



Solid Waste Management

By
Hand in Hand, Chennai



The month of Aadi (Tamil Calendar) is special for 'Aadi Ammavasai', a religious event marked by the presence of lakhs of pilgrims arriving in the town to visit the Ramanathasamy temple. This year, around three lakh devotees arrived in the town on 31st July, to celebrate the auspicious day.

Prior to the occasion, Mr. K. Veera Raghava Rao, District Collector, Ramanathapuram, along with other govt. officials visited the four car streets on 30th July and inspected the arrangements for the event. The visit was from 6 pm – 8 pm, during which The Collector gave instructions for the proceedings.



On the event day, to tackle the influx and the wastes the devotees generated, Hand in Hand Inclusive Development and Services (HHIDS) engaged Green Friends in the Four Car Streets, Sannathi Road, Melavaasal Veethi and Agni Theertham. Car parking near temple, Railway Station road, Sivagami Nagar, Kamarajar Nagar, Varthagan Street, Thittakudi Main Road, Bus

Stand, Verkodu to Dhanushkodi, and Thittakudi to Paruvatham roads were also covered during the occasion.

The work started in the evening before the Aadi Ammavasai day, from 10 pm till 6 am, clearing the garbage present in the aforementioned streets through mass cleaning. 40 Green Friends were engaged in the night shift activities. During the event day, Green Friends were engaged across two shifts – 6 am to 2 pm and 2 pm to 10 pm, covering the entire day to clear the garbage generated



around the temple and at Agni Theertham. 20 Green Friends were engaged to collect wastes and for crowd control in the morning shift, while 20 Green Friends were engaged during the 2nd shift to clear the litter on the streets. Moreover, 100 Green Friends were engaged around the temple and Agni Theertham for mass cleaning activity.



25 barrels of 200 liter capacity each were placed around the temple and Agni Theertham to aid the pilgrims to deposit their wastes. Once the barrels were full, collection vehicles were used to empty the barrels. Eight collection vehicles such as goods autos, tractors, Lorries, and Compactors were deployed to collect wastes routinely. The occasion generated around 40 tonnes of waste in a single day, out of which, around 25 tonnes were cloth waste. HHIDS team handled the special day with ease alongside regular MSWM operations in the town.



Regular MSWM and Behavioral Change Communication (BCC) activities

Door-to-door awareness campaign:

Two door-to-door awareness campaigns were conducted in the Municipality viz. Kattupillayar Kovil Street - Ward no: 14 (18th July) and Bharathi Nagar – Ward no: 15 (25th July). A total of 180 households were sensitized on MSWM through these programmes.



Picking Litter campaign:

One picking litter campaign was conducted at Agni Theertham on 10th July involving staff of Hotel Daiwik, staff of Hyatt Place, Yathirai Paniyalar Sangam, Brahmin Association, NSS and NCC Students from Schools, Green Rameswaram & HHIDS Team (a total of 220 people). Litter around Agni Theertham was removed during the campaign.



Pilgrim Awareness programme:

One awareness programme for pilgrims was conducted at Agni Theertham on 21st July. 500 pilgrims were sensitized on the importance of source segregation of waste and the MSWM during the programme.



Source Segregation demo:

One Source Segregation demo programme was conducted at Thiruvalluvar Nagar – Ward no: 13 on 28th July. 50 households were benefitted through the demonstration on source segregation of waste.



Stakeholder meeting:

One stakeholder meeting was conducted near Vivekananda Matriculation School on 15th July. 40 stakeholders participated in the meeting, wherein the MSWM project in Rameswaram was discussed and inputs were received from stakeholders.

