

Printed from

THE TIMES OF INDIA

NGO seeks to stop move for large-scale tree felling in Kodassery forest

Jun 23, 2026, 11.22 PM IST



Kochi: Animals And Nature Ethics Community (ANEC), an NGO based in Ernakulam, wrote a letter to the ministry of environment, forests and climate change and state forest department seeking urgent intervention into a proposed large-scale tree felling operation within the Kodassery notified reserve forest, falling under the Pariyaram range of Chalakudy forest division. The letter to the ministry pointed out that massive felling is going to happen on the pretext of “Vista Clearance” and the restoration of the solar-powered electric fence extending from Randukai Unnathi to Pillappara.

It said forest department is proposing to remove a substantial number of standing trees along approximately 30km of the forest boundary covering Dukrukai, Chulakadavu, Pachakkad, Vaissery, Vettilappara, Blocks 13, 14, and 15, up to Pillappara. It raised concerns that tree felling activities have already commenced in certain locations between Chulakadavu and Vaissery without obtaining the requisite statutory approvals from the competent authorities.

It said as per the established procedures governing vista clearance works, only minor undergrowth and vegetation falling within strictly prescribed physical limits may be cleared. Trees exceeding prescribed girth limits cannot be summarily cut; they are legally required to be properly enumerated, marked, valued, approved by the

competent authority, accounted for through seigniorage assessment, stocked and disposed of strictly in accordance with applicable forest laws and departmental regulations. It is alleged that these mandatory safeguards are being completely bypassed and that mature, standing trees are being targeted without obtaining lawful sanction.

The letter said marking activities have already commenced in the Pillappara area. The letter said nearly 10,000-15,000 trees along the entire 30km stretch will be felled if no urgent action is taken.

The proposed activity raises serious concerns. The reported fragmentation of the proposal into multiple smaller tree-felling permissions, rather than disclosing the cumulative impact of the entire 30km stretch, appears to be a deliberate attempt to avoid proper scrutiny of the environmental consequences of the project. Such an approach runs entirely contrary to the principles of transparency, accountability, and sustainable forest management recognized under Indian environmental law, the letter reads.