Revival and Renovation of Traditional Water Bodies (Teerthas)
Ramar Teertham

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Teertha Location

West of Rāmanatha swamy temple which is nearby National Highway and 1km from Ramanathasamy temple.

Form

It is a pond with stairs on all sides

Mythological Story

It is believed that Lord Rama took bath in this Teertham. There is a Rama Temple situated in-front of the Ramar Teertham.

There is also a story that Sage Suteekshana disciple of Sage Agasthya obtained following eight Siddhis (Powers) after taking bath in this Teertham.

Lahima - Being light as Air,
Anima – Shrinking to size of Atom
Mahima – Illimitability assuming Mighty Big Form
Garima - Making oneself very heavy even though he/she is of smaller size
Prapthi - Acquiring anything, anywhere, anytime
Prakasysm – Power of Disembodying and entering into other bodies
Isithavam – Controlling the Pancha Bhoothas of Fire, water, Air, Land and Sky
Vasithavam- Assuming any form and having control over all creations
Another story from the puranas is that the Pandava King Yudhishtira acquired Sin due to utterances of lies which resulted in the death of his own Guru Dronacharya in the Kurukshetra. As per the advice of Sage Vyasa, King Yudhishtira bathed in this Teertham and got released from the sin.

There is a Shiva linga alongside the Ramar Teertham which needs to be worshipped after bathing in the Teertham.
Process of Teertham Identification & Renovation

Ramar Teertham is the most popular Teertham in Rameswaram and many people visit after completing the darshan of Ramanatha swamy. However, the water body was maintained properly for years and so lot of silt was deposited and thus reducing the capacity of the Traditional water body.
we could also identify that the sewage water was getting mixed in the Tank. It took us a while to sensitize the people about the importance of the traditional water bodies and with the support of the District Administration, we could close the sewage water mixing.

It’s a Giant Tank and required a lot of efforts in excavation. Total length of the tank is 25 meters and breadth is 28 meters and the depth is 5 meters. It holds a 3500000 litres of water in its fullest capacity. Few pictures during the renovation and after the renovation are shared here

Steps on all four sides were damaged

Workers carrying out the repairing work

Damaged side walls full with vegetation and broken steps
Repairing work is on …

Final touch up work is going on …

All the steps were repaired and fresh sand spread in the tank to avoid growth weed
Impact of Teertham

This Teertham is situated near Ramar Temple of Rameswaram. It’s a giant storage tank and it serves as an important reservoir of water even during the lean period. The water in the Teertham helps in recharging the surrounding wells as well. It is a pilgrim’s attraction related with religious rituals.