

One man can make a difference

DC CORRESPONDENT

COIMBATORE

While many Coimbatoreans have made their mark in their respective fields during the last one year, this simple bus conductor who has been fighting a lone battle against rampant felling of trees by corporation authorities takes the cake. For his sustained efforts to save the environment, Yoganathan (42) received the Best Environmentalist Award, one of the five individuals, chosen

by shoe major Timberland besides the state government's Environment Warrior award during the year 2010.

Mr. Yoganathan, who still works as a conductor on route No. S26 between Marudamalai and Nanjundapuram, has planted over 5,000 trees last year alone. "For the last 25 years I have been planting trees every Monday, a habit that started when I was in class eight," he says.

While he is not working or planting trees, the avid

environmentalist visits various schools and colleges in and around the area and presents slide shows to encourage kids to take up environmental education. "I even take my two daughters along with me to plant trees every week," Yoganathan says.

Besides this, Yoganathan has also made short films on environment. His first short film Daagam was screened a couple of years ago while he is working on his next short film, again based on environment, that is expected to release next year.



Yoganathan