



Solid Waste Management

By
Hand in Hand, Chennai



‘Mahalaya Amavasai’ is a religious event marked by the presence of lakhs of pilgrims arriving in the town to visit the Ramanathasamy temple. This year, around two lakh devotees arrived in the town on 28th September, to celebrate the auspicious day.

For the event, 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, Agni Theertham, car parking near temple, Railway Station road, Municipal Office to Thittakudi, and Bus Stand were covered during the occasion.





The work started in the evening before the Mahalaya Amavasai day, from 10 pm till 6 am, clearing the garbage present in the aforementioned streets through mass cleaning. 25 Green Friends were engaged in the night shift activities. During the event day, Green Friends were engaged from 2 pm to 10 pm to clear the garbage generated in the Four Car Streets, Agni Theertham and car parking area. 100 Green Friends were engaged to collect wastes and to conduct mass cleanings during the day.





Eight compactor bins of 500 liter capacity each were placed around Agni Theertham to aid the pilgrims deposit their wastes. Once the barrels were full, collection vehicles were used to empty the barrels. Six collection vehicles such as Light Commercial Vehicles, tractors, Lorries, and Compactors were deployed to collect wastes routinely. The occasion generated around 20 tonnes of wastes, out of which, around 10 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:

i. Oath cum Awareness programme:

One oath cum awareness programme was conducted in the Municipality at Agni Theertham on 11th September, involving 30 Green Friends and Municipal staffs. During the programme, Green Friends and Municipal staff took an oath to keep Rameswaram Island clean.



ii. Picking Litter campaign:

Four picking litter campaigns were conducted in the Municipality viz. Dhanushkodi (12th September), Sangumal (21st September), Lakshmana Theertham (25th September) and Agni Theertham (27th September).

Litter picking in Dhanushkodi involved 40 Green Friends, Municipal staffs and staffs of Hotel Daiwik. In Sangumal, the collective effort of 120 people from CMFRI, ICC, Yathirai Paniyalar Sangam and MSSRF, along with Green Friends helped in removing 1.5 tonnes of waste.



At Lakshmana Theertham and Agni Theertham, a total of 55 NSS students from SPA Girls Higher Secondary School along with the Green Friends removed the litter.



School Students Awareness Programme

One awareness programme was conducted for the students of Govt. High School, Karaiyur on 16th September. 124 students were sensitized on the importance of Municipal Solid Waste Management and the role of students in this regard.

