

We the peepal: Trio pulls out 600 nails from tree in Bengaluru

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BENGALURU: On a nippy morning last week, Raghavendra Poojari and two of his friends passed a peepal tree near Vijayanagar bus stop and spotted a paper advertisement pinned to it. They spent the next three to four hours removing 600 nails and more than 5,000 stapler pins from the tree.

Morning walks have now become routine for Poojari, Karthik Mudhaliar and Kiran Kumar, from Pattegarapalya in Vijayanagar, who are on a mission to safeguard trees from ad promoters in the area.



Poojari, who claims to be a member of Bangalore Political Action Committee (BPAC), recalled: “When I removed the ad from the peepal tree and took out the pin, I was shocked to find numerous other pins and nails hammered into it. Two of my friends joined me in taking them out. As they were rusted and disfigured, it made the task extremely tough.”



Calling the experience painful, Mudhaliar said the nails and pins were thrust into the tree by petty ad promoters, and they plan to raise the matter with Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike officials.



The trio formed a team and began daily morning rounds of the area, identifying trees and removing pins and nails. They were successful in freeing a few trees of the iron and aluminium pieces.



“We have also put up messages in Kannada on the trees stating the number of pins and nails removed in an attempt to spread awareness,” added Poojari. A few children from the locality have also joined the trio in saving trees. The friends plan to take the issue to BPAC.