

Clean Destination Programme of Wayanad District Mission

Wayanad District being a tourist destination is of high interest among the wanderlusts and travellers inside and outside India, the number of people who visit this destination would be comparatively high. More the people visit, there are chances of more waste accumulation. The clean destination programme is very much relevant in this scenario as well. As decided, Haritha karma Sena would be set up in Wayanad District also. The District Mission had been taking steps to set up a waste management team in the district. Let's look into the status of the setting up of Haritha karma sena in the district.

Solid waste and littering

In areas with high concentrations of tourist activities and appealing natural attractions, waste disposal is a very serious problem and the improper disposal can be a major despoiler of the natural environment - rivers, scenic areas, and roadsides. In mountain areas, trekking tourists generate a great deal of waste. Tourists on expedition leave behind their garbage, food packets, oxygen cylinders and even camping equipments. Such practices would degrade the environment and in the remote areas that have few garbage collection or disposal facilities, the situation would be even worse.

Wayanad District and Tourism

Wayanad District is a district in the north-east of Kerala state, India with headquarters at the town of Kalpetta. It is set high on the Western Ghats with altitudes ranging from 700 to 2100 m. The district stands on the southern tip of the Deccan plateau and includes part of the Western Ghats.

Even though it is the least populous district in the state, because of its natural and scenic beauty it had evolved into a most visited tourist destination. Spanning over two thousand square kilometers, Wayanad district is a mixed bag of exotic destinations waiting to be explored.

Quite a large area of the district is covered by forest but the continued and the indiscriminate exploitation of the natural resources point towards an imminent environmental crisis. There are a lot of trekking points in this district.

Priyadarshini tea environs, Kuruva islands, Edakkal caves, Kanthanpara waterfalls, Pookode lake, Banasura sagar dam, Wayanad heritage museum, Tholpetty wildlife sanctuary, Muthanga wildlife sanctuary, Pazhassi raja tomb, Pazhassi raja park, Pazhassi raja memorial, Chembra peak, Jain temple, Sulthan bathery, Banasura Meenmutti falls, Chain tree, Varambetta mosque, Korome mosque, Thirunelly temple, Papanashini and Thrissilery temple, Ancient jain temple ruins, panamaram, Seetha lava kusha temple, Krishnagiri stadium, Regional Agricultural Research Station at Ambalavayal, Phantom rock, Soochipara waterfalls, Pallikunnu church, Valliyoorkavu temple etc are some of the main tourist destinations in the state.

Wayanad's forests are part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, one of the 20 reserves in UNESCO'S World Network of Biosphere Reserves. It was also the first biosphere reserve to be established in India. These forests are rich in plant and animal diversity, and play a crucial role in the conservation of several rare species of animals and plants.

More the people visit, there are chances of more waste accumulation. This would make adverse effects in the eco system of Wayanad. The waste produced from the inhabitants would also may turn into a severe problem, if proper waste management system is not implemented. Only through proper waste management techniques, the serenity of the destination could be retained.

Waste Management

Waste management or waste disposals are all the activities and actions required to manage waste from its inception to its final disposal. This includes amongst other things collection, transport, treatment and disposal of waste together with monitoring and regulation. It also encompasses the legal and regulatory framework that relates to waste management encompassing guidance on recycling.

Waste can take any form that is either solid, liquid, or gas and each have different methods of disposal and management. Waste management normally deals with all types of waste whether it was created in forms that are industrial, biological, household, and special cases where it may pose a threat to human health. It is produced due to human activity such as when factories extract and process raw

materials. Waste management is intended to reduce adverse effects of waste on health, environment or aesthetics.

Waste Management has become an essential service that need to be provided by Government for the wellness of public. Due to the rapid growth at which economies are expanding along with the rising living standards, led to increase the quantity and complexity of waste generated. Today waste management has become a serious issue in Kerala. Growth of unmanageable waste generation and garbage pile-ups is creating a lot of ecological issues such as global warming.

Haritha Karma Sena

Haritha Karma sena is a professional team consisting of Green Technicians and Green Supervisors mainly Kudumbashree Women who will be assigned with the responsibility of collection, transportation, processing, recycling / disposal, and management of waste materials in association with respective LSGs and Suchithwa Mission.

Green Technicians are trained man power recruited to provide technical services and solutions on waste management projects. One Green Technician has to visit 250 households in a ward. In one Ward two Green Technicians will be positioned and one supervisor for managing 15 Wards. So for a Panchayath having 15 Wards, the total man power is 31. The Green Supervisor must be a graduate able to operate computers and give reports. The Collection of user fee will be the responsibility of Green Supervisor. Haritha Sahaya Sthapanams the accredited

agencies of Haritha Kerala Mission which will provide technical assistance to the Haritha Karma Sena.

Setting up of Harithakarma Sena in Wayanad

For the well being of the inhabitants in Wayanad, and as well as for retaining the serenity of Wayanad, a Harithakarma Sena is being set up in the district. The local self government Departments, Harithakerala Mission, Suchithwa Mission and Clean Kerala Company are joining hands with Kudumbashree Mission for achieving the mission.

Nine Local Self Government Departments viz., Meenangadi, Thariyod, Kalpetta, Vythiri, Moopainad, Pozuthana, Padinjarathara, Edavaka, and Muttill had completed the training for the Harithakarma Sena members in the district. A total of 199 members are trained so far. One Haritha karma sena unit is active in the district. A Plastic shredding unit is set up at Meenangadi. Padinjarathara & Meenangadi are the 2 places in the state where Material Collection Facility Centre (MCF) and Resources Recovery Facility (RRF) are available.

Process of Waste Management

It is planned to make a team of Kudumbashree women at the village Panchayath levels and the waste collected by them were send to a plastic recycling agency. A user fee was also collected from the households and shops for collecting wastes from them. As per the quantity of the waste produced, the intervals between the

waste collections would be fixed. The plastic shredding units being installed at the panchayaths, urban local bodies and corporations would be operated by the Harithakarma Sena members themselves. The shredded plastic would be given for tarring the roads.

Only through a proper waste management system, the clean destination programme could be successfully implemented in the district and the serenity of this tourist destination could be retained. Harithakarma sena members who came forward to keep the destination clean should be appreciated and once the activity would be in full swing, the destination would become even more serene than ever before. The initiatives taken up by the Wayanad District Mission is really appreciable and they are looking forward to new activities that could lead to zero waste production. The Haritha Karma Sena team as well as the district team is highly optimistic about this initiative.