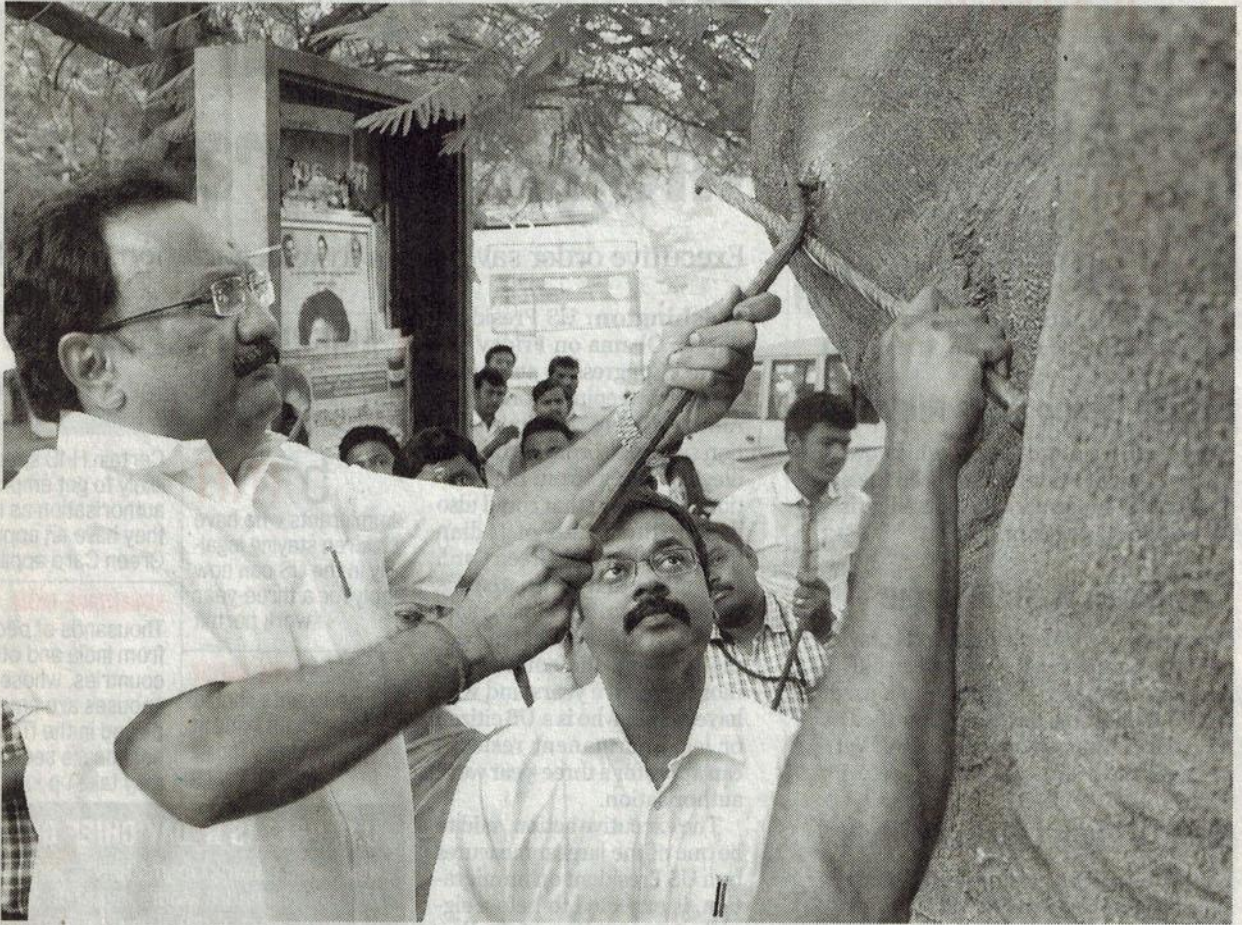


# Civic Body Eases Pain of 'Nailed' Trees



Coimbatore Corporation Mayor P Rajkumar removing nails and advertisement boards from a tree at Sungam on Friday. Corporation Commissioner K Vijay Karthikeyan and Deputy Commissioner P Gandhimathi are also seen | S KAMALAKANNAN

## Express News Service

**Coimbatore:** The Coimbatore Corporation on Friday started removing nails and advertisement boards placed on trees in the city.

Mayor P Rajkumar, Corporation commissioner K Vijay Karthikeyan and other officials removed nails and advertisements placed on several trees between Sungam junction and Coimbatore medical college hospital (CMCH) in Tiruchy road on Friday to protect the trees.

The Mayor said that the process will continue in the

coming days across the city.

"In this regard sanitary workers will be engaged once in a week and NGOs are also invited to join the work," said the Mayor.

He warned that criminal action will be taken against the advertisers who placed advertisements on trees.

However a city-based environmentalist has strongly criticised the civic body for not taking proper action against the advertisers.

"We have removed nails from over 1,000 trees in the last one year. The civic body has failed to take action

against the private companies that placed these advertisements," said M Yoganathan, founder of the NGO, tree trust.

Advertisements of beauty parlours, private hostels, mess and call taxi continue to occupy the trees. Wherever schools, colleges and hostels are located in high numbers, lot of advertisement could be spotted on the trees.

"The local body officials should levy fine on the advertisers, which will send a warning to the remaining advertisers. It is the duty of the corporation to protect

trees for the future generation," said Yoganathan.

The growth of trees would be affected if the advertisers use copper and iron nails to hang advertisement boards. The advertisers can use rope made of jute instead, which would not harm the trees.

Meanwhile, Mayor convened a meeting with various NGOs to chalk out steps to restore green cover in the city apart from protecting wetlands and birds. The civic body is planning to setup a butterfly park soon and in this regard land acquisition is under progress.