



EN (2009)

■ Of the individual trees felled in Coimbatore last year, at least 25 percent was meant to enhance the visibility of buildings or private infrastructure

■ Several trees were felled recently for road expansion in Coimbatore district by National Highways Authority of India

THEN (2007)



NOW



**FAST VANISHING GREEN COVER:** Mettupalayam Road in 2009 and Avinasi Road, in 2007 presented a totally different picture with trees dotting both sides of the road

NOW

T V PALANIAPPAN

## ata on trees elled recently

Avinasi Road Flyover to  
Chambur-21 km-850 trees  
at the highway)

Mettupalayam Road -  
pananagara Street to  
Mettupalayam-20km-  
9 trees (NH)

Trichy Road -  
Mannathapuram to Ondipacur-  
5 km-45 trees (NH)

Scheme Road- Nava Indira-  
nagar Vilas- Masakalpalayam -  
7 km- 22 trees (Corporation)

Airport Road - 20 trees  
adikalur to Vilayar-  
In hundreds

## Join hands for a serene city

Express News Service  
Coimbatore, February 19

While thousands of trees have been lost to fast-paced developments, activists and officials say there is still hope for converting Namma Coimbatore into a serene city. "Individuals should not expect the Government or NGOs alone to plant trees. It would be better if citizens take the initiative. It is important for people to nurture a sapling on a sustained basis until it grows into a huge tree," says N. Reishnakumar, Director, Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding.

According to him, residents

must look at planting fruit bearing trees and trees with medicinal properties.

"An individual should not merely think of planting saplings for the sake of greenery alone, he should view it as a means to create utility for birds (nesting) and other species," he says.

Coimbatore District Forest Officer S Thirunavukkarasu says the Forest Department and voluntary organisations such as Siru Thullu and Isha Foundation have distributed free tree saplings in thousands in the city.

"We have taken steps to plant saplings along water bodies in Singanailur, Valankulam and so on. We are hopeful that we will

soon have more green cover in the city," he claims.

Meanwhile, individuals like M. Yoganathan, a bus conductor, have been passionately furthering the cause of the green movement. Yoganathan, who has personally planted saplings and nurtured them into trees, has now started a project called 'Uyir Vazha Oru Maruval' (A tree for the sake of a project) for enhancing green cover in the city. Under this students will be encouraged to plant a sapling on their birthdays.

Environmental Conservation Group president R. Mohammed Saleem says the city must have a tree authority on the lines of the one in Pune.



### Coimbatore City Tomorrow

A clearing morning. The sky will be cloudy. A few spells of moderate rain or thundershowers are expected. High 29°C, Low 22°C, RH max 94%

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# CITY

## Collector inaugurates prison nursery

Staff Reporter

**COIMBATORE:** District Collector P. Umanath on Friday inaugurated a nursery at the Coimbatore Central Prison in which saplings would be grown for providing them for afforestation programme.

### Project

A project titled 'Sirai Chalai' has been started by the Prison Department in association with the Rotary Club of Coimbatore East, wherein steps are being taken to maintain a nursery utilising the man hours of the prisoners.

### Function

The inaugural function was attended by Deputy Inspector General of Prisons, Coimbatore Range, P. Govindarajan, Rotary Club President V. Shanmugasundaram, Project Chairman S. Ramujam, Director-Community Service G. Manogaran and Secretary M.G. Srinivasan.

### Objective

The objective would be to provide one lakh saplings every year and provide the same for afforestation activities in and around Coimbatore.

The project also aimed at planting nearly 15,000 saplings in and around the prison to enhance the green cover in the sprawling prison premises. The Collector and the Deputy Inspector General gave away prizes to the prison inmates who excelled in various competitions.



**GREEN INITIATIVE:** Coimbatore Collector P. Umanath (second right) watering a sapling he planted at the Central Prison to mark the inauguration of a nursery under the 'Siraisolai' project of the Rotary Club of Coimbatore East on Friday. Deputy Inspector General of Prisons P. Govindarajan (right) is in the picture.

— PHOTO: S. SIVA SARAVANAN