

Printed from

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Bengaluru: IPL nights to gated societies, waste segregation a real test

TNN | Apr 18, 2023, 11.26 AM IST



BENGALURU: Have you ever wondered how much waste is generated in Bengaluru whenever the city hosts an Indian Premier League (IPL) match? Well, about 10 tonnes of dry waste, which includes banners, flags, paper, cups and PET bottles.

However, it is not the sheer volume, but lack of segregation of waste that poses the bigger challenge. This bulk waste is not strewn all over the place, including already-clogged drains, but collected and sent to a material recovery facility (MRF) in Jigani where about 80 workers work in two shifts to segregate the waste into 25 categories, bundling them into bales for recycling.

IPL matches are part of the sources that generate 40% of the bulk waste in Bengaluru, to which corporate firms, large residential complexes, and other gated communities are also major contributors. According to Saahas Zero Waste, which runs the MRF at Jigani, out of this 40% bulk waste, only 10% gets segregated, in spite of the fact that the generators possess a high degree of sensitivity about source segregation. Set up five years ago as a first-of-its-kind facility in Bengaluru to deal with waste generated from bulk generators, MRF sources dry waste from across the city and also from urban local bodies of Attibele, Jigani, Bommasandra, and Hebbagodi.

“Even though there has been a high degree of sensitization among bulk waste generators, only 10% of these implement segregation at source, especially the large housing societies, malls and stadia,” said Shobha Raghavan, COO of Saahas Zero

Waste.

“Most of the time, the waste comes as mixed waste and our personnel have to segregate it,” said Arun Muruges, regional director at MRF.

In the last five years, MRF has processed over 11,000 tonnes of waste and recovered materials for recycling. “Even though we take the utmost precaution to ensure that the waste is free of contamination (food, liquid), sometimes it slips through and then we have to remove them manually here,” Murthy T, senior manager at the facility, said.