

# Joint Panel to be Set Up to Scrutinise Tree Felling



Members of various organisations stressing the need for forming a joint committee to check tree felling at the Collectorate, in Coimbatore on Monday | Express

## Express News Service

**Coimbatore:** A joint committee headed by Revenue Divisional Officer will be constituted shortly to review the petitions seeking permission to fell trees in the district, Collector M Karunakaran has said.

The decision was taken after 25 organisations, committed to conserving water bodies and trees, urged him to form a committee to look into the issue.

About 100 members representing various organisations submitted a petition to the collector in this regard at the weekly grievance meeting held here on Monday.

Citing the indiscriminate felling of trees at Brindhavan Park and Collectorate complex recently, they empha-

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sised the need to constitute a joint committee with environmentalists, biologists and social welfare organisations.

Though the corporation gave permission to cut only ageing trees at the park, the contractors have felled many other trees without any valid reason, they pointed out. Similarly, a huge tree was cut in the name of building maintenance at the Collec-

torate. The organisations which demanded the formation of a joint committee include Osai, Mattram, Thozhlar Trust, NSS Wing of Sri Krishna College, Farmers Association, SFI, DYFI, Hindu Makkal Katchi, PDK, IMUL and environmentalists Yoganathan, Shivakumar and Mohan.

The petitioners said that despite they working to protect the environment by planting and growing trees, many were felling trees in the city and suburbs without even obtaining proper permission.

According to them, the joint committee would thoroughly review the petitions seeking permission for cutting trees and also inquire if it is necessary to permit the felling.