

People's Watch urges to save old structure of GRH

TNN | Dec 23, 2018, 12.41 AM IST

Madurai: With rumours going around that a part of 176-year-old Government Rajaji Hospital may be demolished for the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)-unded auditorium and operation theatre, a Madurai-based citizen activism and advocacy group has urged the state to implement the project without touching the old structure.

People's Watch made the appeal to the government after it claimed to have learnt that a part of the historical structure would be pulled down for new project. Its executive director Henri Tiphagne said the officials were planning to demolish part of the old building where outpatient block of ophthalmology, cardiology and department of dermatology are functioning. Hundreds of outpatients are being treated every day at the area.

The hospital was built in 1842 and was christened Erskine Hospital before becoming a medical college hospital in 1952. The historic structure, which is the remnant of the bygone British era, should not be destroyed while implementing the Rs 330 crore project, People's Watch argued.

The project aims at constructing a modern operation theatre complex with 26 operation theatres in the five-storey structure. A 600-seater auditorium with car parking facility has been proposed under the project. While the building has been proposed to be constructed at the site of the present auditorium and its adjacent place, the officials are planning to shift the location of project for unknown reasons, Henri said.