



Tree Ambulance

Source: HT

Why In News?

Recently, the **Horticulture Department** of the **Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD)** plans to expand its **tree ambulance fleet** in Delhi, aiming to **triple** the current number to **12** by 2024.

- Each of the **12 administrative zones** will be assigned **one tree ambulance**, enhancing the city's capacity for timely and efficient tree care.

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What is a tree ambulance?

A vehicle put to use to treat trees with diseases, termite infestations, or those trees are tilting towards one side

5 Tree ambulances currently in Delhi

4 With MCD **1** With NDMC


12 MCD plans to triple its strength to 12

What does a tree surgery entail?

A treated tree may take 2-3 years to heal. The procedure starts with removing the infected part, cleaning it with a brush, washing it, and applying insecticide on the infested portion. Hollowed-out parts are filled with inert foam and covered with chicken mesh

What is a tree ambulance equipped with?

- 1** Guard-rails and mesh to cover a treated tree
- 2** Fungicides, pesticides, manure, insecticides, and any other chemicals required to treat a tree
- 3** A hosepipe to provide water on the spot
- 4** A ladder to help the staff climb tall trees



HOW CAN ONE UTILISE THIS SERVICE?

There is no dedicated helpline number for a tree ambulance. When a damaged or infected tree is spotted, one can contact the MCD horticulture department at mcd-ithelpdesk@mcd.nic.in and ask for a tree ambulance

What is the Tree Ambulance?

- **About:**
 - **Tree Ambulance** is an initiative that has been initiated to support “**save trees**” with the “**vision to save the Earth**”.
 - The **first phase** of **Tree Ambulance** was flagged off and inaugurated in **Chennai** on the occasion of [International Day for Biological Diversity, 2019](#) (**celebrated on 22nd May**) by the **Vice President of India**.

- Tree Ambulances are **run by botanists, forestry experts, gardeners, volunteers and tree surgeons and provide free services** to people who call its helpline requesting help rescuing ailing trees and plants.

▪ **Aim:**

- The initiative was proposed by the Chennai-based environmentalist **K Abdul Ghani**, well known as the **“Green Man of India”**.
- The initiative was launched for the purpose of providing a platform to **battle climate change** by replanting the trees that were uprooted due to [Cyclone Vardah](#) and [Cyclone Gaja](#).
- **Tree Ambulance** is also tasked to provide services such as **“first aid treatment, seed banking, seed ball distribution, uprooted tree planting, plant distribution, aiding tree plantation, shifting trees, and surveying of trees and removal of dead trees”**.

▪ **Significance:**

- Tree Ambulance services are **starting up across India**, bringing sick plants back to life.
- The work is helping cool down India’s cities by reducing [“urban heat islands”](#).
- These tree ambulances are also playing a role in [protecting biodiversity](#).

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