paramilitary and Defense forces
6. Government research plots
7. Nurseries managed by Government Departments

(And any other land notified by State Govt. from time to time)

SCHEDULE-II

EXEMPTED TREES

[Refer Section 3 (e)]

1. Bamboo (all species)
2. Burma Neem/Drek (Meliacomposita)
3. Eucalyptus (all species)
4. Poplar (all species)
5. Subabul (Leucaenaleucocephala)

(And any other species notified by State Govt from time to time)

SCHEDULE-III

URBAN AREAS
[Refer Section 3 (l)

List of Urban Local Bodies constituted under the Department of Local Govt. Punjab

Regions	District		Municipal Corporation/ Municipal Councils/ Nagar Panchayats				
		Impr. Trust	Mun. corp.	Class-I	Class-II	Class-III	NagarPanchayat
Amritsar	Amritsar	Amritsar	Amritsar	-	1.Jandiala Guru	1.Majitha 2.Ramdass	1.Ajnala 2.Rayya 3.Raja Sansi (06)
	Gurdaspur	Gurdaspur Batala	Batala	1. Gurdaspur 2. Batala	2.Dinanagar 3.Dhariwal	3.Quadian 4.Sri Hargobindpur 5.Dera Baba Nanak 6 Fatehgarh Churian	- (08)
	Pathankot	Pathankot	Pathankot		4. Sujanpur		1.Narot Jaimal Singh (02) (11.11.2016) (02)
	Tarn Taran	TarnTaran		-	5.Tarn Taran 6.Patti	-	4.Khemkaran 5.Bhikhiwind (04)
Jalandhar	Jalandhar	Jalandhar Kartarpur	Jalandhar	1.Nakodar	1.Noormahal 2.Phillaur 3.Kartarpur 4.Bhogpur 5.adampur 6.Goraya (8.8.16)	1.Alawalpur	1.Shahkot 2.Lohian 3.Mehatpur 4.Bilga (12)
	Kapurthala	Kapurthala Phagwara	Phagwara Kapurthala	1.Kapurthala	6. Sultanpur Lodhi	-	5.Bhulath 6.Begowal 7.Dhilwan 8.Nadala quashed on (2.9.16) but stayed on (26.9.16) in LPA 1854/2016 (06)
	Hoshiarpur	Hoshiarpur	Hoshiarpur		7.Dasuya 8.Mukerian 9.Urmur Tanda 10.GarhShankar	2.Garhdiwala 3.Hariana 4.Sham Churasi	9.Talwara 10.Mahilpur (09)
	SBS Nagar	NawanShehar		NawanShehar	11.Banga	5.Rahon 6.Balachaur	- (04)
Ludhiana	Ludhiana	Ludhiana Khanna	Ludhiana	1.Khanna 2.Jagraon	1.Samrala 2.Raikot 3.Sahnewal 4.Doraha 5.Mullanpur Dakha	1.Payal 2.Machhiwara	1.Maloud (10)
	Roop Nagar	RoopNagar Nangal		3.Nangal 4.AnandpurSahib	5.RoopNagar 6.Morinda		2.Sri Chamkaur Sahib 3.Kiratpur Sahib (06)
	Fatehgarh Sahib			5.Gobindgarh	7.Sirhind Fatehgarh Sahib	3.Bassi Pathana 4.Amloh	4.Khamano (05)
Patiala	Patiala	Patiala Nabha Rajpura Samana	Patiala	1.Rajpura 2.Nabha 3.Samana	1.Patran	1.Sanaur	1.Ghagga 2.Ghanaur 3.Bhadson (08)
	Sangrur	Sangrur Malerkotla		4.Sangrur 5.Malerkotla6.Sunam	2.Ahmadgarh 3.Dhuri 4.Lehragaga 5.Bhawanigarh (wef 21.7.16)	2.Longowal	4.Cheema 7. Moonak 5.Dirba 8. Amargarh 6.Khanauri (13)
	Barnala	Barnala	Barnala	7.Barnala	-	4.Tapa 5.Bhadaur 6.Dhanaula	9.Handiaya Sehna (objection invited 28.12.16) (05)
	SAS Nagar (Mohali)		SAS Nagar (Mohali)	8.Kharar 9.Zirakpur 10.DeraBassi	6.Kurali 7. NayaGaon (wef 14.9.16)	7.Banur	10.Lalru (07)
Bathinda	Bathinda	Bathinda	Bathinda	-	1.Rampuraphul 2.Bhucho Mandi 3.Goniana 4.Maur 5.Raman	1.Kotfatta 2.Sangat	1.TalwandiSabo 2.Bhagta Bhai Ka 3. Maluka 4. Kotha Guru 5. Mehraj 6. Kot Shamir 7.Lehra Mohabbat 8.Balian Wala 9.Bhairoopa 10.Rampura11. Chauke 12.Nathana 13.Mandikalan (20)
	Mansa			1.Mansa	6.Budhladha	3.Bareta	14.Bhikhi 15.Sardulgarh 16.Boha 17.Joga (07)
	Muktsar			2.Sri Muktsar Sahib 3.Malout	7.Gidderbaha	-	18.Bariwala (04)
Ferozepur	Ferozepur			1.Ferozepur	1.Guru Har Sahai 2.Zira 3.Talwandi Bhai		1.Makhu 2.Mudki 3.Mallanwala Khas 4. Mamdot (08)
	Fazilka	Fazilka Abohar	Abohar	2.Abohar 3.Fazilka	4.Jalalabad	-	5.Arniwala SHEIKH SUBHANPUR (04)
	Faridkot	Faridkot Kotkapura		4.Faridkot 5.Kotkapura	5.Jaito	-	- (03)
	Moga	Moga	Moga	-	6.BaghaPurana 7.Dharamkot	-	6. Badhni Kalan 7. Nihalsingh Wala 8. Kot Isse Khan (limit ext 27.06.16) 9. Fatehgarh Panjtoor (06)
06	22	28	14	28	47	25	57 (157)

Municipal Corporations -14,Municipalities Class-I (28),Class-II (47),Class-III (25),NagarPanchayats (56)=**157 Total-171**

Form – (A)

Application for Felling/Disposing of Tree in Non-Forest Areas in respect by a Person

[Refer Section 6 (a)]

1) *Name of the Applicant (In Capitals):

2) Father's /Spouse Name:

3) *Date of Application:

4) *Contact/Mobile No.:

5) *Full Postal Address/Email Id:

6) *Land Details:

I. Block/Panchayat/Municipality/Corporation/others:

II. Address/ Location of Site:

III. Area of the land:

IV. Plan/Map of the land:

V. Total No. of trees present in the land (Species & number):

7) *Details of Trees to be felled/disposed off:

No. of Trees	Plot/ House No.	Species	DBH (Cm)	Approx height. (Mtr)	Natural or planted.	Approx age.	Physical condition

8) *Purpose of Felling:

(To be authenticated by supporting documents in original)

9) *Particulars of previous felling of trees:

(On the same plot of land, if any)

Plot / House No.	Date of Previous felling (DD/MM/YY)	Species	Number of Trees	References of permission from the Competent Authority

Name of Applicant/ Authorised Officer_____

(in case of any department)

Mobile No._____

10) ***[Only for application where prior permission or intimation to be made under proviso of Section 5 (a), (b),(c)]***

I. I, hereby declare that the aforesaid trees constitute immediate danger in view of _____(Give reasons) and permission for their immediate felling is solicited in terms of sub-rule (a) of rules 5 of this Act (Photographic evidence to be submitted).

II. I, hereby declare that the felling of aforesaid trees as exempted tree mentioned in Schedule-II of this Act has been undertaken on _____ (DATE) in view of _____ (GIVE REASONS) and information in this regard is given in terms of Sub rule (b) of rule (5) of this Act. (Photographic evidence to be submitted)

III. I, hereby declare that the felling of aforesaid trees has been undertaken on _____ (DATE) in view of _____ (GIVE REASONS) as per authorised in terms of Sub rule (c) of rule (5) of this Act. (Photographic evidence to be submitted)

Name of Applicant/ Authorised Officer_____
(in case of any department)
Mobile No._____
Address_____
Date_____

Sd/-
B.B.S. TEJI,
Principal Secretary to Government of Punjab,
Department of Legal and Legislative Affairs.

3839/9-2026/Pb. Govt. Press, S.A.S. Nagar