

Vivekananda Kendra

Natural Resources Development Project

Milestones

Work in the Field of Water Management



Vivekananda Kendra -**nardep** , Kanyakumari
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Water - Nay - Nectar

To understand water is to understand cosmos,
the marvels of nature and life itself









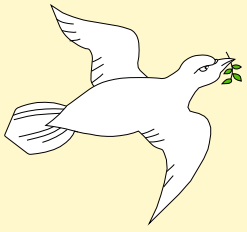






Water Management

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





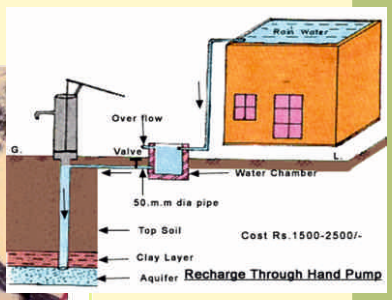
De-silted soil given to the Farmers as a fertilizer in their fields



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

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)





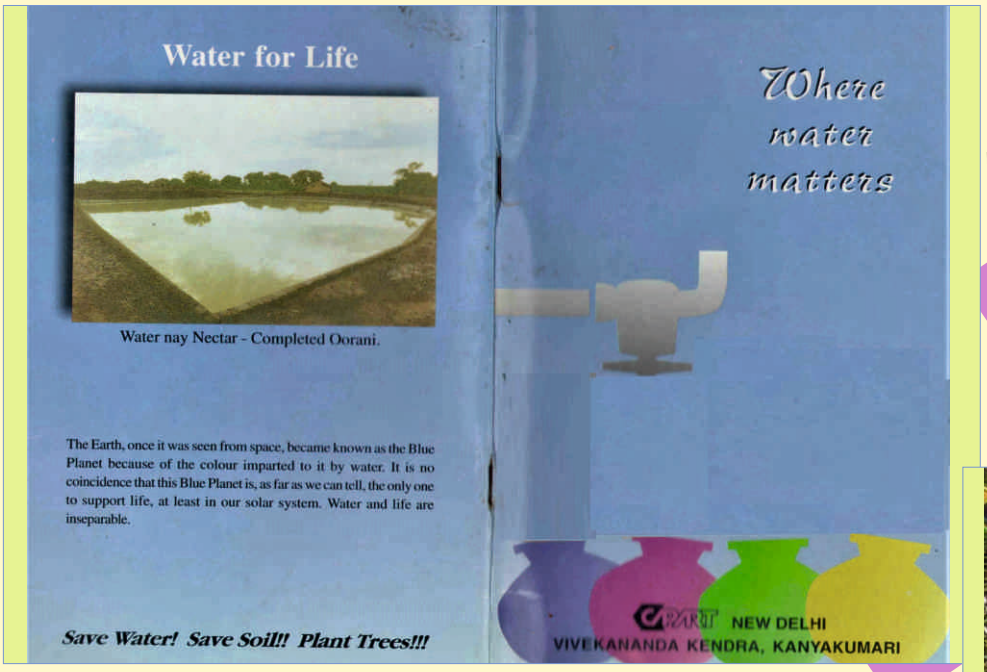
Our ex-worker Shri.Sunil explaining the Rain Water Harvesting structure with a hand pump to the CAPART officials





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



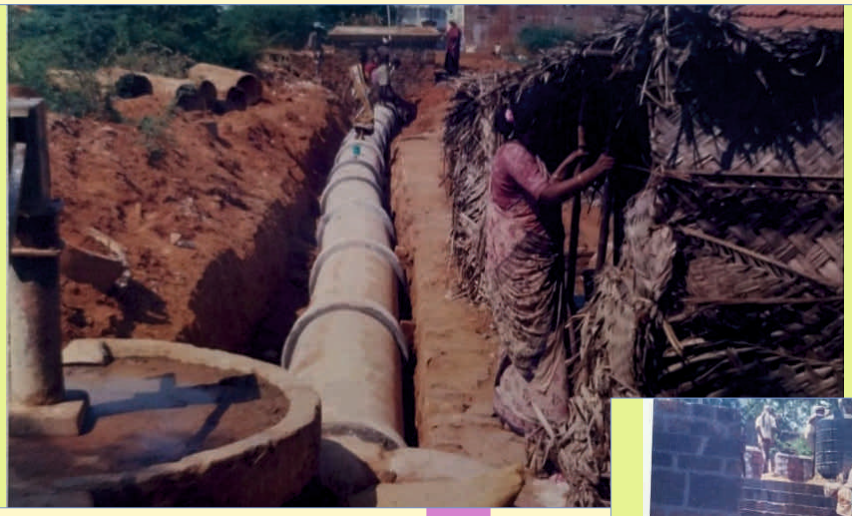
Villagers enjoy the over flowing Oorani

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 ViswanatharTemple tank, Kanyakumari

2004-06

Gramodaya Park

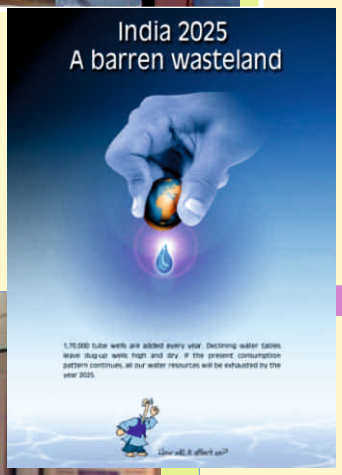
- ★ Exhibition Panels on Water management
- ★ Live Models on Different type of Rural and Urban water Harvesting System











Unique rural and urban Rain water harvesting model



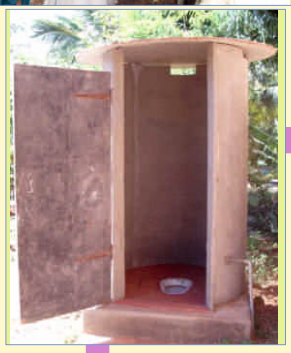
Cubicle with artistic and educative panels on water management

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





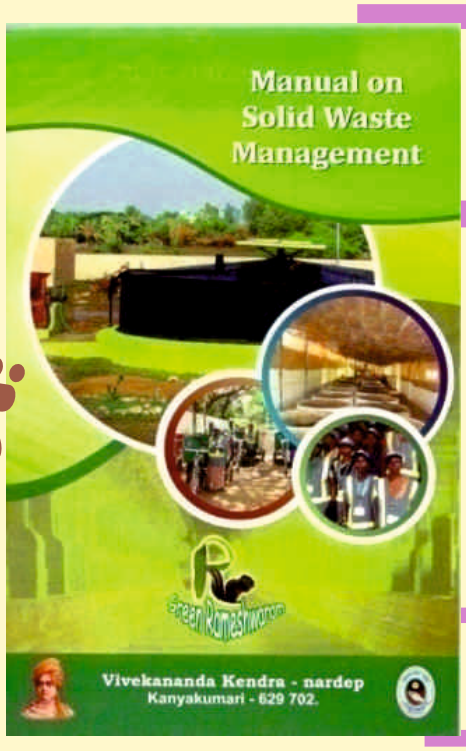




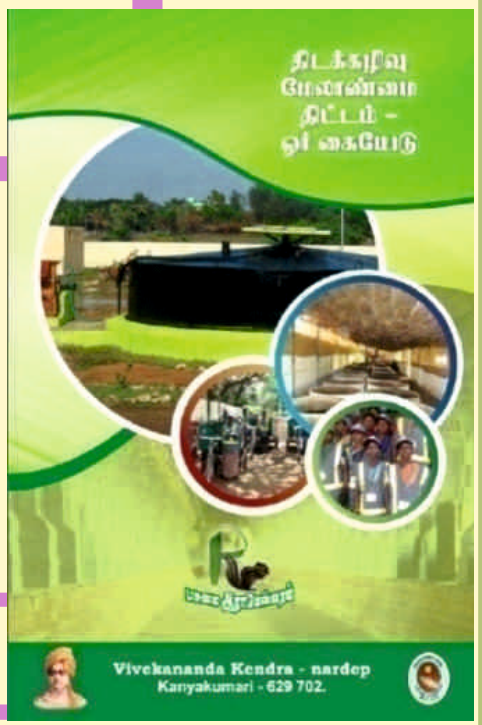
- Projects supported by - Commune di Pistola, Water forum, Italy and UNICEF, Chennai
- Training module - personal hygiene, house hygiene, use of toilets, solid waste management , Grey and Black water treatment etc.,

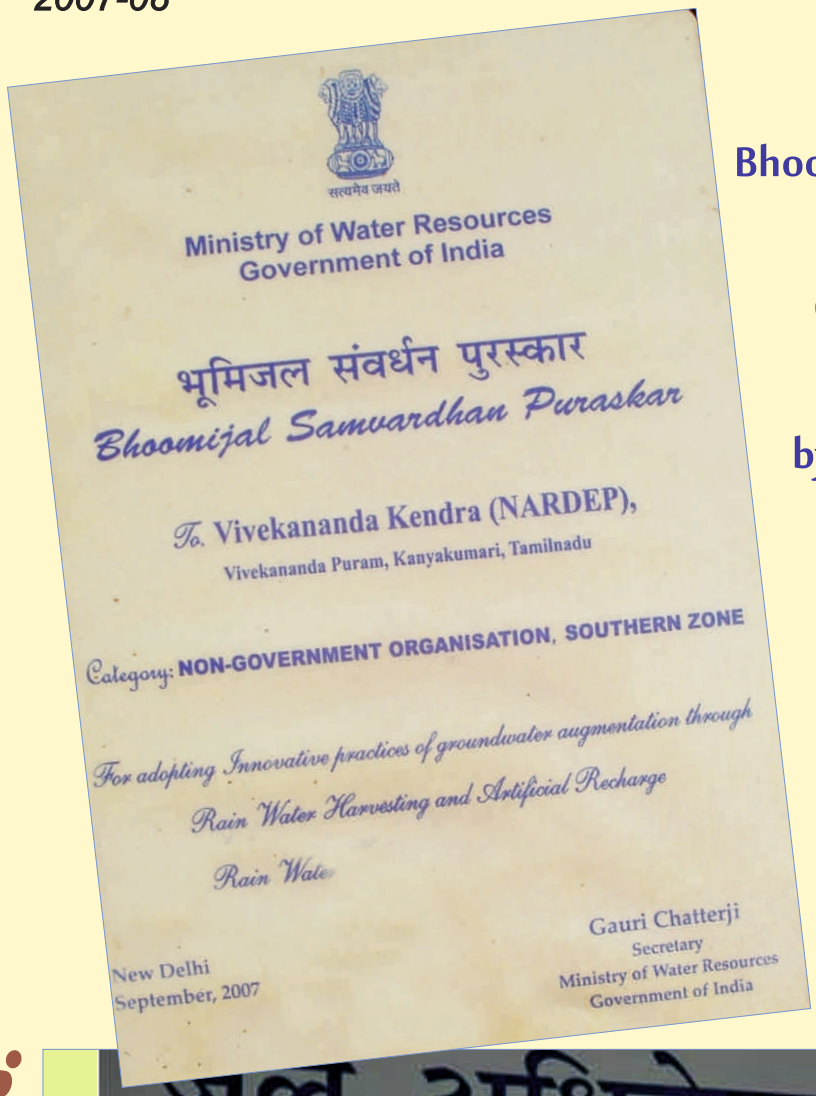












सत्यमेव जयते

Ministry of Water Resources
Government of India

भूमिजल संवर्धन पुरस्कार
Bhoomijal Samvardhan Puraskar

To, Vivekananda Kendra (NARDEP),
Vivekananda Puram, Kanyakumari, Tamilnadu

Category: **NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATION, SOUTHERN ZONE**

For adopting Innovative practices of groundwater augmentation through Rain Water Harvesting and Artificial Recharge

Rain Wate

New Delhi
September, 2007

Gauri Chatterji
Secretary
Ministry of Water Resources
Government of India

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

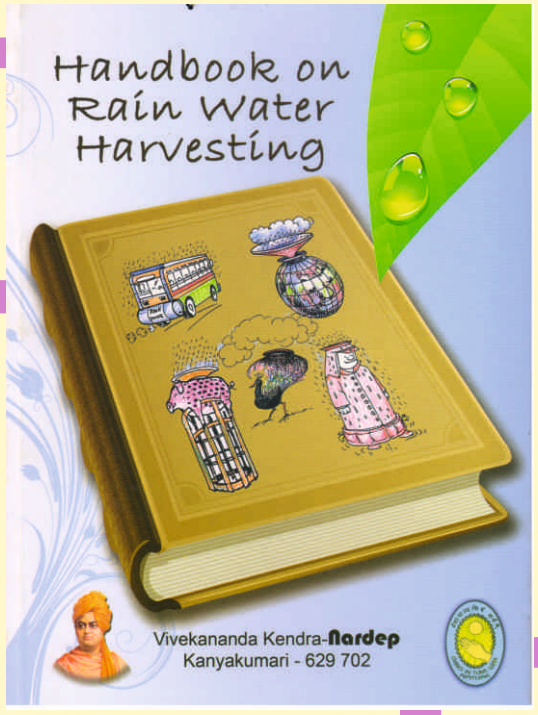
Shri.G.Vasudeo, Secretary, VK-Nardep receiving the shield and memento from Hon.President, Smt.Pratibha Patil

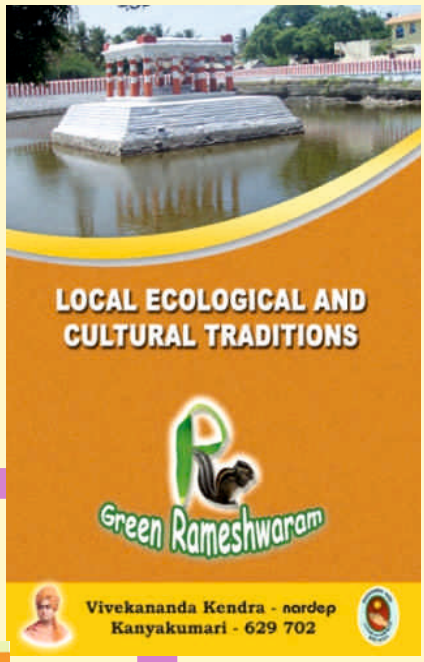


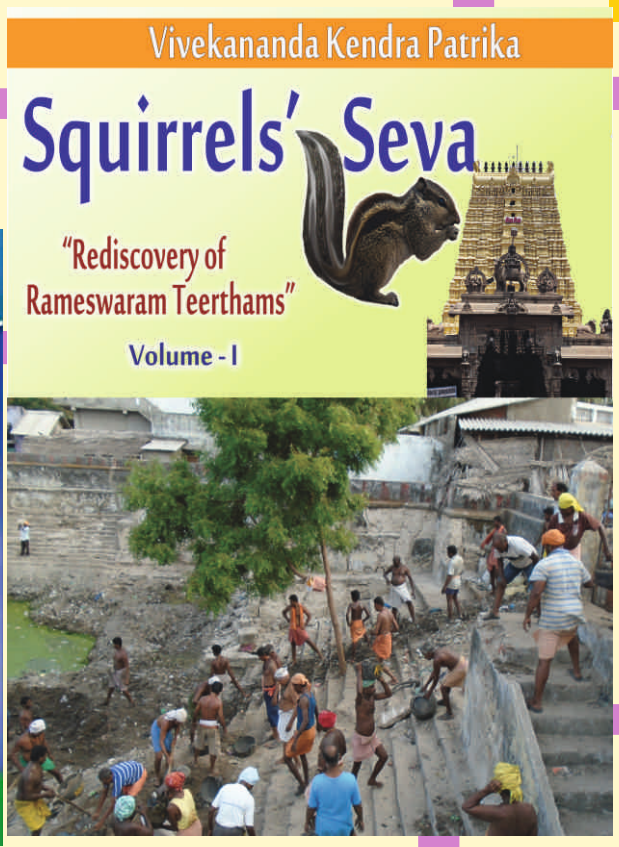
Publications on Water management

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 IECto 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



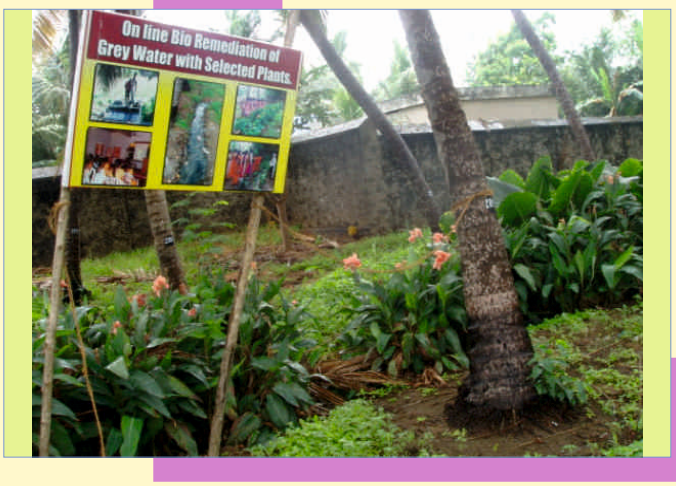


Greywater treatment using phyto-remediation with the support of DST





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.



Diginitaries 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 :

Documentation of select ecological, economic and cultural parameters of the teerthams: Baseline data

↓

Creating community awareness for the preservation and management

↓

Facilitating the creation of local community structures for the revival and maintenance of the water body

- Cleaning of the shrubs, thorny trees in and around the TWB
- De-silting
- Maintenance of inlet and outlet
- Repairing the compound wall, steps etc
- Beautification of the entire area by laying of paver blocks
- Electrification if possible
- Plantation of trees traditionally associated with the TWB & herbal gardens
- Renovation of any associated temple and also installation of specific idols related to the legend of the teertha
- Setting up of board informing the name and significance of the TWB
- Bringing out the book that shall inform the significance of the TWB

↓

Value addition by cultural factors: eco-pilgrimage creation: making community feel themselves as stake holders: establishment of water democracy model for traditional water harvesting structures management.

↓

Revival and maintenance of the traditional water harvesting structures with community participation

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.













2. Draupadi Teertham

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









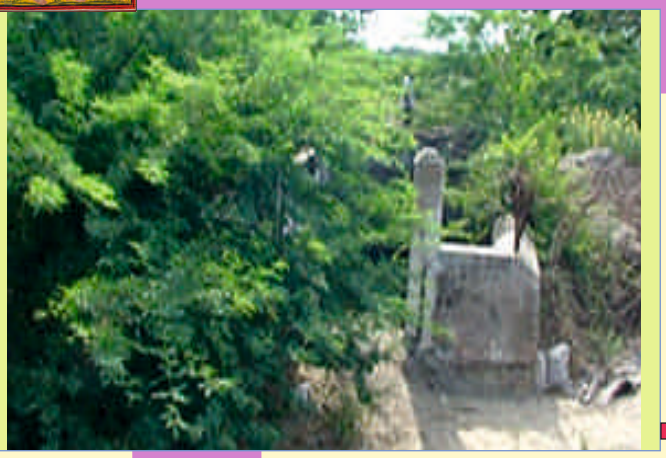




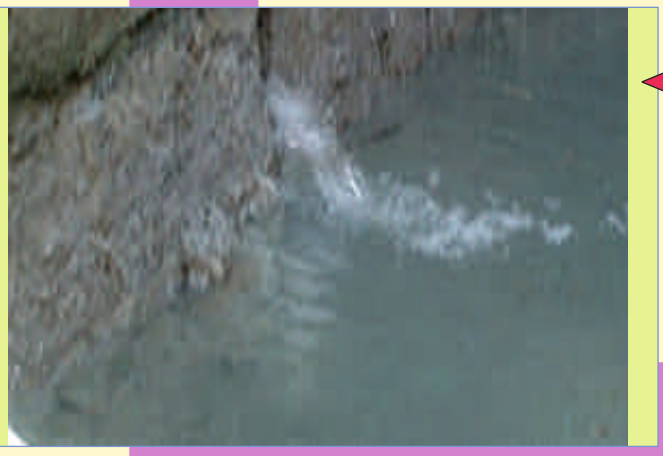
3. Nakula Teertham

Nakula Teertham is on the way to

Gandha Madhana Parvatham. It is a small pond.









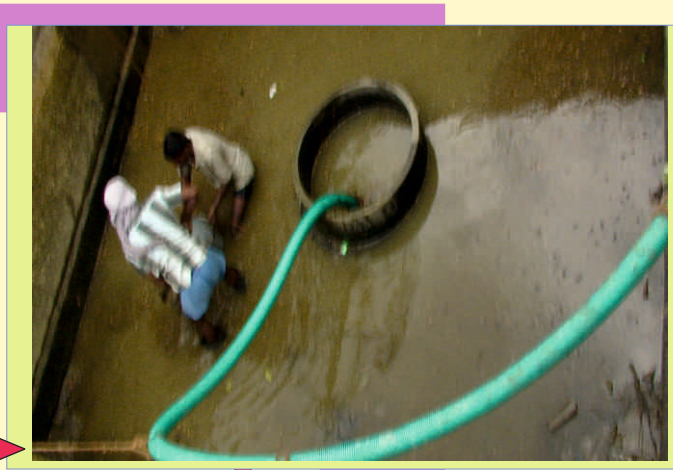




4. Sahadeva Teertham

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

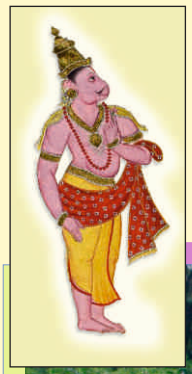












5. Sugreevar Teertham

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.











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

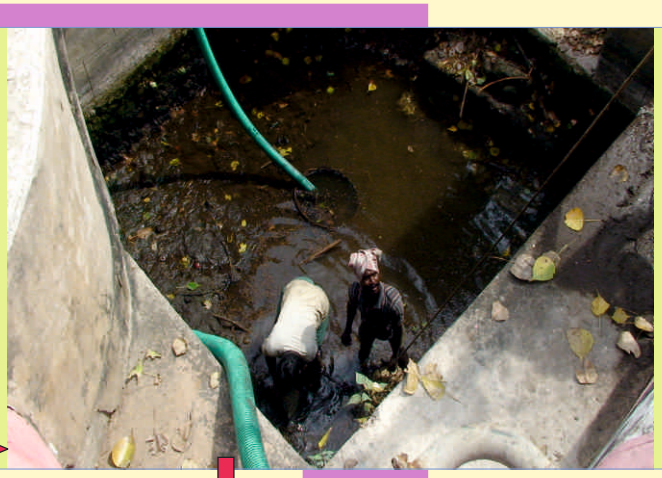
When the garbage and sewage cleaning works were undertaken at Hanuman Teertham, the renovation team faced opposition from the nearby families. Sri. Karuppiah, a local resident blamed the renovation team that water from his open well, turned black because of the act of cleaning the Teertham. Members of 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. Karuppiah regularly contributes money for Teertham cleaning campaigns organized by VK-NARDEP and Teertha Mitras and for the purchase of masonry equipment.



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.













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













8. Jambavan Teertham

JambavanTeertham 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.













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.











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







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 and
(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.













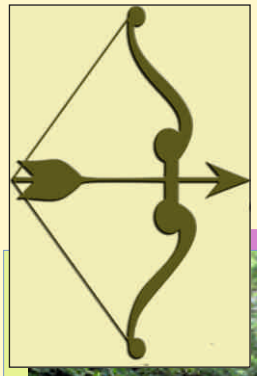
12. Amruta Vapi Teertham

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.





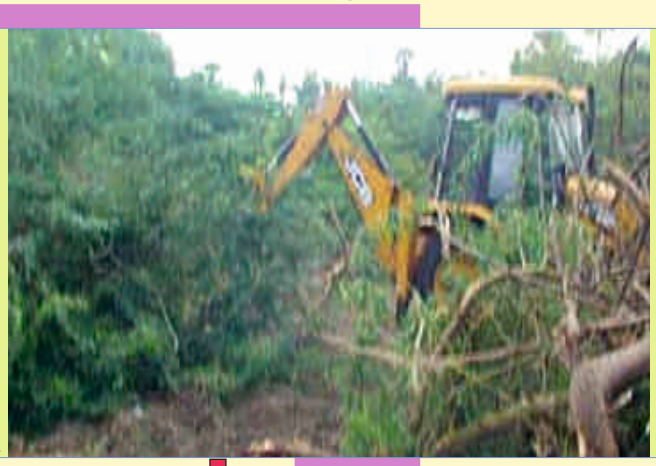




13. Arjuna Teertham

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.



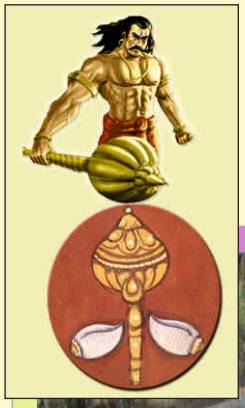








2014-15



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 Yudhishthira, the eldest of the Pandava brothers. It totally disappeared because of shifting of sand dunes which is a common phenomena in Rameswaram.











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.













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.















18. Kapi Teertham

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







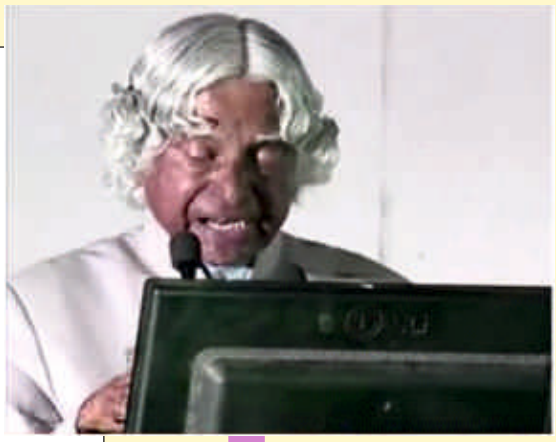






Experiences.....

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 thefloat 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.

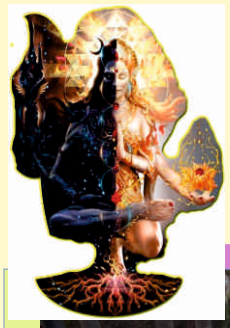




During the Renovation work, the masons could extract a stone inscription which is about the Rebel Sethupathy. REACH foundation experts from Chennai helped us in reading the stone inscription.

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 VinakasakaTeertham is in Mandapam village which is outside Rameswaram island. It is believed that bathing in Papa VinasakaTeertham 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.











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

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

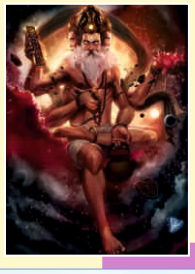












23. Brahma Teertham

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.













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.













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.











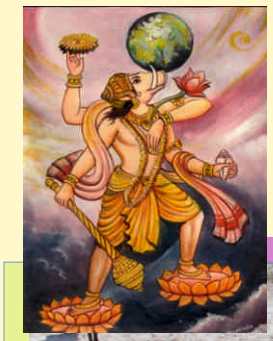
Vision Document

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

ViregaTeertham 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.













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.

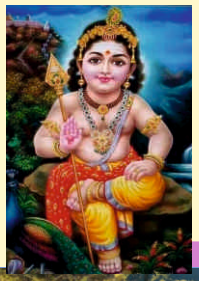












28. Panacha Teertham

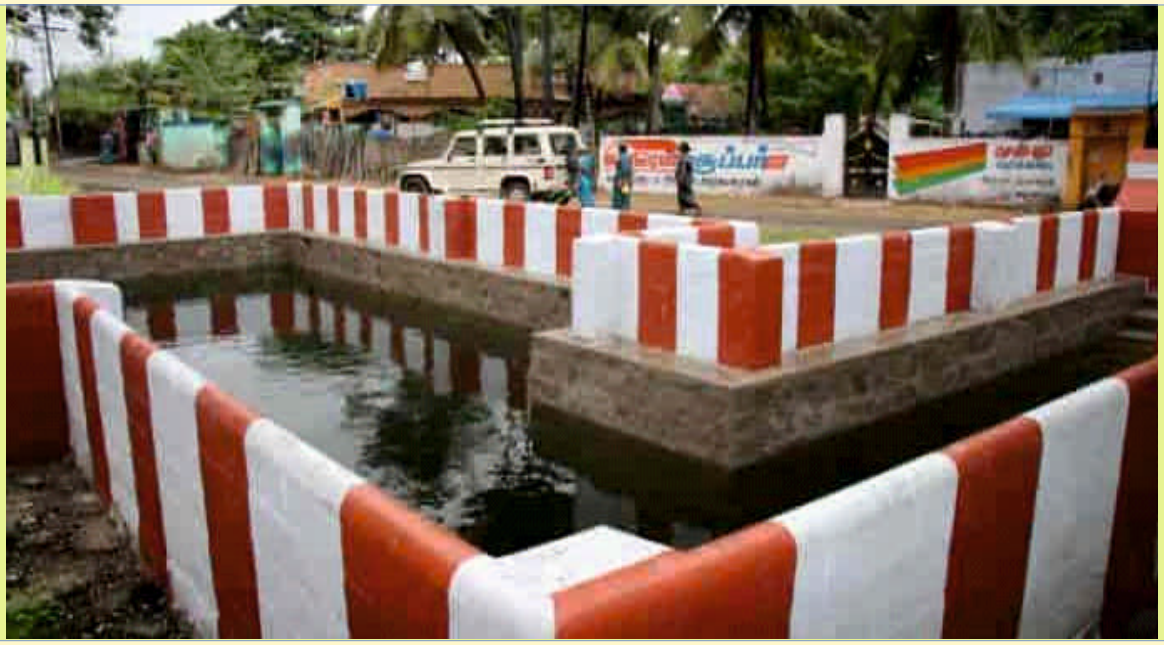
PanachaTeertham is located in the 19th ward of Rameswaram town. It is believed that the Teertham was created by Panasa, a leader of the monkey army who supported Rama in his war against Ravana.











2017-18



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.











29 Renovated Traditional Water Bodies (Teerthams) by VK-NARDEP were dedicated to the Nation by Honorable Governor of Tamilnadu Shri.Banwarilalji 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.











2019 -20



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

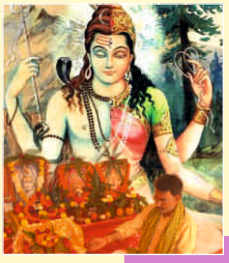












32. Deva Teertham

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











2019 -20



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.











2020 -21



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



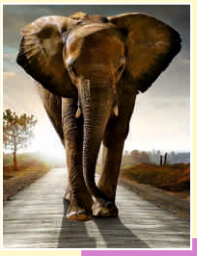
Shri. Pakshi Sivarajan- A Resource Person

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-facetually 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 KapiTeertham (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. Mariyammal, a school teacher is taking an active role as a TeerthaMitra.



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.

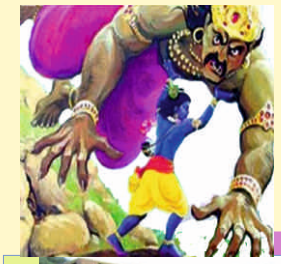












37. Krishna Teertham

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.











Teertha Pooja's

* Involving local people through Teertha pooja

* Pooja is performed mostly on Fullmoon day and other festivals







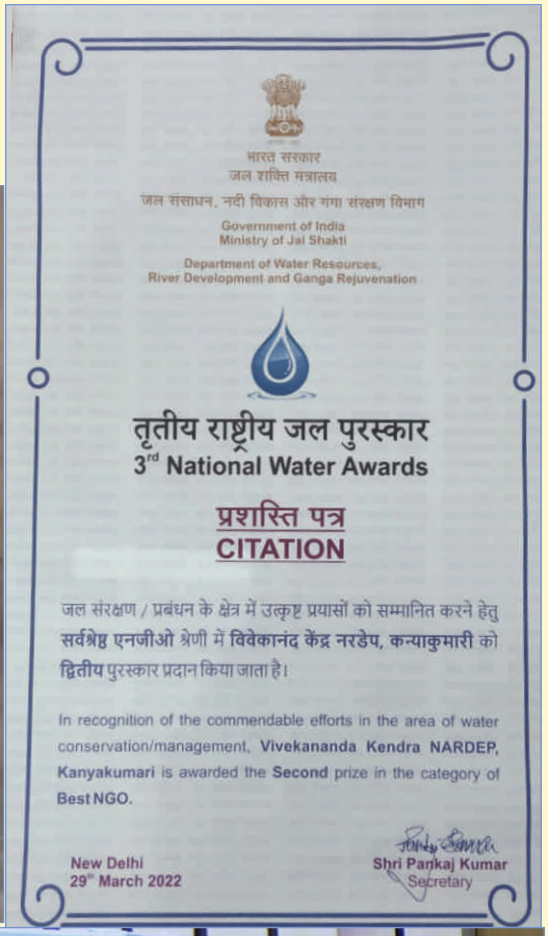




Ministry of Jal Shakti, Govt. of India have annonced the 3rd National Water Award for the year of 2020

Vivekananda Kendra - **nardep** received 2nd in the Best NGO category for our work of "Reviving and Renovating the Traditional Waterbodies in Rameswaram"





भारत सरकार
जल शक्ति मंत्रालय
जल संसाधन, नदी विकास और गंगा संरक्षण विभाग

Government of India
Ministry of Jal Shakti
Department of Water Resources,
River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation

तृतीय राष्ट्रीय जल पुरस्कार
3rd National Water Awards

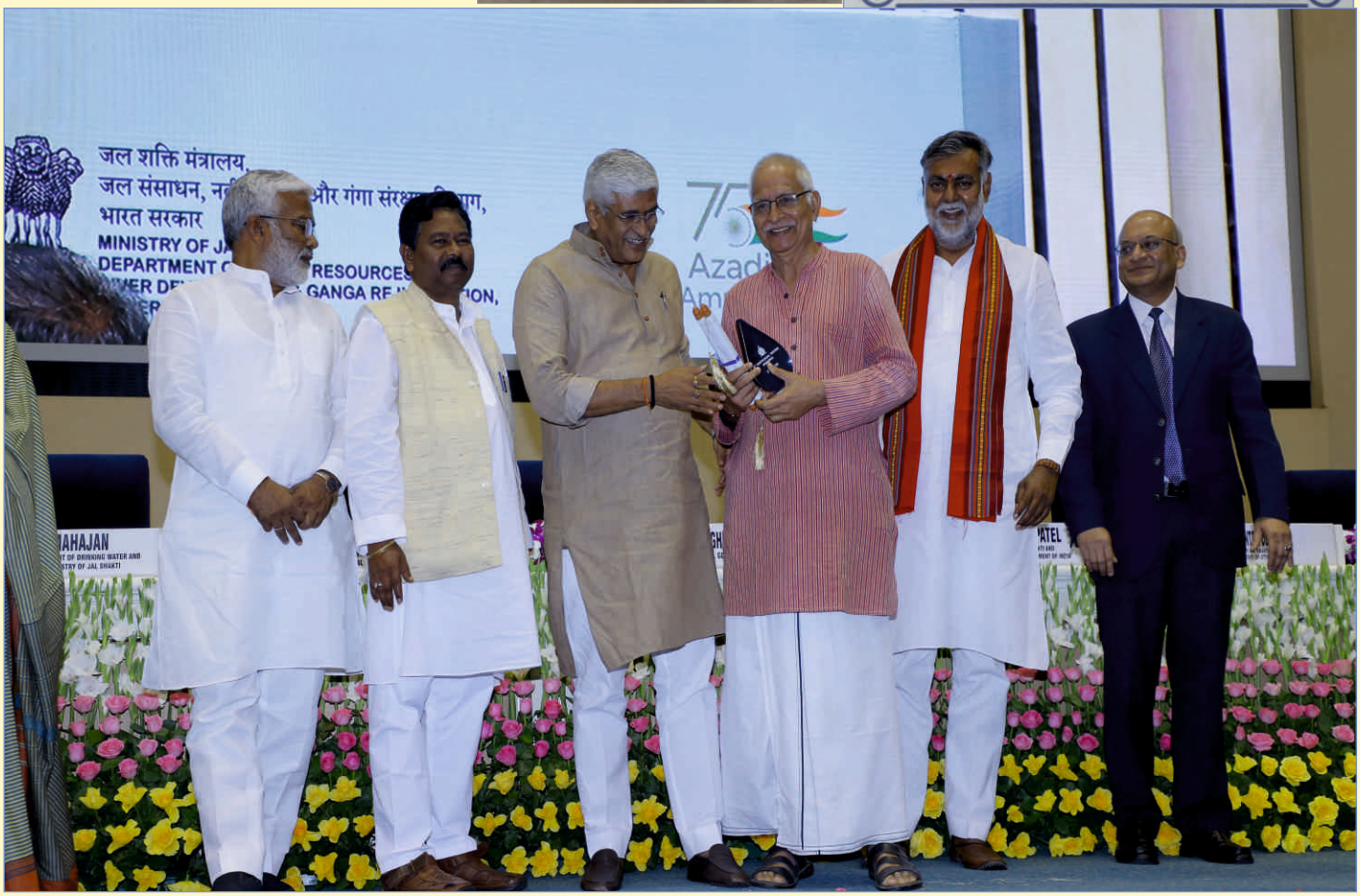
प्रशस्ति पत्र
CITATION

जल संरक्षण / प्रबंधन के क्षेत्र में उत्कृष्ट प्रयासों को सम्मानित करने हेतु **सर्वश्रेष्ठ एनजीओ** श्रेणी में **विवेकानंद केंद्र नरडेप, कन्याकुमारी** को **द्वितीय** पुरस्कार प्रदान किया जाता है।

In recognition of the commendable efforts in the area of water conservation/management, **Vivekananda Kendra NARDEP, Kanyakumari** is awarded the **Second** prize in the category of **Best NGO.**

New Delhi
29th March 2022

Shri Pankaj Kumar
Secretary



2021-22

Vivekananda Kendra Patrika

Squirrels' Seva



"Rediscovery of Rameswaram Teerthams"

Volume - I





38. Veera Teertham

The Veera Teertham is a stepped tank, located on the outskirts of Sambai area of Rameswaram Municipality. It has been buried in sand dunes and got located by the Green Rameswaram team. The Teertham was named after Veera, a minister of Vibhishana as mentioned in the epic Ramayana.The Veera Teertham is approximately 2.7 km from the west tower of Sri Ramanathasamy temple in the North West direction. It is in the vicinity of other Teerthams such as Sahadeva, Nakula and Arjuna.











2022-23

7 Training programmes - 700 participants attended

Participants learnt....

Harvesting Roof top water for drinking purpose.

1. How to make filter bed for drinking purpose.

2. Method sof Pipeline connections for harvesting rainwater

3. Different type of Storage tank methods

Surface water harvesting based on different type of soil in different regions.

1. Recharge tube well.
2. Check dams
3. Linking ponds and Lakes
4. Temple tanks
5. Contour bunds
6. Terrace Field Trenches etc.,









Grey water treatment .....

- Recycling of waste water from Bathroom, kitchen and washing utensils
- Grey water can be treated by the combination of mechanical, physical, chemical and biological methods.
- cost-effective grey water treatment structures
- Phyto remediation - Biological agents like plants that remove heavy metals and other nutrients

- Participants learnt songs on Water and Environment
- Documentaries on Water showed to the participants , Games and Field experience stories on water management.
- How stake holders committee to be formed for further maintenance of water body

Participants learnt ...

- Practical Challenges for Water in Agriculture .Water is a critical input for agricultural production and plays an important role in food security.
- Importance of Millet cultivation.
- Visited Gramodaya park for leaning water management based on live models

39. Naraniya Teertham

Naraniya Teertham is a tank, located on the outskirts of Olaikuda village. The waterbody had been buried under sand dunes before it was identified by the renovation team. The Naraniya Teertham is approximately 4.6 KM from the west tower of Sri Ramanathasamy temple in the North West direction. It is in the vicinity of other Teerthams such as Gaja and Narena.







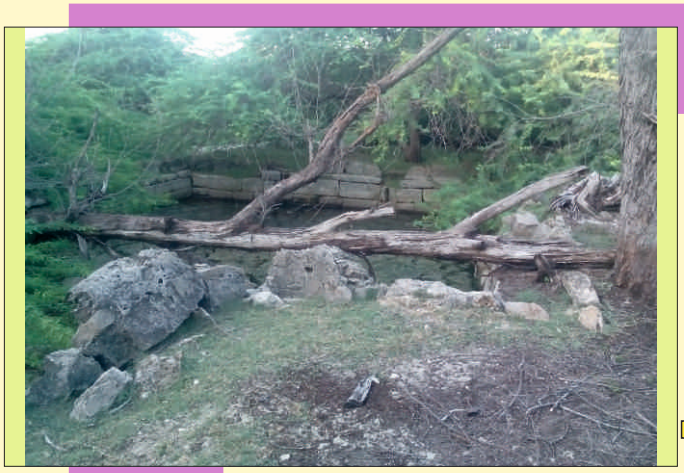




2022-23

40. Jatayu Teertham

Jatayu Teertham is a tank located in the forest area of Rameswaram Municipality, on the way to Dhanushkodi. Other water bodies namely Jatamakuta, Sarvaroga nivarana, Vibhishana and Sarabha Teerthams are in the vicinity. Tharavai wetlands are approximately 3kms away from Jatayu Teertham. Location (Lat-9.25655, Long-79.31602) Jatayu Teertham is located 6.4 KM from the west tower of Sri Ramanathasamy temple towards the South West direction.











2022-23

41. Vibhishana Teertham

Vibhishana Teertham is a water body located in the forest area of Rameswaram Municipality, on the way to Dhanushkodi near Kothandaramar Temple. Other water bodies namely Jatamukuta, Sarvaroganivarana and Jatayu Teerthams are in the vicinity. Tharavai wetlands are approximately 1kms away from VibhisanaTeertham.

VibhisanaTeertham is located 6.4 KM from the west tower of Sri Ramanathasamy temple towards the South West direction.













42. Sharabha Teertham

Sharabha Teertham is a tank located in the forest area of Rameswaram Municipality, on the way to Dhanushkodi. Other water bodies namely Jatamukuta, Sarvaroga nivarana and Jatayu Teerthams are in the vicinity. Tharavai wetlands are approximately 1kms away from Sharabha Teertham.

It is located 6.4 KM from the west tower of Sri Ramanathasamy temple towards the South West direction.











Maintenance of Renovated Teerthams

Vivekananda Kendra – Nardep started Reviving and Renovating the Traditional water bodies in the year 2013. Now after 9 – 10 years, time has come to repair, maintain and colour the water bodies again. This is essential as the erosion becomes fast because of saline atmosphere and gusty wind. Following works carried out.

1. Removed the algae formation
2. Desilted some of the water bodies
3. Cleaned and plastered the walls and steps
4 Colouring of the walls and main gate



1.Narena Teertham



2.Kapi Teertham



3.Parasurama Teertham



4. Gyan Vapi Teertham



5. Arjuna Teertham



6. BhimaTeertham



7. S.K Kulam



8. Brahma Teertham



9 , 10. Sahadeva & MahadevaTeertham



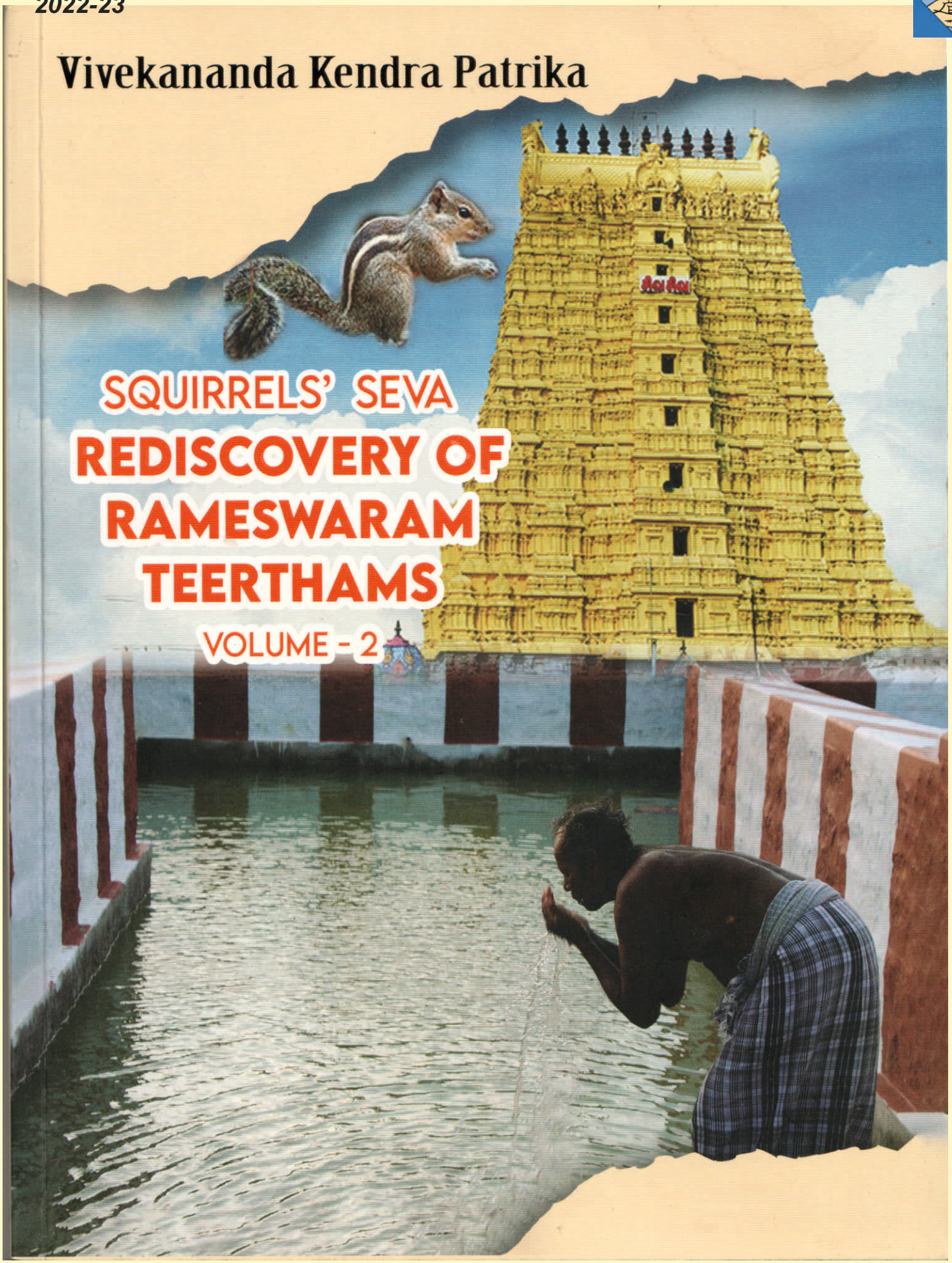
Mandapam renovated for Mahisasura vadham

Rameswaram people wanted us to do the repairing of mandapam for Mahisasura vadham festivals.





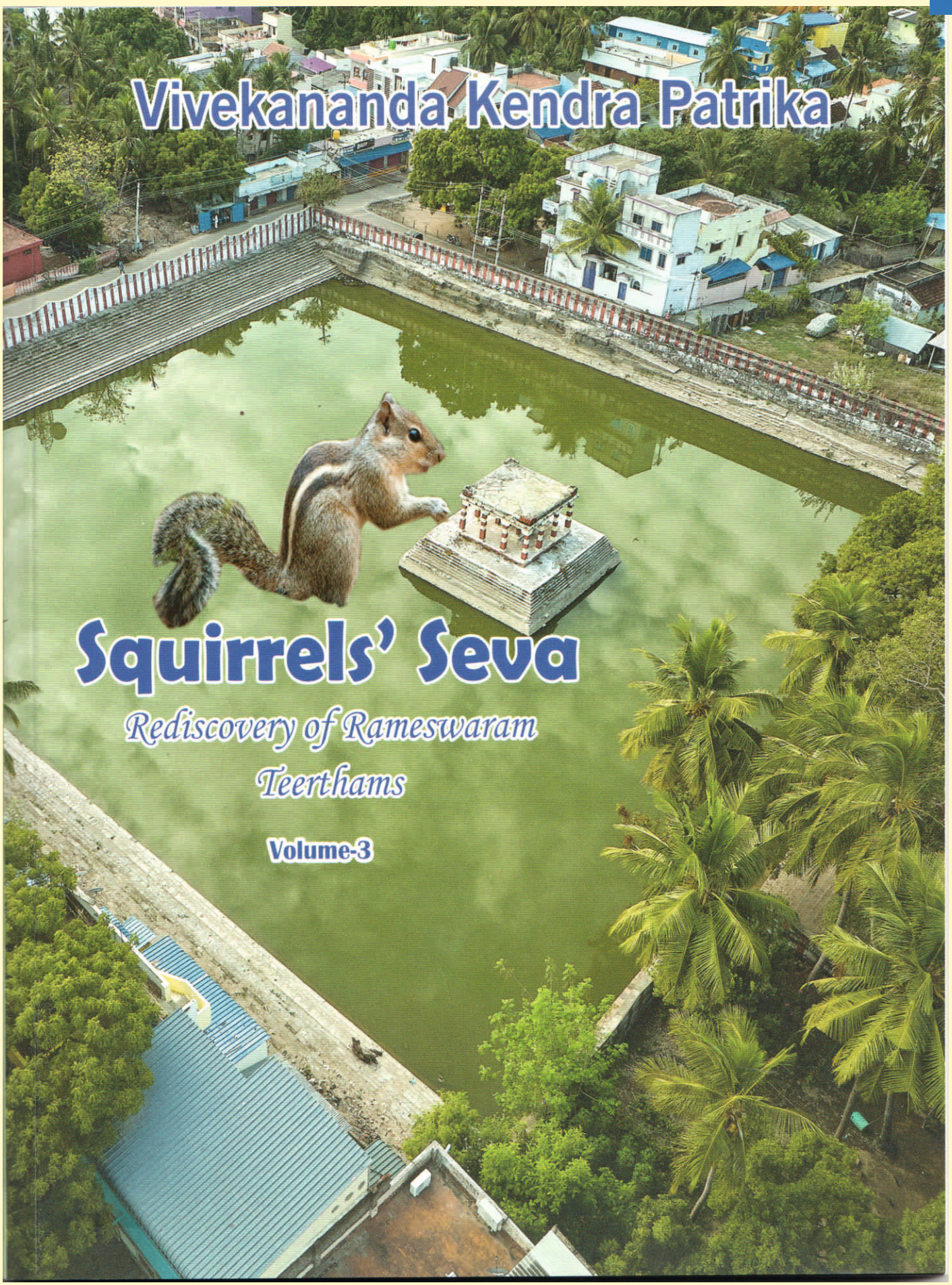
Vivekananda Kendra Patrika



SQUIRRELS' SEVA

REDISCOVERY OF RAMESWARAM TEERTHAMS

VOLUME - 2


Vivekananda Kendra Patrika
Squirrels' Seva
Rediscovery of Rameswaram Teerthams
Volume-3

43. Agni Teertham , Rajavallipuram, Tirunelveli

Local stakeholders approached Vivekananda Kendra -NARDEP for revival and renovation of ancient agni teertham at Rajavallipuram. The villagers have already performed kumbhabhishekam of Agneeswarar temple in the year 2022 and wanted to renovate the teertham also as it is closely associated with the Agneeswarar . After initial meetings and visits we decided to take up the work as we found lot of social capital in the village.

The Following works were carried out with the help of local community

- Removing trees and bushes in the retaining wall
- Lifted of stagnated water
- De-silting of the tank - about 350 truck loads of slurry shifted
- Cleaning of canal around the Teertham and give the direction of water paddy field
- Stregthening of existing structure
- Construction of additional Retaining wall
- Construction of parapet wall
- Construction of steps
- Construction of platform all round
- Painting

Inaugural Pooja



Construction is on.....



Desilting with the help of JCB & Tractor



Final Pooja



De-silting with local volunteers



View of the Teertham



44. Simha Teertham -Pamban, Rameswaram



The word "Simha," which means lion. The name may be associated with the belief that Lord Rama worshipped Lord Shiva in the form of a lion at this place.Vivekananda Kendra - Nardep has taken up the work of "Revival and Renovation" of this water body with the support of BrahMos Aerospace Pvt. Ltd,

The following works are carried out

- De-silting of tank
- Construction of Inner Tank
- Construction of outer Tank
- Entrance constructed
- Plantation of seedlings
- Created social capital
- Teertha Pooja

Awareness Programme



Inner pond



Teertha Pooja







Final View of the Teertham



45. Siva Teertham , Thengamputhur, Kanyakumari Dist.

Local people approached Vivekananda Kendra to renovate the Siva Theertham which is connected to nearby Sivan temple. We renovated by carrying out activities such as , De-silting, Additional Parapet wall, Strengthening of wall and steps, platform construction around Tank .

Local committee members thanked Vivekananda Kendra during Kumbhabhisekam for the renovation work which was carried out after 4 decades

De-Silting



Additional wall constrction



Stregthening of wall



Platform concrete



Stregthening and pointing of steps



Final view



46. Bhairava Teertham ,Pamban, Rameswaram



Bhairava Teertham is located near Pamban. This is one of the sea shore teertham near Kalabhairavar temple which is protecting god of Rameswaram island.

Here we have constructed well type teertham and platform for performing poojas.
The work was sponored by Chunchungiri Math Rameswaram.

Details of Bhairava Teertham

Type: sea based but well was built for the convenience of pilgrims
Location: Opposite to the Kala Bhairava Temple
Coordinates: Lat-9.28565, Long- 79.21660
Measurements: L10 m B 9m D 4.75m
Capacity: 15600 litres
Water availability: Through out the year
Literary mention: Sri Rameswaramennum Sethu Vasana Kaviyamand SthalaVaralaru
Affiliated to: Ramanathaswamy Temple; HR&CE
Deity: Lord Shiva
Ritual cleansing: Cures fear of death and mind cleansing
Year of renovation: 2023

Teertham construction:







Platform for performing pooja







47. Teppakulam , Rameswaram

Mythology and religious significance

Teppakulam is another significant sacred water body located in the Pamban area of Rameswaram. This teertham is revered for its religious and spiritual significance, with many legends and mythological stories associated with its divine origin.

I. Sage Agastya's Creation of Teppakulam

One popular legend credits the creation of Teppakulam to Sage Agastya. According to the story, Sage Agastya was performing intense meditation and penance at Rameswaram when Lord Shiva appeared before him. The sage requested a sacred water body for his rituals and the purification of devotees. In response, Lord Shiva blessed him, and the sacred tank of Teppakulam was formed at this spot. The water is said to be infused with divine energy, capable of washing away sins and bestowing spiritual merit on those who bathe in it.

Condition of Teertham - Before Renovation

Teertham in abandond condition

- Teertham surronded by thorny trees
- All the walls in damaged condition
- Road side wall completely fallen down
- Steps totally damaged.
- Surrounding area soil entered the Teertham.
- Cattle using this tank for drinking purposes.

Supported By:
Murugappa Educational and Medical Foundation,Chennai



Traditional water body before renovation

Teppakulam , Rameswaram








The following work carried out

- Completely removed the old structure
- Deepened the Teertham
- Inner pond constructed
- Steps of Inner pond constructed
- Outer pond constructed
- Ramp constructed for cattle
- Name Board and approach road made
- Beautified the Teertham by painting.



Teppakulam - After completion of the work

48. Koneri Teertham - Tiruvannamalai , Srivilliputur:

Koneri Teertham is a sacred tank located at the foothills of the Srinivasa Perumal Temple in Tiruvannamalai, Srivilliputhur. This tank is associated with various mythological benefits:

Spiritual Cleansing: It is believed that taking a dip in the Koneri Teertham purifies devotees of their sins. The sacred water is said to have the ability to cleanse one's soul, bringing spiritual enlightenment and inner peace

Cultural and Religious Context

The presence of Koneri Teertham at the foothills of the Srinivasa Perumal Temple integrates the natural element of water into the religious landscape, emphasizing the traditional Indian reverence for water bodies as sacred and life-giving. The teertham is not just a physical entity but a spiritual symbol, representing purity, life, and the divine.

The work started in the year 2023 by having a Bhoomi Puja on 10th December





Developed social capital by arranging continuous meetings, organised bhajans and games.





Cleaning of the canal by removing grownup bushes and dredging it with proper slope.
Work of this canal of about 600 meters was a major effort.







Tank area is cleaned of bushes and many places deepened. In the process area of the Teertham increased from 2 acres to 2.5 acres





Cleaning and removing of thorny bushes in the bunding - 700 meter length.





Teertham was without bunding at many places.
After the bunding the capacity of the Teertham increased.
Lot of tractors were used for transporting the soil and levelling the area.





Constructed retaining walls on the road side of the Teertham
to avoid erosion of soil and protect the bunding.





Steps were repaired and new steps were constructed at a few places





Overflow retaining wall totally damaged.
Constructed strong retaining wall at the outlet of the Teertham





800 meter long and 6 feet tall fencing has been erected to protect the pond and stopped defiling by goats, cows and humans.





Gates were erected at 3 places.
Tree sagplings planted around the Teertham to improve the ecosystem.
Koneri Teertham welfare committee formed for future maintenance.







49. Surya Pushkarani Teertham, Aruppukottai:

Condition of the Teertham -before Revival

Condition of the Teertham was very bad. ...

- ★ Teertham area was full of plastic papers, clothes, liquor bottles and medical and electronic waste etc., People were using it as a dumping ground.
- ★ Park and part of the Teertham was used it by Drunkards and drug addicts. Even children from the nearby school were using as a smoking Jaunt
- ★ People used to come for toilet purpose inside the Teertham including steps
- ★ It became a grazing ground for cows and goats.

In addition , we observed the following

- ★ Cracks were found at maximum places of the Retaining walls, because of the spreading of the roots of the nearby trees.
- ★ Many places Retaining wall stones are fallen down.
- ★ Thickness of wall is very less
- ★ Entire retaining wall collapsed at one place.
- ★ Steps are damaged at many places
- ★ Two wells are completely damaged
- ★ Retaining wall has no foundation. In addition soil erosion taken place at the basement.
- ★ Gutter water entering the Teertham.



Traditional water body before renovation - the work started earlier on 27th January 2024

Abandoned Water body





Piers constructed for supporting and strengthening the retaining walls - 58 nos constructed





In between, the retaining wall has fallen down.
Construction of the retaining wall and additionally given pier support.





Many places Retaining walls were hanging as soil was removed during de-silting time.
We corrected the mistakes by constructing an additional retaining wall of
3 to 5 feet height joining all the piers and filling the area with soil.
In the process we constructed 1300 running feet wall and laid the stones above the filled up soil.





It seems that many times desilting of Teertham has taken place. However, the inner pond was uneven. We removed the stagnated water and gave a proper shape to the inner pond. The present algae growth will stop gradually as we are introducing fishes in the tank along with lotus / lily plants.





Stones have fallen down at many places and steps were in damaged condition.
Retaining walls and steps are repaired with the help of cement mortar, concrete and stones.













Renovating the park:

- Sit-outs created around the trees and other places
- Flooring is repaired with paver blocks
- Repaired the cracked walls with the help of cement mortar
- Welded the stolen grill angles with a new one.
- Pruning of Trees and giving proper shape
- Repaired damaged playing material
- Constructed new walls at a few places







Colour washing

- All the walls coloured
- Park area also painted newly
- Gates and grills received a new finish after oil paint
- Poles too painted for increasing its life span
- Children park - playing material painted







Fenced entire Teertham with 8 feet height - 1300 feet length.





Dust Bin fitted at 7 places and Boards fitted.





A view of the Teertham after renovation









50. Chidambara Teertham , Ramemswaram

KVB Karur Vysya Bank
Smart way to bank

Mythology and religious significance

Lord Rama's Purification Ritual : According to Ramayana legends, after Lord Rama's victory over the demon king Ravana in Lanka, he felt the need to perform penance for the sins of killing a Brahmin as well as a learned scholar. To absolve himself of this sin, Lord Rama bathed at various teerthams in Rameswaram, including Chidambara Teertham. The waters of this teertham are believed to carry Lord Shiva's blessings, helping Rama complete his purification. The work was sponsored by Karur Vysya Bank.

Renovation process of Chidambaram Teertham

- ★ Awareness programmes for developing Social Capital
- ★ Cleaning of entire area including removing thorny trees
- ★ De -Watering and De-silting
- ★ Construction of Inner pond (earth work excavation, plain cement concrete, foundation , retaining wall and steps etc.,)
- ★ Construction of Outer Tank (earth work excavation, plain cement concrete, foundation , retaining wall and steps etc.,)
- ★ Colouring - Painting
- ★ Cleaning of the entire crematorium yard.
- ★ Repairing and maintenance of Crematorium building.
- ★ Repairing and maintenance of post Cremation Ritual shed.
- ★ Well construction
- ★ Entry gate construction
- ★ Name board installation



Traditional water body before renovation

Inaugural Puja -07 August,2024



Pumping out the stagnated water



Cleaning of thorny Trees of the entire area





De - silting and Deepening the water body





Construction of Inner pond and ring well





Construction of Outer pond





Colour washing





Repairing and finishing of Cremation Building





Repairing of post Rituals yard





Plantform constructed and Entrance gate installed





Well constructed for water for summer time and Board installed





Final View of the Tank



51. Senbagaramanputhur Temple tank renovation work :

Nellai Ulavara team renovated Senbagaramanputhur temple tank at Ti runelveli Dist. Vivekananda Kendra -Nardep helped by supplying construction materials for renovation







Awareness Programmes:

Vk-nardep organises regular awareness programme for the stake holders for the maintenance of Traditional Water bodies -9 Places 330 participants





Teertham Mitras

Organising regular monthly Teertha pujas at the renovated traditional water bodies. The idea is to improve the footfalls at the teerthams and locals should take ownership of its maintenance. We have formulised regular text in Tamil which helps the ladies to perform the rituals. Before the puja , the area is cleaned and afterwards the Prasadam is distributed.

E





Experiences:

I would like to express my warmest, most sincere gratitude and appreciation for the outstanding work done in renovating the historic temple pond. Your tireless efforts have transformed the pond into a beautiful, serene, and sacred space, bringing joy and happiness to the entire community.

Acknowledging the Positive Impact
Your dedication and commitment to preserving our cultural heritage are truly commendable. The renovated pond has not only restored the temple's beauty but also revitalized the community's spirit. The countless happiness and smiles on the faces of the elder persons near the pond are a testament to the positive impact of your work.

Celebrating the Team's Involvement
I would like to extend my appreciation to each and every member of the team involved in the renovation project, including the painters, cleaners, supervisors, and volunteers. Your collective efforts have made a significant difference in preserving our cultural heritage.

With love, gratitude, and appreciation,
[BALAJI VARADHARAJAN,]

I am born and brought up in Aruppukottai. First time in my life, I am seeing this temple tank in good condition. Thanks to Vivekananda kendra , Kanyakumari for their stupendous and quality work. I wish the temple authorities organise Floating festival in the coming season.



Paper Cuttings:

Dinakaran -

300 ஆண்டு பழமையான

சிதம்பர தீர்த்தம் புனரமைப்பு



பாம்பனில் புனரமைக்கப்பட்ட 300 ஆண்டு பழமையான சிதம்பர தீர்த்தம்.

ராமேஸ்வரம், ஏப்.18: ராமேஸ்வரம் ராம நாதசுவாமி கோயிலுக்கு சொந்தமான 108 புனித தீர்த்தக்குளங்கள் அமைந்துள்ளன. இதில் ராமநாதசுவாமி கோயிலின் உள்ளே அமைந்துள்ள 22 தீர்த்தங்களும் எடுக்கப்பட்டு புனரமைக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது.

இந்நிலையில் ராமேஸ்வரம் அருகே பாம்பன் ஊராட்சிக்கு உட்பட்ட பகுதியில் 300 ஆண்டுகள் பழமை வாய்ந்த 25 ஆண்டுகளுக்கும் மேலாக மணலால்

Dina Malar

தெப்பம் நவீனபடுத்துவதை பாதியில் விட்ட நகராட்சி பணியை முடித்த விவேகானந்த கேந்திரா

சுத்தமானது சொக்கநாதர் கோயில் தெப்பக்குளம்

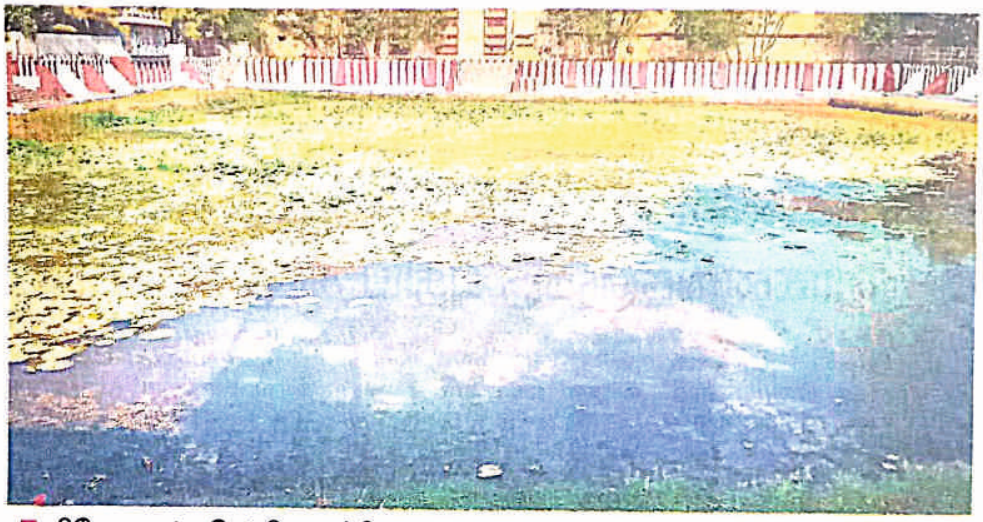
அருப்புக்கோட்டை, மார்ச் 7–

அருப்புக்கோட்டை சொக்கநாதர் கோயில் தெப்பக்குளத்தை நகராட்சி நவீனப்படுத்துவதாக கூறி பணியை பாதியில் நிறுத்தியதை விவேகானந்த கேந்திரா தொடர்ந்து பணியை செய்து குளத்தை தூய்மையாக மாற்றினர்.

அருப்புக்கோட்டை சொக்கலிங்கபுரத்தில் இந்து சமய அறநிலையத்துறைக்கு சொந்தமான மீனாட்சி சொக்கநாதர் கோயில் உள்ளது. இக்கோயில் தெப்பக்குளத்தை பராமரிக்காததால் கழிவுநீர் குளமாக மாறிவிட்டது.

இந்நிலையில் இரண்டரை ஆண்டுகளுக்கு முன்பு, நகராட்சி நிதி மூலம் தெப்பத்தை பராமரித்து சுற்றிலும் பேவர் பிளாக் கற்கள் பதித்து மின் விளக்குகள் சிசிடிவி கேமராக்கள் வசதிகள் செய்யப்படும் எனக்கோரி பல லட்சம் ரூபாய் நிதியில் அமைச்சர் சாத்தூர் ராமச்சந்திரன் அடிக்கல் நாட்டினார்.

பின்பு பணிகள் நடந்து தெப்பத்தின் ஒரு பகுதி மட்டும் பேவர் பிளாக் கற்கள், சில மின்கம்பங்கள் அமைக்கப்பட்டன. விளக்குகள் பொருத்தப்படவில்லை. அத்துடன் நகராட்சி பணியை கிடப்பில் போட்டு விட்டது.



விவேகானந்த கேந்திரா சார்பில் புனரமைக்கப்பட்ட அருப்புக்கோட்டை மீனாட்சி, சொக்கநாதர் கோயில் தெப்பம்.

பின்னர் தொழிலதிபர் செந்தில் குமார், கன்னியாகுமரி விவேகானந்த கேந்திராவினர் தெப்பகுள பணிகளை மீண்டும் துவங்கினர். சுமார் 60 லட்சம் ரூபாயில் தெப்பக்குளம் தூர்வாரப்பட்டது. மழை நீர் சேரும் வகையில் கட்டமைக்கப்பட்டது. தெப்பத்தை சுற்றிலும் உள்ள படித்துறைகள் பராமரிக்கப்பட்டு 8 அடி உயரத்திற்கு கம்பி வலையால் பென்சிங் அமைக்கப்பட்டது.

தெப்பத்திற்கு அருகில் சிறுவர் பூங்கா அமைக்கப்பட்டு இருக்கை வசதி ஏற்படுத்தப்பட்டுள்ளது. தெப்பத்தின் நடுவில் போர்வெல் அமைத்து அங்கு கல் மேடை அமைக்கப்பட்டு தினமும் தண்ணீர் வரும் வகையில் வசதி செய்யப்பட உள்ளது. தற்போது தேங்கியுள்ள மழை நீரில் அல்லி, ஆகாய தாமரைகள் வளர்க்கப்பட்டுள்ளன. கழிவு நீர் குளமாக கிடந்த தெப்பக்குளம் தற்போது தூய்மையான குளமாக மாறிவிட்டது.

கதிரேசன், மேற்பார்வையாளர், கன்னியாகுமரி: எங்கள் விவேகானந்த கேந்திராவின் இயற்கை அபிவிருத்தி திட்டத்தின் கீழ் தெப்பக்குளம் புனரமைக்கப்பட்டு வருகிறது. எங்கள் அமைப்பு மூலம் 10 ஆண்டுகளில் இது வரை 55 தீர்த்த குளங்களை பராமரித்துள்ளோம்.

இந்த தெப்பக்குளம் 56வது குளமாக பராமரிப்பு பணிகள் செய்து வருகிறோம். தெப்பக்குளத்தை இப்பகுதி மக்களும் தூய்மையாக வைத்திருக்க ஒத்துழைக்க வேண்டும்.

52. Revival and Renovation of Lakshmi Teertham

Thirupunavasal, Pudukottai Dist

City Union Bank
Kumbakonam.

Lakshmi created a sacred spring, named it "Lakshmi Teertham," bathed in it, and worshipped the Lord with the Teertham . Condition of the Teertham is full of thorny trees, gutter water, no retaining walls, damaged steps etc. Vivekananda Kendra - nardep team frequently visited and formed the committee with 30 village heads around the and started the work



The renovation activities were carried out as follows:

- The work began with Vighneshwara Puja, Vastu Shanti, and Bhoomi Puja rituals on 17.02.2025 (Monday).
- Wastewater and debris were removed, and the pond was completely cleaned.
  A 4-foot-wide retaining wall was constructed around all four sides, with a solid concrete foundation.
- The wall was built up to a depth of 14 feet for strong support.
- The outer surface was built with black stone masonry, while the inner section was reinforced with broken concrete blocks for stability.
- Steps were built on all four sides for easy access.
- Arrangements were made to prevent cattle and goats from entering the pond.
  The upper wall was raised, and a protective platform (mattam) was added.
- A decorative entrance arch was constructed at the main gateway.
- A rainwater harvesting system was installed to ensure sustainable water storage.
- Finally, the entire pond was painted and beautified.
- Completed with Punarnirmana Pratishtha puja on 24.10.2025 (Friday).



A 30-village-head committee from the Temple vicinity has been formed



Bhumi Puja 17.02.25



Vastu Shanti- 17.02.25



De-silting and giving shape to the Teertham





Retaining wall work is under progress





Parapet wall construction is on...





Steps construction is on...



Special entrance design to avoid cattle to enter



Entrance Arch construction



Constructed Rainwater harvesting structure



Levelling of Surrounding area



White Washing is on....



Creating Social Capital -
Meeting with Local stake holders

Punarnirmana pratishtha programme

Revival and Renovation of Lakshmi Teertham work near the famous Virudhapureeshwarar temple, Tirupunavasal, Pudukottai district is completed and Purnarnirman Pratishtia carried out on 24th October ,2025 by 10 priests with elaborate puja such as: (i) Vigneswar puja (ii) Ghatsthapanam – yagshala puja (iii) Poornahuti and Deep Aaradhana (iv) Lakshmi Teertham Kumbhabhishekam (v) Community prayer and Prasad distribution. More than 400 people from nearby villages as well as school children attended the grand function with a background of Nathaswaram and Vedic chanting. After the function, many locals took the holy dip in the new consecrated Teertham.









A Final view of the Teertham

53. Cleaning of Radhapuram Canal, Tirunelveli District

Farmers from Sivasubramaniapuram and Thanakkarkulam villages approached Vivekananda Kendra – NARDEP seeking assistance for cleaning the Radhapuram Canal, due to the following concerns:

1. The PWD authorities had failed to carry out regular maintenance and cleaning of the canal.
2. Dense growth of weeds, creepers, and thorny shrubs had blocked the water flow, and silt deposition had occurred at several points.
3. Leakages and damaged bunds were observed in many sections.
4. Water was not reaching the tail-end of the canal.
5. As a result, tail-end farmers were deprived of adequate irrigation water. In response to the farmers' appeal, Vivekananda Kendra – NARDEP, with the active support of local stakeholders, undertook the cleaning and restoration of the canal over a stretch of 4.5 kilometers. The following activities were carried out:

- Cleared thorny shrubs, weeds, creepers, and silt from the canal bed and banks.
- Provided refreshments including breakfast, tea, snacks, and lunch to the workers engaged in the cleaning effort.
- As many workers experienced skin irritation due to prolonged exposure to canal water, coconut oil and locally prepared herbal remedies were distributed for external application.

The local farming community expressed their deep gratitude to Vivekananda Kendra – NARDEP for the timely and effective support in rejuvenating the canal, ensuring better water flow, and enabling irrigation to reach tail-end fields.









54. Veechadi Kulam Canal cleaning work , Vadakankulam, Tirunelveli Dist.

- ★ For many years, Veechadi Kulam had not been receiving adequate water due to the poor condition and lack of maintenance of the feeder canal.
- ★ Renovation of this canal is expected to benefit hundreds of farmers in the surrounding area by improving water availability for irrigation. It will also help recharge local wells and borewells in the village.
- ★ The farmers and the "Nam Anuman Nadhi" Farmers Producer Company requested support from Vivekananda Kendra – NARDEP to renovate the 2.5 km-long canal.
- ★ Responding to this request, Vivekananda Kendra – NARDEP agreed to undertake the canal renovation work, and the Bhoomi Puja was performed on 06.11.2025.
- ★ A Hitachi excavator was deployed to clean the canal by removing weeds, thorny bushes, and accumulated silt.
- ★ To ensure smooth flow of water, the canal was levelled at several locations, and large quantities of deposited soil were removed.
- ★ The silt excavated during dredging had initially been placed along the canal bund. To prevent it from sliding back into the canal during the rainy season, it was subsequently cleared using a JCB machine and safely relocated.





Cleaning of Canal



water entering the Veechadi kulam



A view of Veechadikulam





Plantation drive activities with Local childrens

55. Water Security at Selvanayagapuram by installing two RO plants

2 nos - 1000 liters/ hour capacity

Karur Vysya Bank, Karur sanctioned a CSR project "Shakti Gram - Ensuring water and energy security at village". We decided to execute this project at Selvanayagapuram , Mudhukulathor Block of Ramnad district. In this year, we partly executed the project



Continuous Meetings with Villagers for creating social capital



Village heads taken for Field visit of R.O plants at Rameswaram 15.12.25



Bhumi Puja - 28.01.2026



Earthwork for Foundation



Foundation Concrete



Shed construction is on





R.O. plant – filter and membrane installation





Installing R.O plant





R.O. plant inauguration puja is underway - 20.03.2026

- VK-Nardep visited the village of Selvanayagapuram and conducted a series of structured meetings with various stakeholders, including village leaders, women's groups, youth representatives, and other community members. These interactions played a vital role in building social capital by fostering trust, transparency, and collective ownership among the villagers. Rather than treating the community as passive beneficiaries, VK-Nardep ensured that villagers actively participated at every stage of the planning and decision-making process.

- One of the most significant outcomes of this participatory approach was the selection of the two locations for installing the Reverse Osmosis (RO) plants. These sites were not externally imposed but were identified and finalized by the villagers themselves after careful discussion and consensus. This ensured that the facilities would be accessible, acceptable, and practically useful to the maximum number of households.

- During the meetings, stakeholders were clearly informed about the existing water quality conditions, especially the level of Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) in the local water sources, and how these parameters influence the selection and performance of an appropriate grade of RO plant. Efforts were also made to explain the technical aspects of the plant in simple and understandable terms. The villagers were sensitized about the functioning of the RO system, safe handling and disposal of rejected water, operational requirements, and the long-term sustainability of the facility. In addition, a basic cost–benefit analysis was shared so that the community could appreciate both the investment involved and the long-term health and economic benefits of access to safe drinking water.





Villagers Happily collect the water

- Interestingly and importantly, the villagers themselves collectively decided the user charges for distributing purified water among the stakeholders (Rs.5/- for 20 liters). This decision reflects a strong sense of ownership and responsibility within the community, which is a key factor for the sustainability of any community-based infrastructure initiative.

- Such a participatory and transparent process is expected to significantly contribute to the proper maintenance, community monitoring, and smooth functioning of the RO plants in the long run. Since the villagers have been involved from the very beginning—not only in planning but also in decision-making—they are more likely to take responsibility for day-to-day management, timely maintenance, and equitable usage of the facility. This community ownership ensures that the RO plants will continue to serve as a reliable source of safe drinking water and remain a sustainable asset for the village in the years to come.



Training programme:

A training programme on "Water Conservation" was conducted at Irukkandurai, Tirunelveli district, on 29th August. A total of 15 participants attended the training. Shri V. Ramakrishnan, Director, VK-NARDEP, served as the resource person. The programme was sponsored by the AIRD, Valliyoor, Tirunelveli district.





Technical guidance for Artificial Recharge of Tubewell





Technical guidence for Artificial Recharge Tubewell

Artificial recharge of tubewells is an effective method of replenishing depleted groundwater aquifers by directing rainwater or surface runoff into the subsurface through specially designed recharge structures. This process helps improve groundwater levels, enhances the sustainability of wells, and reduces water scarcity during dry seasons. It also minimizes surface runoff and soil erosion while improving the quality and availability of groundwater.

Water Management





Kudimaramathu



Lord Shiva carrying sand to arrest the leakage of embankment of Vaigai river.

Pittukku Man Sumantha Padalam (chapter) from *Thiruvilaiyadal Puranam* has cited that, Lord Shiva himself labored to help old lady Vanthi with the construction of an embankment over Vaigai river, Madurai. The king was not satisfied with the work and beat him with a *Pirambu* stick. The moral of this incident is that even the god came down for the people and offered the duty to conserve the water body.

Thiruvasagam, Thiru Manikavasaga Peruman's Keerthithiruagaval,
And therein too, for the female devotee.He condescended to carry earth
ஆங்கது தன்னில் அடியவட் காகப்பாங்காய்
மண்சுமந் தருளிய பரிசும் !