

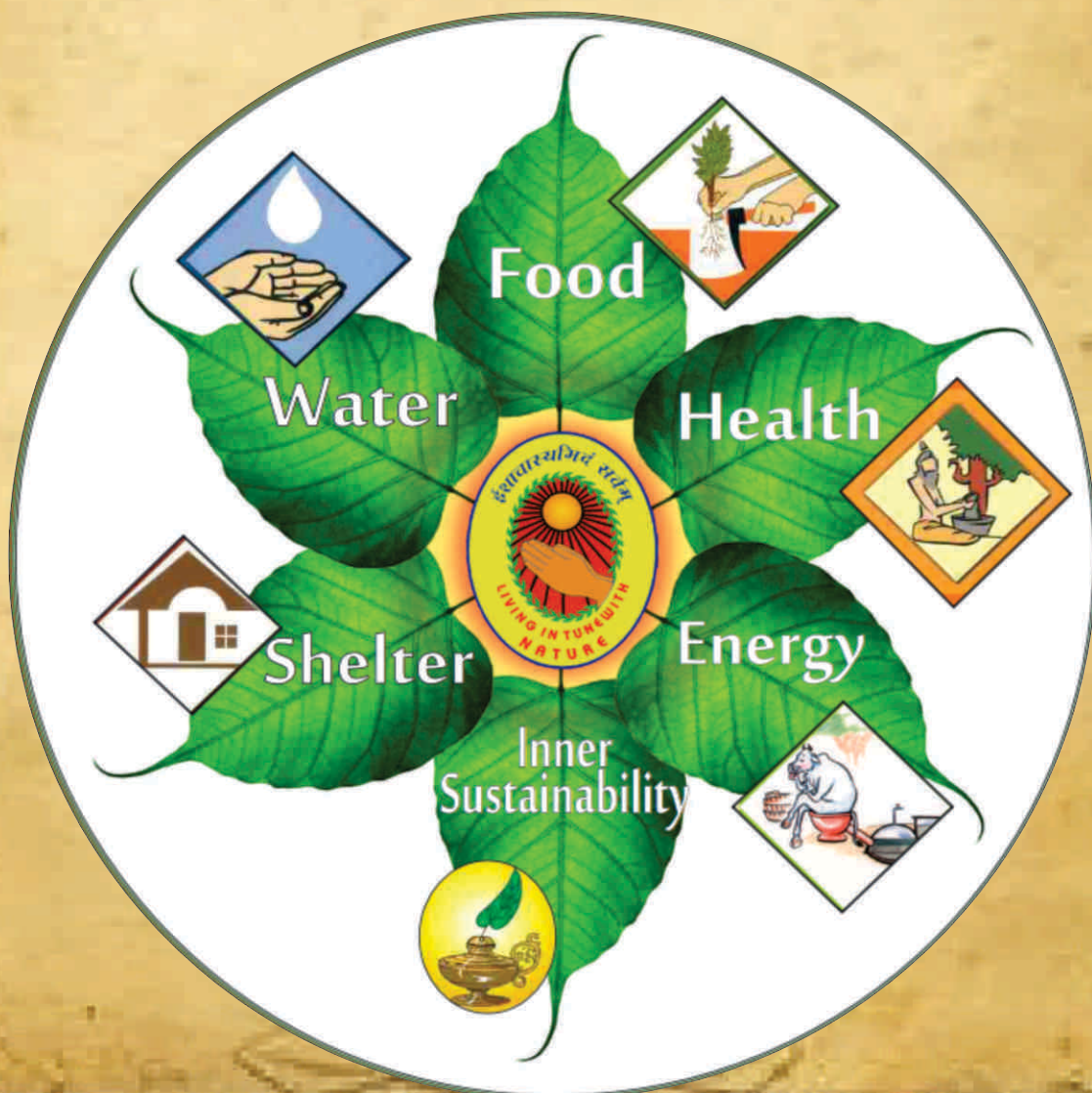


Vivekananda Kendra

Natural Resources Development Project

Milestones

Work in the Field of Water Management





Water Management

As the scarcity of water looms large on the horizon and assumes starker proportions for the disadvantaged sections of the society, VK-nardep undertook the task of water conservation and management





1994-1998

- ★ Renovation of Oornis in Muthukulathur block of Ramanathapuram district at Sambakulam, Thattankudiruppu, Selvanayagapuram, Kottakudi, Mattiyerandi and Kannicherry villages
- ★ Artificial recharge of tube wells in Ramanathapuram district helped by CGWB team.



Stakeholders participation in the Renovation work to ensure ownership





De-silted soil given to the Farmers as a fertilizer in their fields



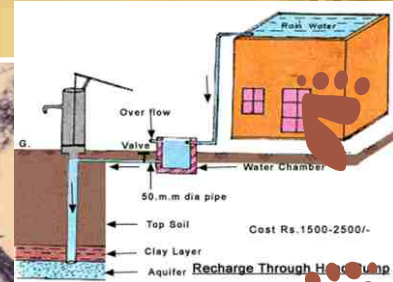
A novel method of pitching the slopes with stones to avoid sliding of the soil

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1994-1998

- ★ Artificial recharge of tube wells supported by CAPART , New Delhi
- ★ Rainwater harvesting for individual house holds connected to a sump (pioneering work)
- ★ Slow sand filter (Horizontal)
- ★ Hand pump near the revived Water bodies (Ooranies)



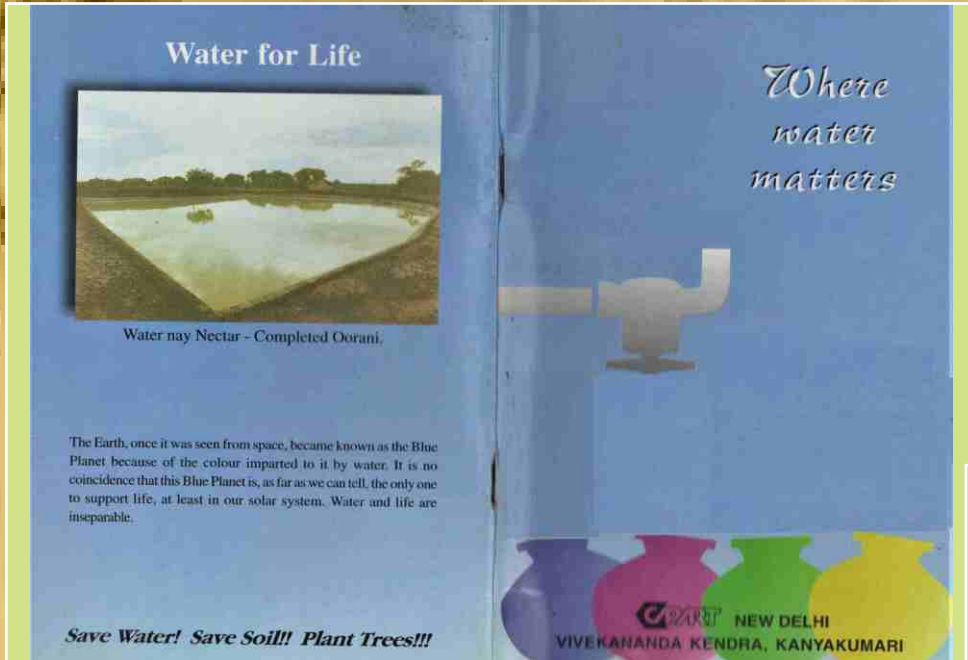
Our ex-worker Shri.Sunil explaining the Rain Water Harvesting structure with a hand pump to the CAPART officials



Digging of tube well and Horizontal sand filter



1994-1998



**The first book
Where Water Matters
- printed in 1996**

**The book "Aaduvome Pallu Paduvome" covers
folk songs not only on water but also on other
technologies and environment written by
a famous folk artist Late.Venkaiyan**



Villagers enjoy the over flowing Oorani



1999 -2001

- ★ Renovation of Kanyakumari temple tank – 1999
- ★ Renovation of Chakkarkulam - 2000
- ★ Renovation of Krishnankovil tank – 2001
- ★ En Peyyar Kulam – Documentary on Three Teerthams – 2001



JCB is clearing the silt accumulated over the years



Laying of underground pipe crossing the main road



Renovated Kanyakumari Amman temple tank with beautiful steps - Amazing work carried out by the earlier Travancore Maharaja



Kanyakumari Amman will enjoy Teppam festival after a long long gap in the tank full of water



A view of Krishna Teertham - Krishnan Temple , Nagercoil



A view of Chakkara Teertham - Kasi Viswanathar Temple tank, Kanyakumari

SHOT ON OPPO

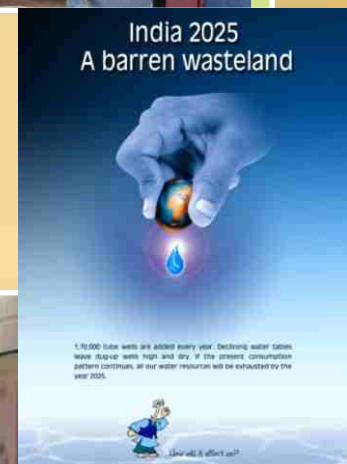


Gramodaya Park

- ★ Exhibition Panels on Water management
- ★ Live Models on Different type of Rural and Urban water Harvesting System



Unique rural and urban Rain water harvesting model

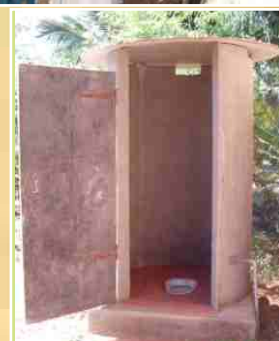


Cubicle with artistic and educative panels on water management

Work in the Field of Sanitation



- ★ We carried out major construction of toilet works in the year 1993-94
- ★ constructed toilets under Central Rural Sanitation programme (CRSP) in Chidambaranar District
- ★ Thoothukudi panchayat - 80 nos, Puthur - 80 nos. Vilathikumam - 80 nos. and Kovilpatti - 80 nos.
- ★ Temporary toilets during Tsunami - 300 nos. Year 2004
- ★ Toilets constructed in Agasteeswaram block of Kanyakumari district - 44 nos. (year 2006-07)
- ★ Toilet linked bio gas plants, Two leach pit toilets, Bio-toilets, Eco-sanitation etc.,
- ★ Used Rubble filler block, Ferro cement Technologies for super structures.

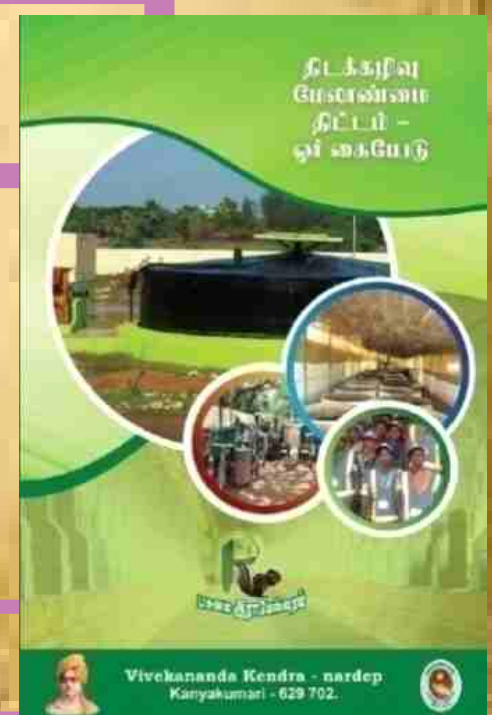
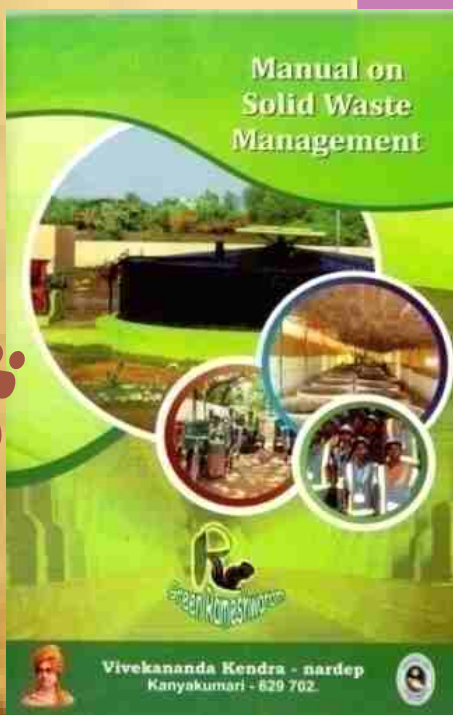


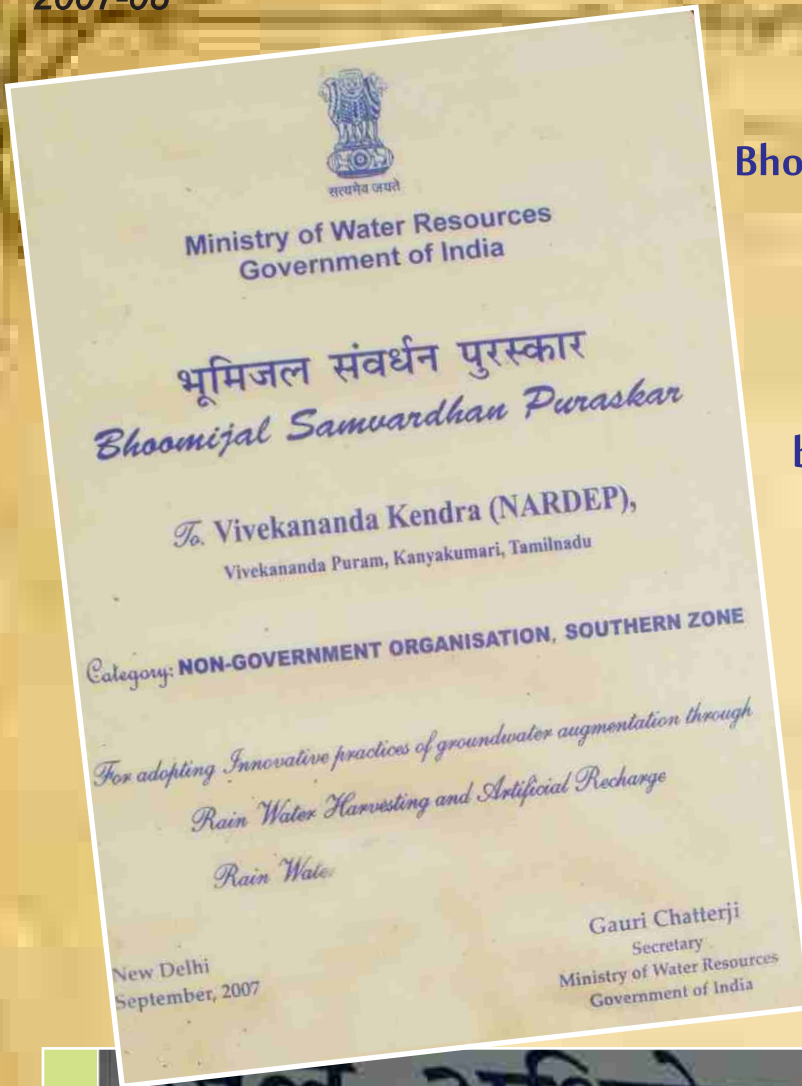
- ★ Number of Awareness programmes in schools and colleges and panchayats
- ★ Eco clubs formed in the schools.
- ★ Awareness through films, bit notice, street plays etc., involving children in cleaning campaign





- ★ Projects supported by - Commune di Pistola, Water forum, Italy and UNICEF, Chennai
- ★ Training module - personal hygiene, house hygiene, use of toilets, solid waste management, Grey and Black water treatment etc.,





VK-nardep was Awarded
Bhoomijal Samvardhan Puraskar -2007
for its contribution to the
Conservation of ground water
through community efforts
by Ministry of Water Resources ,
Government of India

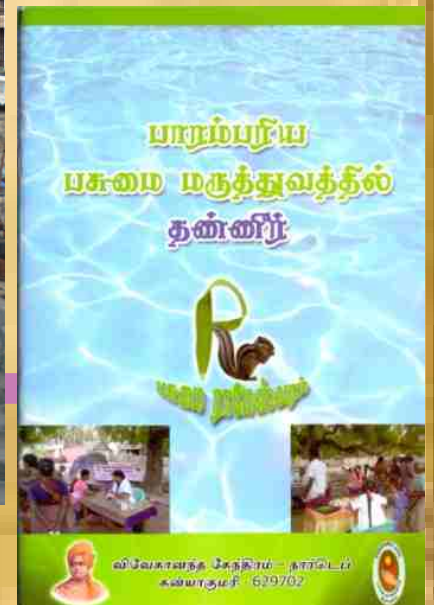
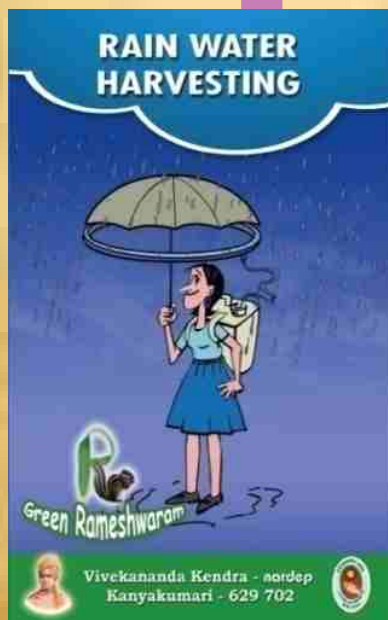
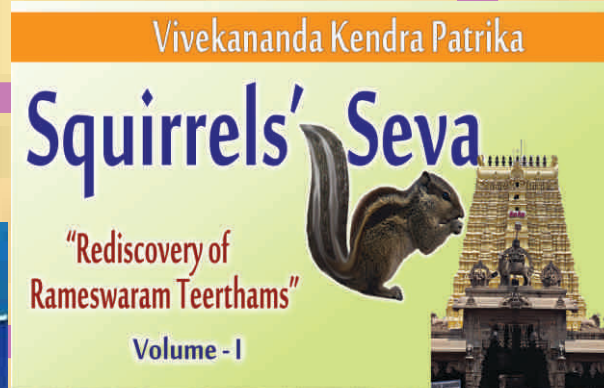
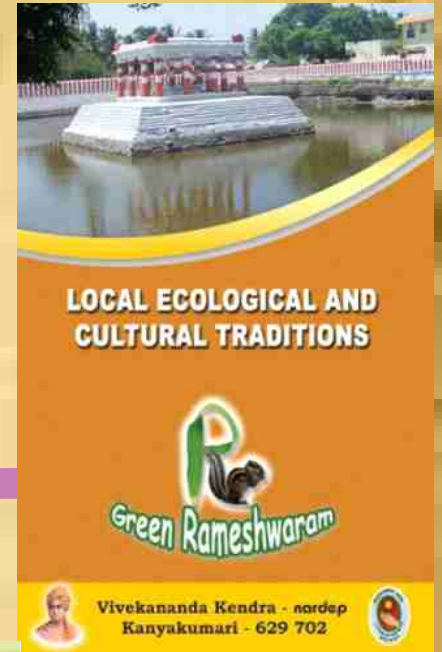
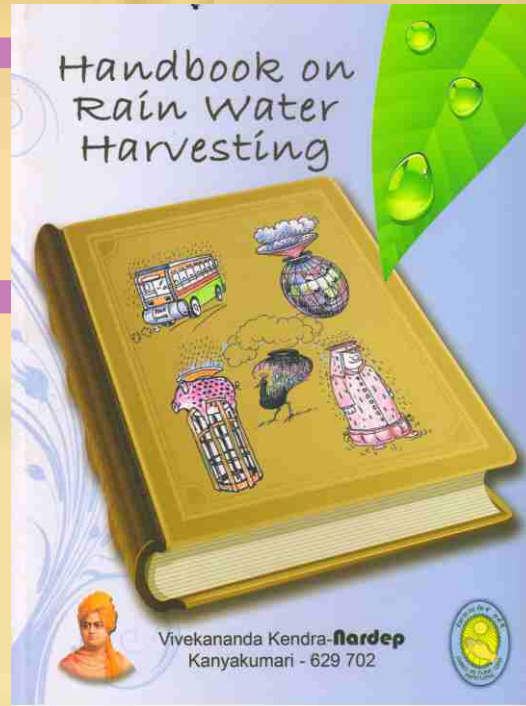
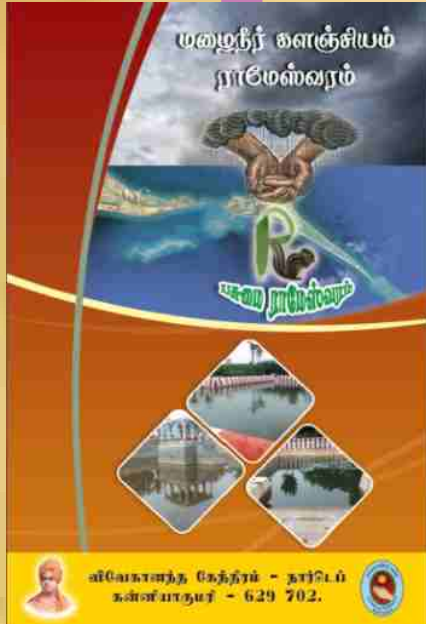
Shri.G.Vasudeo, Secretary, VK-Nardep
receiving the shield and memento
from Hon.President, Smt.Pratibha Patil





Publications on Water management

First Hand book on Rainwater harvesting published in 2007 ...





Awareness and Training programmes

- ✦ Conducted number of training programme from 2003 onwards for Voluntary organisations, Panchayat presidents, Engineers etc., to name a few:
- ✦ Workshop on Water management, CGWB, Chennai – 10 & 11 June 2003 – 31 nos.
- ✦ Awareness programme on Water management, CGWB, Chennai – 12.12.2003 – 125 nos.
- ✦ Refresher course for TWAD Officers – 3rd to 7th and 17 to 21st December 2007 – 60 nos.
- ✦ Training on Rain water harvesting (CAPART)- 4th to 9th Aug. and 20th to 22nd 2008– 41 nos.



*Hands on training on
"Rain water harvesting" at
Technology Resource center,
Anjaneyapuram, Kalluvlai of
Vivekananda Kendra -Nardep*

*Smt.Santha Sheela Nair, I.A.S
Ex-Secretary Rural Development
and a crusader of
Rain water harvesting interacting
with the participants*



*Shri.Anna Hazare,
a well known Social worker
giving certificate
to the participants*





Training - Methodology and Approach

Methodology

- ★ Interactive
- ★ Participatory
- ★ Experience Sharing
- ★ Peer Learning
- ★ Brainstorming Sessions etc



Approach - from IEC to BCC (Four E's)

- ★ **Enable** - Remove Barriers/ Information Dissemination/ Educate/Train/ Practical solutions
- ★ **Encourage** - Information Supplements/ Space for Innovation/ Competitions
- ★ **Engage** - Community Action/Opportunity for Deliberations/Educative Media/Role plays/ Stakeholders Interaction
- ★ **Exemplify** – Showcasing Self practices as Example/Motivating others also to practice



Greywater treatment using phyto-remediation with the support of DST



Sedimentation and Filtration tank



Use of Canna Indica, Water hyacinth, Azolla etc. for treatment



Training on Gray water treatment on August 2011 - 118 nos. and in the year 2013 - 55 nos.

**Monitoring water levels of 14 wells in Kanyakumari district for
CGWB, Chennai - 6 years from 2009 to 2014.**



Murugan kundram (Near Highway at Kanyakumari)

Murugan temple tank, Kanyakumari constructed and handed over to the community



Excavation and construction of side walls



Beautiful steps and Entry gate



Inauguration ceremony
through Shri.Balakrishnanji, then Vice-president, Vivekananda Kendra



Swami Vivekananda's 150th year Celebration

VK-Nardep decided to celebrate Swami Vivekananda's 150th year in a constructive manner by taking up a challenging work of "Reviving and Renovating Traditional Water bodies of Rameswaram"



Project inaugurated on 27th January 2013 in the presence of Swami Kamalathmananda, Ramakrishna Mission, Shri. Nanthakumar, IAS, then Collector, Ramanathapuram district and Shri. Balakrishnanji, then Vice-president, Vivekananda Kendra, Kanyakumari.



Dignitaries and stakeholders offering prayers at Hanuman Teertham



Traditional Water Bodies (TWB) at Rameswaram

Rameshwaram is the South Indian island that has been center of pilgrimages from time immemorial. though situated in the arid district of Ramanathapuram, the island has been endowed with 96 traditional water harvesting and management structures which are today abandoned, polluted. The following are the benefits envisioned in the renovation of these water bodies, which are today abandoned, polluted, ruined and in state of endangered extinction.

Ecological Potential of each Traditional Water Bodies

Recharging of ground water and Rainwater harvesting; aquaculture as well as use for revival of an 'infant forest' (nandavanam) with a specific keystone species.

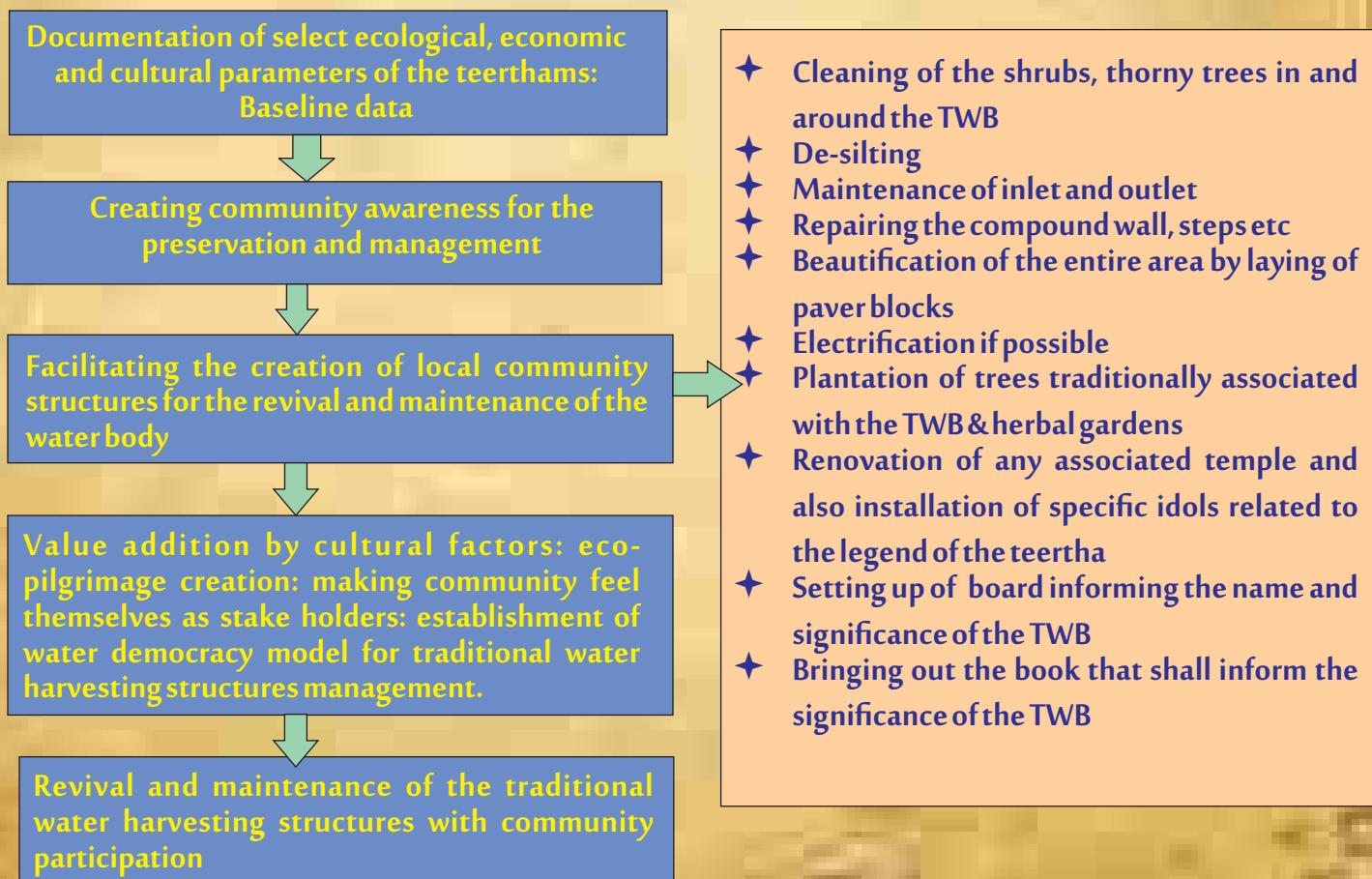
Cultural Significance:

Preservation of epigraphical data (if any) and highlighting it; Promoting knowledge of historical facts, Conserving the mythological significance related to each TWB - Teertham as well as conserving the cultural activities associated with the Teertham.

Economic Possibilities:

Promoting the traditional water bodies (TWB) and associating it as an eco-pilgrimage point. With such a vast value addition, new livelihood possibilities get created for local communities

Methodology :





2012-13



1. Hanuman Teertham

It is believed that this Teertham is created by Lord Hanuman.
Popular Hanuman temple is adjacent to this Teertham.
speciality is that the Hanumana idol is without his famous Tail.



ஹனுமான் தீர்த்தம்





2. Draupadi Teertham

Draupadi Teertham is near Bhadrakali temple. It is a small Teertham and was full of liquor bottles before renovation.



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3. Nakula Teertham

Nakula Teertham is on the way to
Gandha Madhana Parvatham. It is a small pond.



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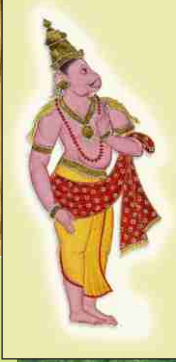


4. Sahadeva Teertham

Nakula and Sahadeva are twins and so the Teerthams are also near to each other and of the same size



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5. Sugreevar Teertham

It is a beautiful stepped tank with numerous lotus plants floating on its surface. There is a small temple of Sugreeva who was younger brother of Vali.



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Experiences.....

Change of team.....



Initially, migrant workers from Bengal and Odisha were working for revival and renovation of Teerthas. However, within a few days they ran away after seeing the difficult work conditions such as (i) removing the thorny trees (ii) working in the dirty water with full of insects (iii) unhygienic conditions and (iv) lifting of heavy stones etc. Afterwards we brought a team of workers from Madurai who are working very efficiently for the last 6 – 7 years.

Connection of septic tank pipeline to the Teertham

Shockingly the neighbouring house was discharging the septic tank water in the unused Traditional water body before its revival



A portion of liquor bottles collected from Ramar Teertham during renovation.
A sad state of affairs.....

Workers have to wear Gumboots to prevent injury



The ripple effect

When the garbage and sewage cleaning works were undertaken at Hanuman Teertham, the renovation team faced opposition from the nearby families. Sri. Karuppiyah, a local resident blamed the renovation team that water from his open well, turned black because of the act of cleaning the Teertham. Members of the renovation team explained to him that it was not due to Teertham cleaning. Initially he was not convinced and was upset. Later, he understood that the colour change of the water was not due to the tank renovation. Gradually, he became a strong supporter of the renovation work of VK-NARDEP. Sri. Karuppiyah regularly contributes money for Teertham cleaning campaigns organized by VK-NARDEP and Teertha Mitras and for the purchase of masonry equipment.



2013-14

6. Agastya Teertham



Agastya Teertham is a tank located at the outskirts of the Sambai village and near Gandhamadhana Parvatham. It is a small tank in rectangular shape. The Teertham is fed by coastal shallow aquifers and rainwater.



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7. Angada Teertham

Angada Teertham is near Jambavan Teertham. Angada was a member of the group of monkeys sent by Sugriva to find out Sita



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8. Jambavan Teertham

Jambavan Teertham is a small well near Vali Teertham. Jambavan -
A monkey of extraordinary might was the minister of Sugriva.



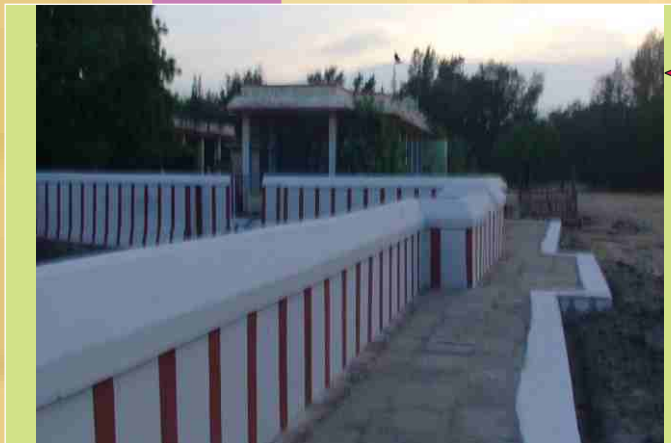


2013-14



9. Jata Makuta Teertham

Jata Mukuta is also known as Jata Teertham. It is a pushkarani (stepped tank). The Teertham is associated with the popular Mahamaham festival, celebrated once in 12 years.



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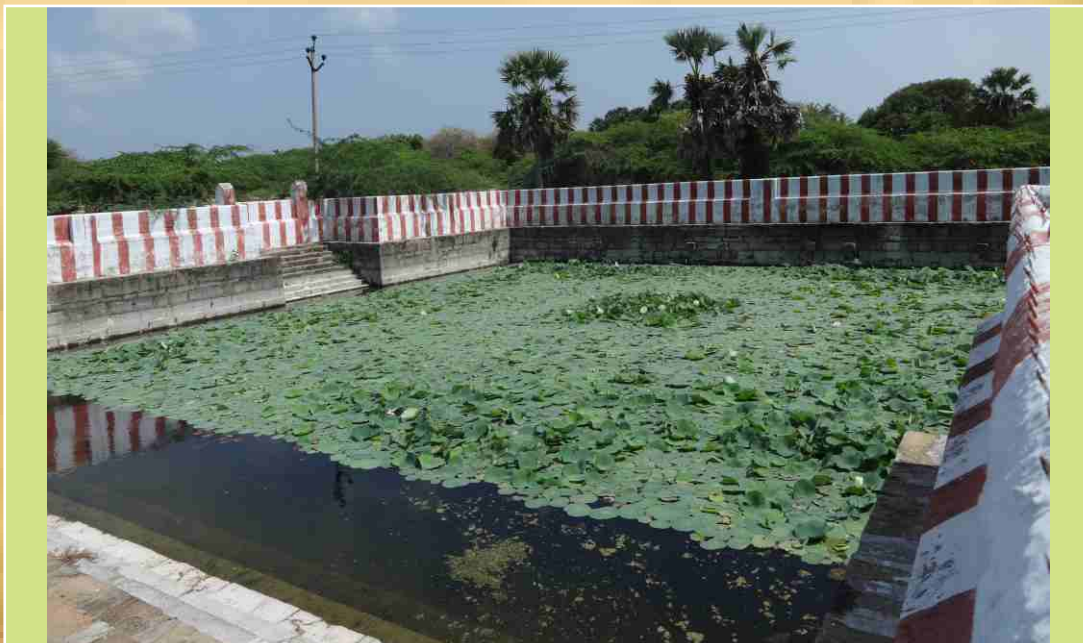


10. Runa Vimochana Teertham

Runa Vimochana Teertham is located at Thangachimadam village. It is believed that Maharshi Atri created this Teertham . It is opposite to Mangala Teertham.



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**Journey from “Renovation of Water bodies”
(27th January 2013)
to launching of
“Green Rameswaram Project”
(28th January 2014)**



The Late.Dr.APJ Abdul Kalam as well as the local stakeholders wanted Vivekananda Kendra, not to limit its work in Revival and Renovation of Traditional Water bodies but also wants us to take up the work of making Rameswaram clean, green and resilient. The project was inaugurated by Dr.APJ Abdul Kalam in presence of the then District Collector Shri.Nanatha Kumar and Shri.A.Balakrishnan, Vice President, Vivekananda Kendra, Kanyakumari on 28th January 2014.

This noble task of renovation of abandoned polluted water bodies by Green Rameswaram is a praiseworthy service.

Dr A P J Abdul Kalam on January 28 2014



Invitation Launch of the project: 'Green Pilgrimage to Rameshwaram'



Date: 28-Jan-2014 (Tuesday)
Time: 5:00 pm to 5:45 pm *
Venue: Satsang Bhawan, Goswami Math
Rameshwaram

- Invocation
- Welcome
- Introduction of the programme
- Unveiling the project vision document
- Speech of Dr.APJ Abdul Kalam
Former President of India , Chief guest
- Presenting of mementos
- Acceptance brief by Municipal Chairman
- Concluding remarks by District Collector
- National Anthem

All are welcome.

-Secretary,
Vivekananda Kendra - **nardep**



*Please be at your seats by 4:45 pm.

'Green Pilgrimage to Rameshwaram'



Greening of...
Hygienic...
Solid waste free...

Green energy for...
Conserving water bodies at...
Green transport for...

Preserving the ancient heritage of ...
Marine biodiversity and ...



- The project is having 9 verticals namely :
- (i) Water management
 - (ii) Waste management
 - (iii) Renewable energy
 - (iv) New merchandise and Livelihood
 - (v) Heritage
 - (vi) Green health
 - (vii) Marine bio-diversity
 - (viii) Landscaping and beautification
 - (ix) Eco-tourism with Green transport



11. Mangala Teertham

Mangala Teertham is located at National Highway 87.
Brahma Deva himself has created this Teertham with the
intention of the devotees getting the blessings of Mahalakshmi.



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12. Amruta Vapi Teertham

Amirthavapi Teertham is a well located inside Ekanta Ramar temple. It is believed that Lord Rama and his associates planned the bridge from within the temple, as inside this temple the noise of the sea waves would not be heard and hence, it is called Ekanta Ramar temple.

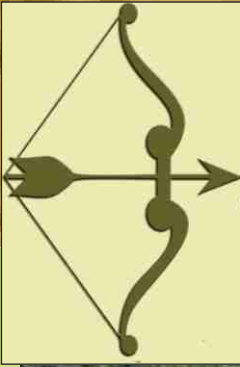




2014-15

13. Arjuna Teertham

Arjuna Teertham is located at the outskirts of the Sambai village and near Gandhamadhana Parvatam. It was covered by thorny bushes and its existence was not known from the outer sight.



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14. Bhima Teertham

Bhima Teertham is near to Arjuna Teertham and almost of the same type and size. Palmyrah and casuarina trees are plenty in the neighbourhood of Bhima Teertham.



2014-15



15. Dharma Teertham

Dharmar Teertham is behind Gandamadana Parvatam. The Teertham was created by Yudhishtira, the eldest of the Pandava brothers. It totally disappeared because of shifting of sand dunes which is a common phenomena in Rameswaram.



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2014-16

16. Parashurama Teertham

Parasurama Teertham is located opposite to the famous Sri Badhrakali Amman Temple. Parasursma is the Supreme Personality of Godhead, and his eternal mission is to protect the devotees and annihilate the miscreants.



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17. Ramar Teertham

Ramar Teertham is one of the most popular pilgrimage destinations of Rameswaram. Lakhs of people visit this place every year. It is one of the largest temple tanks associated with the Ramanathaswami temple.





2015-17



18. Kapi Teertham

KapiTeertham is located at Pamban village of Rameswaram Island.
KapiTeertham was dysfunctional for nearly five decades and was
renovated in 2016.





Experiences.....

Dr. AbdulKalaam, in his inaugural address during the launch of the Green Rameswaram Project on 28th January, 2014 at Rameswaram, recalled an interesting incident related to RamarTeertham. For generations, Kalam's family would take part in the float festival of RamarTeertham. When he was a child, Kalam went to see the float festival along with his grandfather, Abdul Fakir. While the float was taken in a procession, unfortunately, the idol fell into the water, and sank to the bottom. Kalam's grandfather immediately dived into the water and in few a minutes brought out the idol, carrying it on his shoulder.



During the Renovation work, the masons could extract a stone inscription which is about the Rebel Sethupathy. REACH foundation experts from Chennai helped us in reading the stone inscription.

Even after renovation of the Teertham, some Households used to dump garbage and sewage in the Kapi Teertham. The volunteers headed by Smt. Mariyammal sought help of the representatives of the Church at Pamban. The priest of the Church, in one of the religious gatherings, advised the people to avoid this practice. The volunteers also took help from the public health department officials. Sri. Vairavan, Sanitary Inspector counselled the villagers on the negative effects of dumping wastes in waterbodies. Gradually, the practice discontinued. Still the volunteers keep a vigil over the issue.





19. Papavinasaka Teertham

Papa Vinakasaka Teertham is in Mandapam village which is outside Rameswaram island. It is believed that bathing in Papa Vinasaka Teertham releases one from the repercussions of all the sins committed in previous births.





2016-17



20. S.K Kulam

S.K.Kulam is not in the list of 96 Teerthas. It is known as a Upa Teertha.
However, local stakeholders were particular about its renovation.



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2016-17



21. Narena Teertham

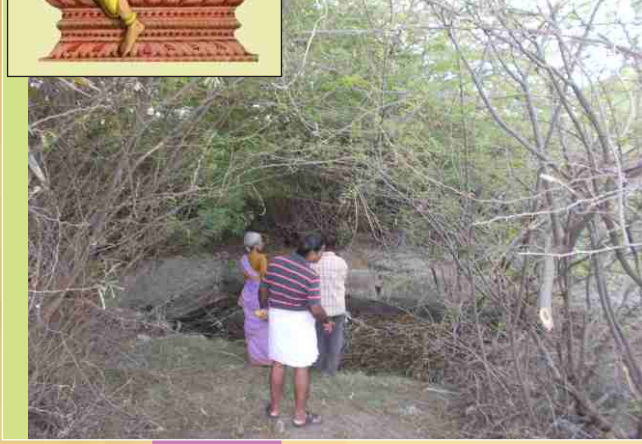
Narena Teertham is located at Olaikuda, 19th ward of Rameswaram Municipality. Narena is one of the four ministers of Vibhisana. He created this water body to serve his army.





22. Dnyana Vapi Teertham

Dnyanavapi Teertham is located at Erakadu of Rameswaram Municipality. It is listed in the Sethu Mahapuranam as well as Sri Ramanathasamy Sthalavaralaru published by HR&CE



22



23. Brahma Teertham

Brahma Teertham is the largest Teertham associated with Ramanathaswami temple. It is spread over in the area of 15.14 hectares. However, as a token we have established the Teertham in a small area of 10 x 9.5 mts.



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24. Neelakantha Teertham

Neelakanta Teertham is associated with the nearby Ayyanar temple. A small dug well has also been established in front of the Neelakanta Teertham. The people of Vadakadu village take water from this well.



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25. Sarvaroga Nivarana Teertham

Sarvaroga Nivarana Teertham is situated in the reserve forest area, on the way to Dhanushkodi. Jata Teertham and Jatayu Teertham are close to the Sarvaroga Nivarana Teertham.



Vision Document

Vivekananda Kendra – Nardep works as a catalytic agent by bringing various voluntary organisations as associates and technical institutes and corporate as supporters. The vision document was released by Honorable Prime Minister Shri.Narendra Modi on 27th July 2017.



“Green Rameswaram Trust along with District Administration has prepared an Action plan for Green Rameswaram and I appreciate all the organizations involved in this endeavour and I particularly congratulate Vivekananda Kendra for coordinating this”

Prime Minister Narendar Modi's on July 27, 2017



26. Virega Teertham

Virega Teertham is located near the Kali Amman Temple at Mankaadu village. Pilgrims use this water for cooking, bathing and for doing rituals related to the temple. Temple has festivals in the month of Aadi, Mahasivarathiri and Navaratri.





2017-18



27. Kumutha Teertham

Kumutha Teertham is located at the end of SK Patti Village and next to the temple is the Tharavai wet land. Kumutha was a mighty hero who along with Nala built the Rama - Setu.





28. Panacha Teertham

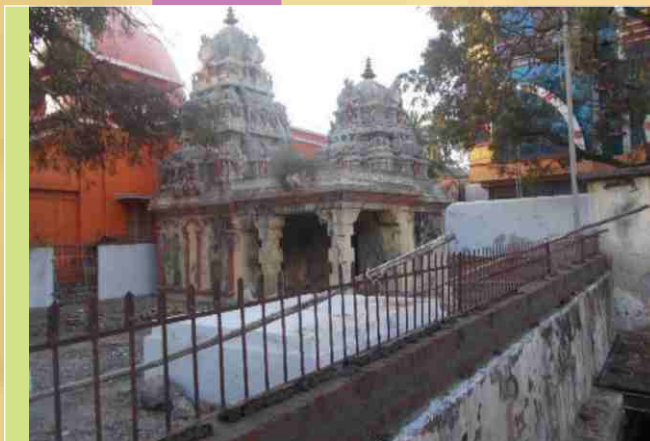
Panacha Teertham is located in the 19th ward of Rameswaram town. It is believed that the Teertham was created by Panasa, a leader of the monkey army who supported Rama in his war against Ravana.





29. Naga Teertham

Naga Teertham is in a walkable distance from Ramanathaswami Temple. It is located behind Vivekananda Bhaskaram, a place where Swami Vivekananda stayed during his to Rameswaram.





2018-19

29 Renovated Traditional Water Bodies (Teerthams) by VK-NARDEP were dedicated to the Nation by Honorable Governor of Tamilnadu Shri.Banwarilaji Purohit on 12th January, 2019. The function was held at Mangala Vanam adjacent to Mangala Teertham from 6 A.M. to 8.45 A.M.





30. Hara Teertham

Hara Teertham is located in the 19th ward of Rameswaram Municipality. Local people call this Teertham Sombariya Kulam as well as Thema Kulam.





31.Amutha Teertham

Amutha Teertham is a temple well in the premises of Sri Nambunayaki Amman Temple, a popular destination in Rameswaram. The water drawn from the Teertham is used for the rituals at the Nambunayaki Amman





2019 -20



32. Deva Teertham

Deva Teertham is a one side-stepped tank, located near Sri Nambunayaki Amman Temple on the way to Dhanushkodi Road. The nearby Amutha Teertham is considered to be the offshoot of Deva Teertham.





33.Vali Teertham

Vaali Teertham is on the way to Gandha Madhana Parvatham. It is a Small well in square shape. It can hold 2500 litres of water. Water is available throughout the year and is used regularly by the locals.



Renovated Vaali Teertham





34. Arivu Nachiyar Teertham

Stepped tank located at the outskirts of the Olaikuda village. It is also known as Saraswathi/Saradha Teertham. The legend says that It gives wisdom to those who take a dip in the Teertham





Water Warriors.....



Shri. R.G. Keswani - Donar

Shri. R.G. Keswani, a Managing Trustee of Sindhu Charitable Trust, Mumbai was associated with the mission of rejuvenating the Traditional water bodies right from its inception. He used to donate regularly for this cause and even after his demise in the year 2020 at the ripe old age of 90, the other trustees continued to help this noble cause

Shri. Pakshi Sivarajan

Shri. Pakshi Sivarajan- A Resource Person

The difficult task of renovating more than 38 Teerthams, in nine years, would not have been possible, for VK-NARDEP, but for the guidance and help rendered by the community leaders of Ramewaram. Sri. Pakshi Sivarajan is one among such key persons and who had been travelling along with VK-NARDEP, in its mission of reclaiming and institutionalising the Teerthams. Shri. Sivarajan is a multi-faceted personality. He is an administrator of the local Durga Temple.



Smt. Mariammal - Teertha Mitra

A group of volunteers from Pamban village have become friends of Kapi Teertham (Teertha Mitra). After renovation of the Teertham, the volunteers regularly organise shramdan for cleaning campaign in which students, local villagers and pilgrims take part. They engage in cleaning of Teertham premises. Smt. Mariammal, a school teacher is taking an active role as a Teertha Mitra.



35. Gaja Teertham

It is a small tank located in the outskirts of the Olaikuda village and is part of 19th Ward of Rameswaram municipality. Gajan is one of the Vanar chieftain of Sugreeva Army



Gaja.webp





36. Parameswara Teertham

Parameswara Teertham is located in the Mandapam near Sethupathi nagar. It is a huge pond. It is also known as Pamaiyar Kulam by the local people. As per revenue records it is known as Papa Vimochana Teertham.



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37. Krishna Teertham

It is a stepped tank located in the outskirts of the sambai village. . Krishna Teertham reference is found in the Sethu vasana kaviya published in the 19th Century.



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2021-22

Teertha Pooja's

* Involving local people through Teertha pooja

* Pooja is performed mostly on Fullmoon day and other festivals



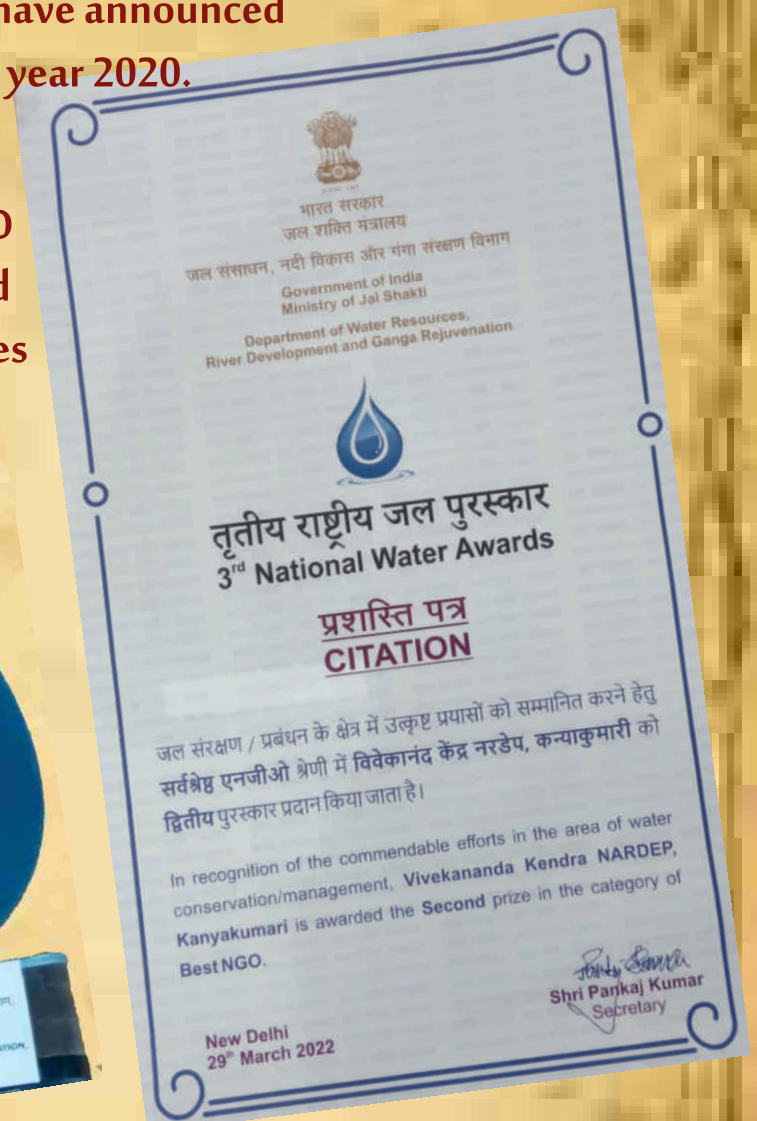
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2021-22

Ministry of Jal Shakti, Govt. of India have announced the 3rd National awards for the year 2020.

Vivekananda Kendra - Nardep received the 2nd prize in the Best NGO category for our work of "Reviving and Renovating the Traditional water bodies in Rameswaram".



Location map

