



## Revival and Renovation of Water Bodies

By  
Vivekananda Kendra – Nardep



This month, we are giving the write up appeared in the Indian express on 21<sup>st</sup> April.

# Tracing history, assn takes a green road by replenishing waterbodies

### Restoring water level

Coordinator of the organisation, Green Rameswaram, V Saraswathi said that her team had found out the site of buried waterbodies by referring history and holy books and their efforts had helped groundwater recharge and rainwater harvesting in the island

THINAKARAN RAJAMANI  
@ Rameswaram

ON one side there are many who exploit groundwater to earn colossal profits, and on the other there are a few who help replenish it to ensure a trouble-free future for humankind.

Green Rameswaram, an organisation attached to Vivekandanda Kendra, is on a mission, renovating the traditional waterbodies in the island town as part of its Natural Resources Development Project.

Volunteers of the organisation, inaugurated by former Indian President APJ Abdul Kalam, along with the help of residents have renovated 27 waterbodies, including Oorunis, and well in the last five years.

They have identified 64 waterbodies so far and claim that 8.5 million litres of water storage have been created to recharge the groundwater. The volunteers also claim that they have revived the traditional kudimaramathu system for protecting traditional waterbodies. The renovated waterbodies are benefitting nearly 20,000 villagers.

Coordinator of the organisation V Saraswathi said that her team had found out the site of the buried waterbodies by referring history and holy books and their efforts had helped groundwater recharge and rainwater harvesting in the island.

"There were 108 waterbodies in the island as per records and we are yet to find out some of those. We are presently renovating the 28th one near the historic Ramar Patham temple. We revive



V Saraswathi and one of his team member renovating a waterbody | EXPRESS

natural fountains in every waterbody that we renovate," she added.

"Waterbodies we have renovated in the island are different in size. A few of them are like wells. Waterbodies like Kabi located in Pamban, Mangalavanam and Runavimorchana in Thangachimadam and Ramar located in the island town are big in size. Meanwhile, Jadamaguda Theertham and Sarvarothanivarana located in Rameswaram - Dhanushkodi route are small," said Saraswathi.

Explaining about past activi-

ties of her team, Saraswathi said that her team had worked to renovate waterbodies in Muthukulathur block in 1990s. "We had thought about rainwater harvesting method even before the State government had brought a scheme. We can still see the waterbodies, that we renovated in Selvanayakupuram, Thattarkudiyiruppu and Kottakudi villages, in good condition. The Central government appreciated us with a Bhoomijal Samwardhan Puraskar Award to encourage our activities," she added.

  
We had thought about rainwater harvesting even before the State had brought a scheme. The Central government appreciated us with a Bhoomijal Samwardhan Puraskar Award to encourage our activities  
V Saraswathi

