

Corporation sanitary staff to be screened for health

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COIMBATORE: For the first time in Coimbatore Corporation's history, all its permanent sanitary workers will undergo a detailed health check-up. The men and women who deal with all forms of waste will be checked for hepatitis, diabetes, kidney function, respiratory problems and most importantly skin-related problems.

The blood tests and health check-ups will be done by a group of six hospitals, two eye hospitals and a city-based laboratory.

The initiative titled 'Healthy Kovai' by CII and Young Indians will test the 2,600 permanent sanitary workers spread across the 100 wards for a host of health problems. They will undergo blood tests in the first week of December at city-based Thyrocare, after which they will be given a complete medical check-up based on the report. "The 2,600 workers will be separated into 12 batches of 230 workers each and be made to attend a health camp at the corporation schools," said convenor of the health care panel at Confederation of Indian Industries (CII), Dr S Rajasabapathy of Ganga Hospital.

The check-ups will be done by PSG Hospital, Kovai Medical Centre and Hospital, Gem Hospital, KG Hospital and G Kuppuswamy Naidu Memorial Hospital. "The eye check-ups will be done by Aravind Eye Hospital and Sankara Eye Hospital" said Shri Kumaravelu, member of the healthcare panel at Young Indians. "We will not just test them for problems but will also treat them. City-based Rathna Agencies has come forward to provide drugs free of cost and we are also looking at options for hospitals to provide them treatment for more severe conditions," he said.

Speaking about the initiative, corporation commissioner Dr K Vijayakarhikeyan said "These people help keep our city clean. This initiative will help us identify the health problems of our workers and give them the necessary treatment".