



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

Prakasym – 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.



Dronacharya Killed in Kurukshetra due to a lie uttered by Yudhishtira

There is a Shiva linga alongside the Ramar Teertham which needs to be worshipped after bathing in the Teertham

GIS Map of the Teertham



GIS Map of Ramar Teertham

Source: Google maps

North	9.28369
East	79.3089

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.



Teertham with dilapidated walls

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



Fully completed majestic Ramar Teertham



Devotees from all over India taking the blessings from Ramar Teertham

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.

