

Trichy green panel to map trees on public land

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Trichy: Aiming to increase Trichy's green cover, the district green committee has decided to tighten its grip on tree felling and create a database, apart from planting saplings systematically. The aim is to increase the green cover from 10.45% to 33%.

According to the India state of forest report 2019, the district has 4,509 square metres of geographical area (GA), with a green cover of only 471.36 squaremetres. The green cover consists of 53.53 sqm of very dense forest, 228.35 sqm of moderate dense forest and 189.48 sqm of open forest. Scrubs cover 30.33 sqm of the area. The report stated that the state has a green cover of 26,364.02 sqm out of 1,30,060 sqm of GA, working out to 20.27% out of the 33% targeted green cover.

In this backdrop, the district green committee, formed by an April 2021 order of the Madras high court, convened a meeting in Trichy on May 23. With district collector S Sivarasu as chairperson and district forest officer (DFO) G Kiran as member/secretary, it comprises district revenue officer, SP and representatives of various government departments as members. The committee resolved to map all standing trees on public land and public places, prepare a comprehensive list of all standing/fallen trees and periodically update the list. It will grant permission for felling trees on public lands and places only after critical evaluation.

The committee will take care of annual tree planting on all public lands in coordination with stake holders and representatives of various departments under the guidance of the state green committee. In 2021-2022, the forest department raised 2.04 lakh seedlings of neem (*azadirachta indica*), red sander (*pterocarpus santalinus*), tamarind (*tamarindus indica*), teak (*tectona grandis*), malai vembu (*melia dubia*), mahogany (*swietenia mahagoni*) and Pungan (*millettia pinnata*) and distributed them through the agriculture department under Tamil Nadu Mission on sustainable green cover federation (TNMSGCF).