



food • fun • teenage • relationship • campus • music • fashion • and masti unlimited

Eco activist makes Kovai proud

PERSONALITY

Yoganathan had planted 50,000-odd trees during his two-and-a-half decade service as an eco activist in Coimbatore



He who plants a tree plants hope

- Lucy Larcom

COMMUTERS travelling by Route No 92 plying between Marudamalai and Cheran Mahanagar are familiar with M Yoganathan as a bus conductor. His affable nature won him many friends among whom he has been creating environmental awareness.

Having lived and tasted the nature's bounty, Yoganathan was pained to see trees at Kotagiri being felled. He made up his mind to protect and preserve the nature.

He made his maiden slide presentation on environment protection at Kotagiri St Antony's Middle School in 1987 which was well received. Enthused by the response, he continued his mission after coming to Coimbatore even as a conductor



M Yoganathan receiving 'Eco Warrior' award from Vice President Hamid Ansari

at Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation Ltd (TNSTC).

Interestingly, Route No 92 was a blessing in disguise for the environmental activist as the commuters were mostly students and the staff of 4 universities and 9 colleges located along the long stretch between Marudamalai and Cheran Mahanagar.

He befriended them and presented his slide shows on environmental protection to them.

Yoganathan had planted 50,000-odd trees during his two-and-a-half decade service as an eco activist.

His slide shows and tree planting functions are a regular feature at schools, colleges, NSS camps and voluntary organisations.

Yoganathan got the recognition for his service



through numerous awards. To top it all, on World Environment Day this year he was conferred with the 'Eco Warrior' award, instituted by Earth Matters Foundation, by Vice President of India Mohammed Hamid Ansari.

He has indeed brought laurels to TNSTC besides Coimbatore which fetched him the numero uno position in South India.

Yet another redeeming feature of Yoganathan is that he also creates awareness on the hazards of using plastics. It is high time Coimbatore Corporation used

Yoganathan as the brand ambassador for its campaign against plastics.

Yoganathan has also scripted the story for his documentary titled 'Thaagam' with Aravind as cinematographer. "This documentary will become the talk of the town," he said confidently.

Moreover, he has planned to set up a tree garden in Marudamalai on August 8.

This environmental activist, who has made both TNSTC and the state proud, is yet to be receive a pat on his back by either the state or the Transport Minister.

His wife Valamarthy is a homemaker and the couple has two daughters - Monisha and Sathyapriya.