



Revival and Renovation of Water Bodies

Story of Mangala Teertham

By

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Mangala Teertham is located about 5.5 Kms from Rameswaram Town, near Ekanta Ramar Temple, Thangatchimadam. It is in the form of Pond and has steps on all sides.

Mythological Story



Goddess Lakshmi merges with the Lotus Flower in the Mangala Teertham

During the reincarnation of the world, Lord Brahma prayed Goddess Lakshmi to bestow Mangalam to all his creation in the world. Goddess Lakshmi accepted gracefully and then merged with the Lotus located in the Mangala Teertham. It is also believed that all the Gods took bath in the Mangala Teertham.



Lord Krishna taking bath along with the Gopis in the Mangala Teertham

Another Puranic story states that, the King Manojavar belonging to the Lunar race has lost his kingdom and was roaming as a nomad. During his Journey, he met Saint Parasara and as per his advice, the king took bath in Mangala Teertham and did penance near the Teertham for three months to get back his Kingdom.

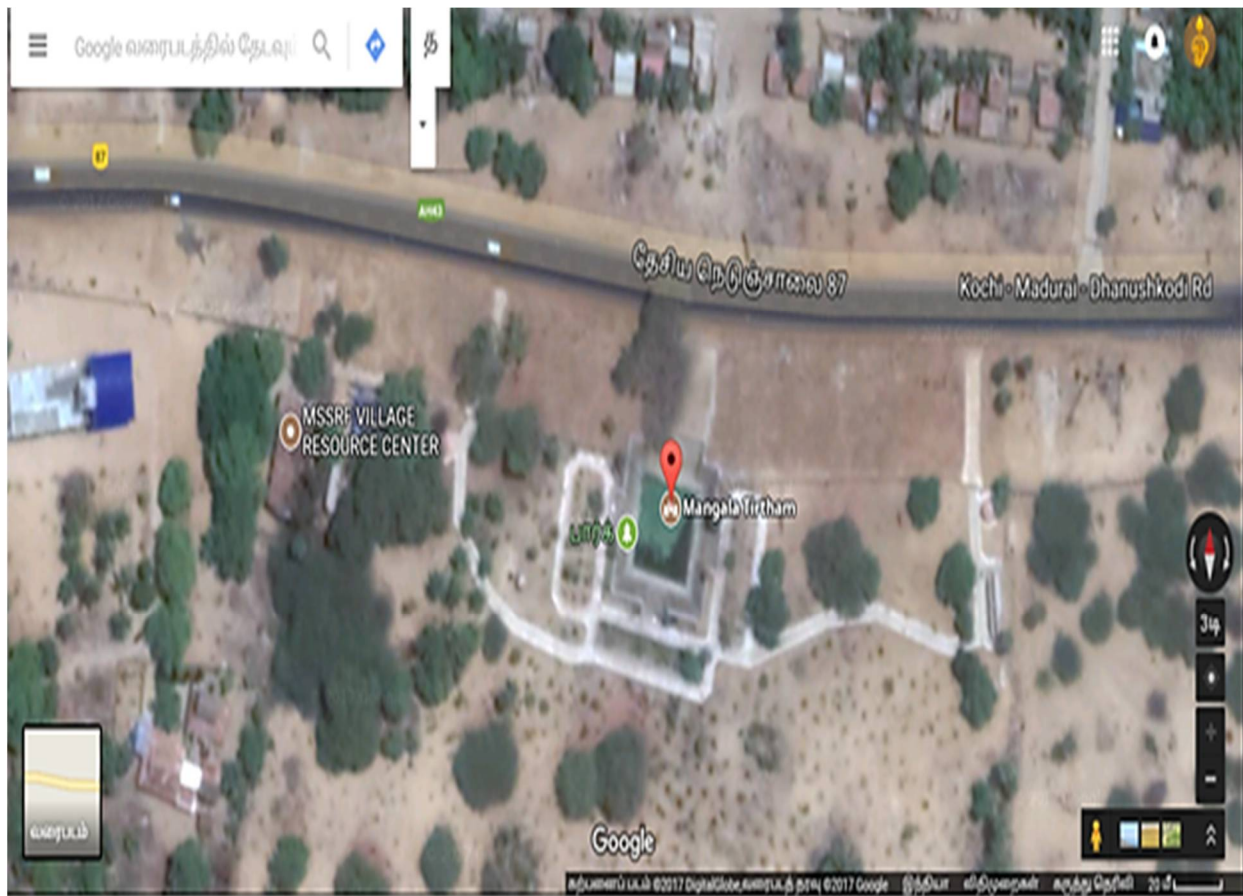


King getting the advice from the Saint to do poojas in Mangala Teertham

Thus people believe that taking bath in Mangala Teertham will help

- In getting back the lost Wealth
- In getting the Blessings of Goddess Mahalakshmi
- Getting rejuvenated
- Fate will be rewritten

GIS Map of the Teertham



Source: <https://www.google.co.in/maps/@9.2845765,79.2593329,228m/data=!3m1!1e3>

GPS Coordinates

North – 9.28454, East – 79.2595

Teertham Identification and Renovation

This Teertham was not at all visible from outside. But on the way there is a big Banyan Tree and pilgrims use to sit for taking food and rest. After verifying the historical records and 1955 Revenue map we could discover the Teertham. Then the Permission was sought from HR&CE before starting the work.

During the renovation, following works were carried out

1. Removing the shrubs, Prosopis Julieflora etc
2. Removing the accumulated dirt including truck load of liquor bottles
3. Desilting of the Tank
4. Repairing the Steps and Walls
5. Raising the Parapet wall
6. Cleaning the surrounding area
7. Providing Proper Inlet
8. Fixing Gate, Information Board etc.
9. Identified the Teertha Mitras for proper maintenance

During the Renovation work, the masons could extract a stone inscription which is about the Rebel Sethupathy. Thangatchimadam Panchayat local people and Students also helped during the renovation work.



Inspired by the success of Mangala Teertham another initiative – Mangalavanam – near this Water Body was taken up in PPP (Public Private Partnership) model with the following Partners

1. HR&CE – Giving Seven Acres of Land and Fencing the Area
2. District Administration – Providing Infrastructure such as i. Toilet Blocks, ii. Inner Roads, iii. Bore-well, iv. Lighting, v. Children play park etc
3. CPR Environment Education Centre (Partner of Green Rameswaram) – Planted 66 species (1200 Trees) and also depicted beautifully Nakshatra Vanam, Graha Vanam, Herbal Plantations etc and maintained the vanam for three years. Survival rate of more than 90%.

The then District Collector Shri.Nandakumar IAS, Ramanathapuram District used to visit Mangalavanam quiet often to see the progress of the work and to encourage the stake holders.



View of Mangalavanam

Major beneficiaries of the Teertham are the Pilgrims visiting Shri Ekanta Ramar Temple and visitors visiting Mangalavanam. Teertham had the following impact

- Water Structure with 43,12,000 Liters of storage has been created. Pond has been beautified with Lotus and Fish.
- Place of Recreation
- Place of Rituals
- Supports watering the plants of Mangalavanam
- Possibility of Tourism Development

