



Green Rameswaram

# Annual Report

## 2019-20

## Preface

Green Rameswaram Trust has brought the stakeholders of the island-government organisations, community and civil society organisations together through networking to join hands in the transformation of Green Rameswaram Project. Shri.NarendraModi, Prime Minister of India, in a mega public event held on 23 July 2017 at Rameswaram commend the district administration, Vivekananda Kendra and other partner organizations for the work done so far under the Project. During the event, the Prime Minister unveiled the 'Blueprint of Green Rameswaram'-a goal setting document for making Rameswaram Green. Team Green Rameswaram is devising sub-projects to operationalize goals set as a part of the blueprint document.

This year, Green Rameswaram project has done extensive works in all the verticals visualized in the Action plan document. Few benchmarks this year are

1. Regular conduct of District Level Island Development Committee Meeting
2. Green Rameswaram Trust has been assigned the role of Technical and Knowledge Partner by National Stock Exchange Foundation, Mumbai in implementing the projects supported by them in the aspirational district of Ramanathapuram
3. Revival and Renovation of Three Traditional Water Bodies

Our efforts to improve the Landscaping and Beautification have broadened further this year. Same way our efforts to reach out and building the social capital has yielded good results and more strengths has been added to Green Rameswaram Volunteer base.

We have bigger plans for next financial year. Our higher pursuit of building Green Resilient Rameswaram has lead us to the right track in the last year

Best Wishes


**G.Vasudeo**  
**Secretary**  
**Green Rameswaram**



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	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Water Management</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">“Environmental Preservation would encompass --- conserving ground water and rivers and other water bodies, protection of the coastal zones and fragile eco systems” (Tamil Nadu Vision 2023)</p>
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Green Rameswaram team has so far renovated 34 traditional Water bodies, out of which Four were done this year

1. Hara Teertham
2. Vaali Teertham
3. Amutha Teertham
4. Deva Teertham

Following were the key learning's from this year's traditional Water body renovation

### 1. Involving all the stakeholders

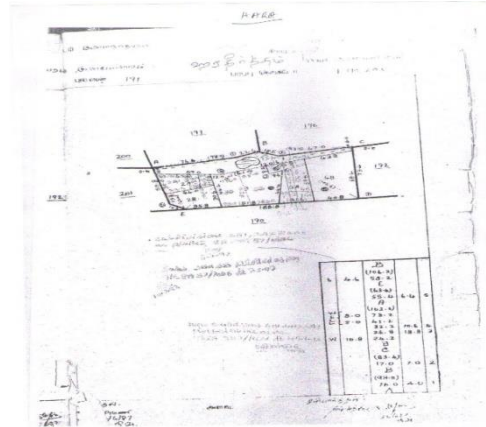
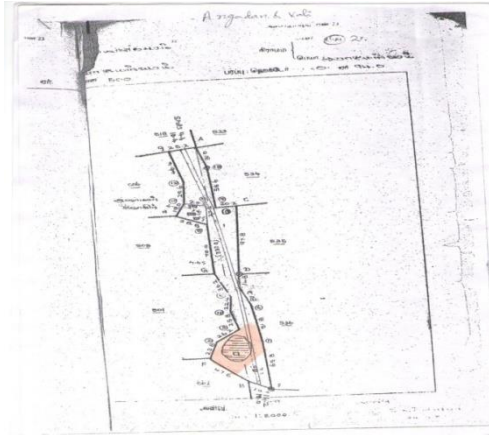
To engage and manage stakeholder relationships is vital for community development and social investment program. Stakeholder's involvement is the key to the success of the traditional water bodies renovation. Though the ownership rests with the HR&CE, Municipality and Panchayat community involvement made this programme a success. This year we have done Four renovations of Amutha, Deva, Hara and Vaali Teerthas. This can be envisaged in a three-pronged way

- i. Documentation
  - Records authentication
  - Approvals from the owner of the land
- ii. During the implementation – support may be envisaged from the following ways
  - Support for workers stay
  - Food arrangement
  - Water Arrangement
  - Voluntary support
- iii. After Implementation
  - Maintenance
  - Community engagement
  - Regular events
  - Usage of Teertham in the regular life line

### 1.i. Documentation

- Records Authentication**

Of these four teerthams two Teerthams are enlisted in the Teerthams register of HR&CE as Amutha and Deva Teertham are part of Sri Nambu Nayakiamman Temple. We had issues in Deva Teertham, due to a joint visit of Revenue Department and HR&CE to this Teertham encroacher agreed that it is temple land and allowed us to work. Remaining two Teertham's of Vaali, Hara Teertham we collected the Field Map copy from Revenue Department



**Revenue Field Map - Vaali Teertham Revenue Field Map - Hara Teertham**

- Approval:**

Approvals obtained from HR&CE for renovating Amutha, Deva and Vaali Teertham and from Municipality for renovating Hara Teertham.

Below clips indicates the before renovation status of the Traditional water Bodies



Deva Teertham



Vaali Teertham

Ownership -  
HR&CE



Amutha Teertham



Hara Teertham

Ownership – Rameswaram Municipality

## 1.ii. During the Implementation

	Support for workers stay	Food arrangement	Water Arrangement	Toilet Arrangements
<b>AmuthaTeertham</b>	Portion of the Temple Mandapam- HR&CE	Cooking space provided at the backyard of temple- HR&CE	Water taken from the pipes inside the temple - HR&CE	Common toilet near the temple used for free
<b>Deva Teertham</b>	Portion of the Temple Mandapam- HR&CE	Cooking space provided at the backyard of temple- HR&CE	Water taken from the pipes inside the temple - HR&CE	Common toilet near the temple used for free
<b>Hara Teertham</b>	Community Hall given for stay – Mankaadu village	Cooking Space given near the community hall itself – Mankaadu village	Water Taken from the pipes inside the community hall – Mankaadu village	Common toilet in the middle of the village used by workers
<b>VaaliTeertham</b>	Near our Office hence workers stayed in our office itself	Cooking space was given near hanuman temple – HR&CE	Water Taken from the pipes near the Hanuman temple	Common toilet on the way to RamarPadham used

## 1.iii.After Implementation

- Maintenance & Community Engagement**

Every Teertham after renovation is handed over to two Teertha Mitra's from the community for maintaining the Teertham. In addition, we involve local Volunteers to clean the traditional water bodies as it requires a lot of work to maintain the Teertham. Green Rameswaram with local volunteers has cleaned the renovated teerthams as per the table below

Teertham name	Date	No of Volunteers
Agni Teertham	09 July 2019	260
Hanuman Kundam	16 July 2019	35
SugreevaTeertham	16, 17, 18, July 2019	60
RamarTeertham	24 & 25 July 2019	55
Mangala Teertham	30 July 2019	15
RamarTeertham	06 June 2019	11
Mangala Teertham	23 June 2019	25
Agni Teertham	14 May 2019	102
GnanavapiTeertham	19 Sep, 2019	32
Naga Teertham	14 Sep, 2019	15
Agni Teertham	02, October 2019	250
Agni Teertham	18 February 2020	190
<b>Total</b>		<b>1050</b>



- **Regular events**

Regular Events in Traditional Water bodies makes the locals participate on a continuous basis.

Regular Full moon day Teertha poojas were conducted in Kapi Teertham and Agni Teertham

Date	Teerthams covered	No of Participants
April 19, 2019	Agni Teertham and Kapi Teertham	130 +32
May 18, 2019	Agni Teertham and Kapi Teertham	122+36
June 17, 2019	Agni Teertham and Kapi Teertham	95+22
July 16, 2019	Agni Teertham and Kapi Teertham	105 + 44
August 15, 2019	Agni Teertham and Kapi Teertham	110+27
September13, 2019	Agni Teertham and Kapi Teertham	117+32
October 13, 2019	Agni Teertham and Kapi Teertham	92+23
November 12, 2019	Agni Teertham and Kapi Teertham	105+35
December 11, 2019	Agni Teertham and Kapi Teertham	115+43
January 10, 2020	Agni Teertham and Kapi Teertham	128+45
February 9, 2020	Agni Teertham and Kapi Teertham	125+22
March 9, 2020	Agni Teertham and Kapi Teertham	155+38
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1798</b>





Teertha pooja at Kapi Teertham



Agni Teertham - Deepa Pooja

Teertha pooja was conducted on every pradosham in JataTeertham along with the Shiva Pradosha pooja. Last year it was conducted 25 times.

Every Pradosham the team assembles and cleans the JataTeertham and do the Teertha pooja and then the Pradosha pooja and with Prasadham the pooja ends



**One of the Teertha pooja at JataTeertham**

**On an average around 50 people attend the function.**

Apart from this yearly twice in all the Teerthams people organize a teerthathiruvizha and it is done in the tamil month of Aadi.

- **Usage of Teertham in the regular life line**

Green Rameswaram took efforts in popularizing the renovated traditional water bodies among purohits, Auto drivers and guides who relate with pilgrims. Hence any nearby temple festivals we offer them the sacred water for usage in abishekams. Couple of such grand events happened this year as follows

### **Event no.1**

On December 19, 2019 in PambanBhairava temple renovatedteertha waters from Kapi Teertham, SK Kulam and VilloondiTeertham were used for doing Teertha abiseka to Lord Bhairava.

### **Event no.2**

On December 26, 2019 Melavasal Sri Balamurugan temple special teertha pooja was conducted with 108 Teertham waters done abishekam which is in the west tower of Arulmigu Sri Ramanathasami Temple. We have given Teerthams from renovated 34traditional water bodies



### 2. Dedication of traditional water bodies by officials from City Union Bank

Thanks for the continued CSR support from City Union Bank for renovation of three traditional water bodies – Amutha, Deva and Vaali and Life Insurance Corporation of India for their support in reviving the HaraTeertham.

On March 11, 2020 following Senior Management of City Union Bank Ltd attended the Teertha pooja and dedicated the renovated Teerthams to the public.

1. Shri.P.Vaidyanathan, Board Member, City Union Bank Ltd
2. Shri.Narayanan, Director, City Union Bank Ltd
3. Shri. Ramasamy, DGM, City Union Bank Ltd

A book on Nambunayakiamman along with renovated two teerthams, published by Green Rameswaram Trust was released on this occasion . Shri.P.Vaidyanathan received the book from Shri.Kakaral of HR&CE.



### 3. Tracing the roots of Literature

Where it was? How long it was? Who established it? Purpose of establishing it? Where is it exactly located? What is the literature says about the place? What will it give? All these past tense questions tempt to find answer. But it requires a deepstudy of literature to trace the roots. Experts in this field supported us. This year we have located and renovated fourTeerthams and the mythological background is shared herewith

#### 3.1 Deva Teertham

In ancient times, the Devas performed MaheshwaraYaga at Gandhamadhanaparvatham. At the end of the Yagam, Lord Brahma Deva appeared and made the YagaKundam a Teertha Kundam. He looks at the gods there and says, "Oh! Devas, this is wonderful, this Teertham is the result of the MaheshwaraYagam" All those who have a dip in this Teertha kundam will get the benefit of performing Maheshwarayagam and will attain the eternal pleasures on the earth.

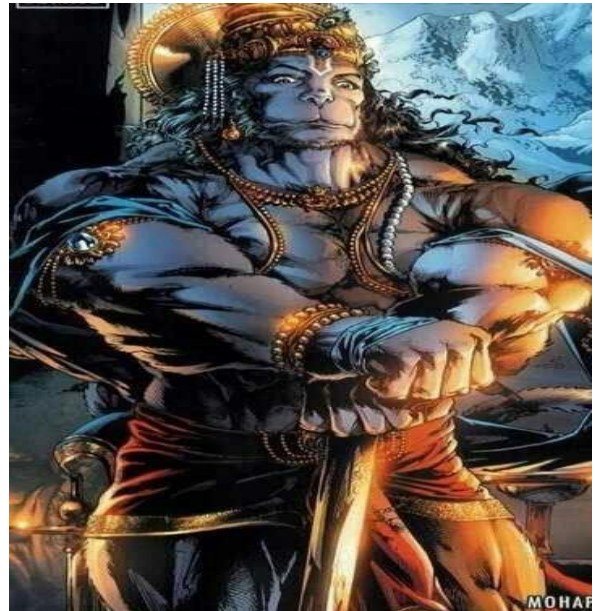
Another story says that at the age of seventy-two years, Kritavarman, king of Nidatapuri, for want of child came here and had a dip in the Deva Teertham and worshiped the NambuNayagi Amman and Lord Ramanathasamy continuously for fifteen days. His wife conceived and had a child, returned to the country and was blessed with great wealth.



This Teertha is known as Deva Teertham. Gods are called Devas in puranas and vedas. This is an ancient Teertha. Whoever comes to NambuNayagi temple will always have a dip in the Teertham and worship the goddess. Since this Teertha, have been destroyed over time this practice was stopped. After renovation the practice has started.

### 3.2 VaaliTeertham

Vaali is the undisputed king of kishkindha and was winning every opponent he faced. He had a good habit of bathing in the seven seas and doing Shiva pooja. During one such occasion, he was blessed with a darshan of Lord Vishnu. He prays to Lord Vishnu that he should get his end through Lord Vishnu alone. Lord Vishnu said that there is a pond near Gandhamadhanaparvatham area of Rameswaram Island and he advised him to have a dip in the pond and do pooja for him. Mighty Vaali went to Gandhamadhanaparvatham and did the penance and Lord Vishnu appeared and he said you will get Moksha in the Rama avatar and asked him to wait and after his Moksha this pond will be known in Vaali's name. As we all know, Rama killed Vaali and thus the Teertham becomes vaaliTeertham.



“Thameva: mukthvasamkruthomalamukthipyakanchaneem;

Bithrathathaammahendranayuthaayavyvathishtath” – **Kishkindhakandam**

### 3.3 Hara Teertham

Hara is one of the many names of Shiva, one of the principal deities in Hinduism and the supreme deity in Shaivism. As Hara, Shiva is “the one who destroys evil.” On its own, **Hara** is a Sanskrit word that means “removing,” “taking away” and “destroyer.” Hara, then, represents the purifying power of destruction and paves the way for new creation and redemption on both the universal and personal levels. Hara destroys ignorance, illusion and evil, all imperfections that must be removed for yogis to continue their inner transformation and spiritual growth along the path to enlightenment.

Hara Teertham is one of the 108 Teerthams in Rameswaram as per Valmiki Ramayanam and one of the 64 listed in Skanda Puranam. Hara is also one of the Vanara Chieftains of Sugreeva. Hara had the blessings of Lord Shiva and he infact is the Rudra roopa of Lord Shiva. Demon Ravana



had a knife known as Chandravidhanam which frightens the opponent and destroys the confidence. However Hara had the power to destroy this Knife of Chandravidhana.

There is another story which states that in order to get the blessings of Lord Shiva, Sugreeva's Vanara Sena worshipped Lord Shiva after dipping in Hara Teertham. They attained the power to destroy the Ravana sena.

### 3.4 Amutha Teertham

They say this is just an offshoot of Deva Teertham and is known as Amutha. It is also known as SarvaRoganivarani. This Teertha water is used for godly purposes for Sri Nambunayakiamman. This Teertham water is sweet in taste and people mix it with Turmeric and as a tradition offered to Nambunayakiamman and taken as prasada.

## 4. Guarding the extraordinary divinity from the pouches of encroachers

Common property and water bodies' encroachment is a big issue in India and especially in Tamilnadu it has been of biggest threat to the nature. Traditional Water bodies are not an exception. This year Green Rameswaram faced encroachment issue at Vaaliand Deva Teertham. Due to Green Rameswaram's efforts, we could arrange for a joint survey of HR&CE and Revenue department to authenticate, the property of HR&CE.

4.1 **Vaali Teertham** has been fenced by the nearby land owner. Hence when we tried to seek the details of the well immediately they replied that it is their Grand fathers well. They claimed that the names written in the inscriptions inside the well are their forefather's. Then we realized the seriousness of the problem, we requested both the HR&CE and the Revenue department to conduct a joint survey to resolve the dispute. A joint survey was conducted on 02 November,

2019 and further discussions happened on 8 November 2019 and the encroachers agreed that the well is VaaliTeertham and gave the land of HR&CE.

**4.2 Deva Teertham** When Green Rameswaram tried to locate this Deva Teertham we could not trace. Then as per the literature we learnt that the area is full of Thazhai plants (*Pandanus odoratissimus*). On enquiry from the poojaris of NambuNayakiamman temple, they guided us to a fenced coconut farm and showed us old structure with full of Thazhai plants. We could see natural spring and small quantum of water. Poojaris also explained that once there was a ritual of mulapari (Plant sprouts) being immersed in this Teertham on Vijayadashami festival. Green Rameswaram team's interaction with the private coconut farm owner does not yield desired results and so the help of Revenue Department and HR&CE was sought.

They both came to measure the land of Deva Teertham and they concluded it is part of the HR&CE Land and the fencing has to be removed. Private land owner who encroached the land agreed for the renovation work to be carried out and removed a part of the fencing to enable us to carry out the work.

## 5. Institutionalization of Rituals and Practice

Any ritual and practice if institutionalized properly will exist and practiced for ever. Because the institutionalization builds ownership and the ownership commits people in activities. For the traditional water bodies renovated by Green Rameswaram we have done the following for this year's efforts towards Institutionalization

### 5.1 Purohits has been given exposure visit to our Teerthams

Green Rameswaram team has taken the purohit Sangams representatives for an exposure visit to our Teerthams. Team explained them the literature background of each Teertham and how the Teertham was identified and renovated. This has motivated them to refer to the pilgrims some of the teerthams which has unique virtues.



**Purohits in VaaliTeertham and JhambavanaTeerthams**



### 5.2 Water Worship on Tamil Festival of Aadi Perukku

On 2 August 2019 Teertha Mitras of Green Rameswaram have conducted Aadi perukku festival in our renovated Teerthams. Team could initiate progress in 17 Teerthams of Agni Teertham, RamarTeertham, Mangala Teertham, Runa VimochanaTeertham, Kapi Teertham, GnanavapiTeertham, DroupathiTeertham, SugreevaTeertham, DharmarTeertham, NarenaTeertham, ParasuramaTeertham, PanachaTeertham, VirekaTeertham, Brahma Teertham, NakulaTeertham and JataTeertham.

### Aadi perukku celebrated with floating lamps in theTeertham



on each Teerthams to be brought out. This year we could come out with a publication on Sri Nambunayakiamman temple along with our Two Teerthams of Amutha and Deva.

### 7. Potable Water is the need of the hour

Though several of our Teerthams are having potable water. However the presence of Mineral water companies and the lorries that supply at the cost of Rs.10 to Rs.20 per pot was the major attraction for all the residents. On the one side the cost is higher and Green Rameswaram did a social mapping exercise in mankaadu and people felt the need for RO Water plant in Mankaadu village.

On April 7, 2019 we inaugurated the RO WATER plant in Mankaadu village,Shri.Vasudeoji Opened the RO Water Plant

### 6. Bringing out the exclusive books on each Teerthams

Anything lost when it is found needs a perfect documentation. Though Green Rameswaram has released a book on Teerthams, it is a popular demand that exclusive publications

நம்புநாயகி அம்மன் வரலாறு



பச்சை இராமேஸ்வரம்



**Shri.Vasudeoji inaugurating the RO Water Plant**



**Shri.Kathiresan ready to fil the first pot of RO Water Plant**



**Sister Saraswathy explaining the efforts taken by Green Rameswaram**



**Thanking on behalf of Vivekananda Kendra**

Then the villagers agreed that they will stand united in preserving this RO Water Plant and they will preserve and use the machine for generations.

### **Coordination Committee Meeting of RO Water Plant**

As a follow up of the inauguration on April 7, 2019 we have conducted a Steering committee meeting on April 9, 2019 involving the village elders in MohabeerDharmasala. During the course of meeting RO Water Plant was formally handed over to Cluster Development Association of Green Rameswaram by the village elders of Mankaadu. Meeting closed with the note that the meeting will happen regularly every month. SHG Team will ensure that the meeting happens regularly.

## Short Notes on Renovated Teerthams this financial year

### DEVA TEERTHAM

**Location:** Near Nambunayakiamman Temple on the way to Dhanushkodi

**Holding Capacity:** 1 lakh litre of Water

**Source of Water:** Natural springs

**Prior Status:**



Old Picture of Deva Teertham before renovation

### Teertha application

Devotees use this teertham to bathe. The water is sweet to drink. This Teertham water is used to dissolve the plant sprouts known as mulaipari on the vijayadasami -the last day of the Navratri festival.

### Teertha benefit

One will get the benefits of performing a maheswarayaga. One will get all types of wealth if you have a dip in this Teertha.

### Process of Teertham Renovation

When we tried to locate this Deva Teertham but we could not locate. Then as per the literature we learnt that the area is once full of Thazhai plants (Pandanus odoratissimus) and the location of Deva Teertham is full of Thazhai. On enquiry from the poojaris of NambuNayakiamman temple

they guided us into a fenced coconut farm and showed us a old structure with full of Thazhai plants. We could see natural spring and small quantum of water. Poojaris also explained that once there was a ritual of mulapari (Plant sprouts) being immersed in this Teertham on Vijayadasami festival. Green Rameswarams negotiation with the private coconut farm owner does not yield desired results.

One could sense the seriousness of the problem and sought the help of Revenue department and HR&CE officials. They both came to measure the land of Deva Teertham and they concluded it is part of the HR&CE Land and the fencing has to be removed. Private land owner who encroached the land agreed for the renovation work to be carried out and removed a part of the fencing to enable us to carry out the work.

Green Rameswaram took out the process of approval from HR&CE department for renovating the tank. Green Rameswaram got the approval and started the renovation works. Another major hassle what we faced was the labourers stay and we got it resolved with the support of Nambunayakiammanpoojaris and they offered the temple marriage mandapam for the stay of construction workers and we also informed the HR&CE officials about the stay of our workers in the temple mandapam.

Another major hurdle faced by Green Rameswaram is that the construction materials could not enter the Teertham place as it is very sandy and the vehicles could not reach the place hence the labourers have to carry the materials in hand and also in small carts. So our work got doubled. This Teertham renovation was supported by City Union Bank and very recently March 11, 2020 we dedicated the Teertham to the public in the presence of Shri.Varadarajan, Senior Board Member of City Union Bank. Now pilgrims who visits Nambunayakiamman temple also visits Deva Teertham to have a dip in the sacred Teertham.



*Fully completed Deva Teertham – Front view*



Fully completed Deva Teertham another view

### VaaliTeertham

#### Hiding the sacred VaaliTeertham as Forefathers Property

**Location:** On the way to Gandhamadhanaparvatham from Main Sri Ramanathasamy temple approximately 2.5 Km

**Structure:** As per literature is a pond like structure but now only well is there.

**Holding Capacity:** 25000 Litres

**Teertha Benefits:** Mind Stability, Short temper reduction, strengthening muscles, Emotional Intelligence, Sixth sense getting activated

#### Renovation Process of VaaliTeertham

##### Locating the VaaliTeertham:

Green Rameswaram have done the renovations of AngathaTeertham and JhambavanTeertham and SugreevaTeertham and Dharma Teertham in Gandhamadhanaparvatham area of Rameswaram but locating vaali was a challenge by itself. There is a sakshi hanuman temple on the way to Gandhamadhanaparvatham, Green Rameswaram team was told by several locals the vaaliteertham is nearby this hanuman temple. Then Green Rameswaram were patiently taken all the survey numbers near by and cross verifying. Green Rameswaram was amazed to find the presence of the temple pond in the old maps and later on cross verifying the Teertham register of HR&CE the team came to know that the vaaliTeertham is just opposite to the Hanuman temple and it is encroached.

**Encroachment in the name of forefathers:** VaaliTeertham has been fenced by the nearby land owner. Hence when we tried to seek the details of the well immediately they replied as if it is their Grand fathers well. They claimed that the names written in the inscriptions inside the Well

are all of their forefathers name. Then we realized the seriousness of the problem, we requested both the HR&CE and the Revenue department to conduct a joint survey to resolve the dispute. They have agreed for the same and a joint survey was conducted on 02 November 2019 and further negotiations were happened on 8 November 2019 and the encroachers agreed that the well is VaaliTeertham and has agreed to give away the land for HR&CE

After formal approvals from HR&CE Green Rameswaram commenced its renovation work and completed it within a span of 25 days of hard work. Now the fencing of the encroachers removed and we have established a simple wood fencing to cover the borders of the Teertham.



**VaaliTeertham before renovation**



**VaaliTeertham fully completed**

## Hara Teertham

**Location:** Inside Mankaadu village from Main Sri Ramanathasamy temple approximately 1.5 Km

**Structure:** A pond structure

**Holding Capacity:** 100000 Litres

**Teertha Benefits:** Self Confidence, Mind control, Facing any kind of life difficulty, Sin removal

### Locating the Hara Teertham:

Green Rameswaram have done the renovations of PanachaTeertham and VirehamTeertham in Mankaadu village however this Hara teertham was difficult to locate. After elaborate discussion with the elders we located the place which was having a well and the remains of the wall. We also cross checked with the Revenue maps and came to a conclusion that this is Hara Teertham.

Then we had a discussion with the village people and they have agreed to contribute place of stay for our workers and water and food facilities.

After formal approvals Green Rameswaram commenced its renovation work and completed it within a span of 90 days of hard work.



**Hara Teertham Before**



**Fully Completed Hara Teertham**

#### **Amutha Teertham**

##### **Teertha Location:**

Teertham is on its way to Dhanushkodi inside the Nambunayaki Amman temple

##### **Teertha Structure:**

**Well**

##### **Storage Capacity:**

**Approximately 40000 Ltrs of Water**

##### **Teertha Benefit:**

It is also known as universal relief (Sarvaroganivarani) because of its incorporation into the turmeric offering. There is also the practice of providing this teertha as a cure for the disease.

It was recently renovated by Green Rameswaram.

##### **Teertha revival process**

The Rameswaram temple was formally renovated with the permission of Sri Ramanathaswamy temple authorities. Authorities of City Union Bank willingly accepted the full cost for this work as a part of their CSR activity. Priests of this temple are Mr. Nambu Saravanan and Mr. Pitchai and Mr. Kannan collaborated on a great deal. All the building workers were kept in the temple.



Well in its original form



Fully Finished AmuthaTeertham

	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Waste Management</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">“...Protection of soil and other natural formations from abuse on account of human activity, efficient recycling of solid waste ensuring minimal impact on the environment, minimizing atmospheric pollution”.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Tamil Nadu Vision 2023</p>
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Solid Waste Management (SWM) is an obligatory function of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs). Per capita waste generation in Rameswaram is near about 3501 grams significantly high for a town of its size, attributed to hotels, eateries and other facilities established for visitors and pilgrims. Composition of MSW in Rameswaram is unique comprising more of fabrics, packing materials, plastics and food waste generated by touring pilgrim compound to individual household waste generation. Unless scientifically handled with a holistic vision as IWM, management of waste will remain a mere jargon.

Tourist inflow is very high in the town; hence more vibrant strategies and facilities for waste collection is required. It requires an efficient primary and secondary waste collection mechanism covering households, commercial institutions and tourist hotspots.

Considering inadequate staffing and collection efficiency, Rameswaram Municipality has engaged Hand in Hand India partner of Green Rameswaram with experience and expertise in handling Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) for waste collection and process in 21 wards.

Though door to door (D2D) coverage is happening, predominantly it is focused on collecting waste. However, holistic D2D coverage focuses on segregation at source and avoidance of street side dumping. This requires good manpower and regular D2D services focusing on segregation.

Segregation at source requires segregation facilities at home and customized waste collection mechanism that supports transportation of segregated source without mixing. Both are visibly not present in current system.

## 2. Progress for 2019-2020

### 2.1 Solid Waste Management- Rameswaram

Rameswaram Municipality consists of 21 Wards and 13500 Households generates about 20 tonnes of waste per day. Hand in Hand India Partner of Green Rameswaram made continuous efforts in creating awareness on Segregation of waste and they have reached around 85% of households. Biggest challenge is in creating awareness among the floating population of pilgrims.

## 2.2 Behavioral Change Communication

In a holy town of Rameswaram, majority of domestic tourists is pilgrimage tourists, whose behavior depends upon the exposure, which they have before visiting the city. Domestic pilgrimage tourists visiting Rameswaram, do lot of rituals and religious festivities. This changing attitude of each and every pilgrim requires special focus and the residents also have to adopt different strategies to dispose wastes. Hence Behavioural change communication is advocated by Green Rameswaram team for changing the mind set of both the residents and the pilgrims.

Green Rameswaram takes marathon efforts to create awareness among the residents and pilgrims. Specially designed activities are rolled out throughout the year and the list of such programmes with the beneficiaries reach listed out in the below table

Public Awareness Events			
Sl. No	PARTICULARS	No. Of the Programme	No. Of Beneficiaries
1	Environmental Day Programme	4	275
2	Rally Awareness Programme	1	50
3	Door to Door Programme	17	1510
4	Picking Litter Campaign Programme	17	9483
5	Stakeholders Meeting	1	40
6	Source Segregation Demo	7	209
7	Pilgrims Awareness Programme	3	2370
8	Church Awareness Programme	1	52
9	Temple Awareness Programme	3	190
10	School Students Awareness Programme	8	532
11	School Students RRP Visit	1	20
12	Oath Awareness Programme	4	530
13	Plastic Awareness Programme	2	132
14	Dengue Awareness Programme	1	280
15	Youth Awareness Programme	2	30
16	Shop Awareness Programme	2	87



17	SHG Programme	4	173
18	Public Awareness Programme	10	958
19	GF Handwash Training Programme	1	30
20	Rangoli Programme	1	50
	<b>Total</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>17001</b>

Apart from the above events we have also conducted Mass cleaning campaigns in the pilgrim hotspots of Agni Teertham and Arichalmunai as per below table. This made pilgrims and the local volunteers involving in the event.

<b>Mass cleaning</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>No of Volunteers</b>
Agni Teertham	09 July 2019	260
Agni Teertham	14 May 2019	102
Agni Teertham	02, October 2019	250
Agni Teertham	18 February 2020	190
Arichalmunai Mass cleaning	02, October 2019	200
<b>Total</b>		<b>1002</b>


Few pictures of the events were as follows





### 2.3 Manpower Requirement

Considering the pilgrim inflow of more than 2 crores a year it requires more man power to manage the cleaning process hence a detailed proposal to include 90 manpower and additional equipment's and vehicles were mooted and submitted to the State Government with the support of District Administration. We hope this will materialize the next financial year.

	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Renewable Energy</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">.....improving the quality of the environment ..... By minimizing atmospheric pollution and in general maintaining the ecological balance across the entire state.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Vision 2023</b></p>
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**Renewable energy** is a term used to refer to forms of energy that are naturally obtained from the environment and from sources that can be replenished naturally. These include solar energy, wind energy, geothermal energy, hydropower, and biomass. So far over the years, the following activities which were done are servicing the purpose it intended.

- 100 cubic meters of gas produced every day after the installation of 100 kitchen waste based biogas plants for households.
- Established Institutional biogas plants to show the possibilities of its use.
- Reduced carbon footprint with the use of kitchen waste based biogas plants.
- Installation of solar panels which generates 25 Kilo Watt power at Vivekananda Memorial, Kundhakal and MohabeerDharmasala to explore the possibility of use of solar energy at archaeological sites.
- At Dhanushkodi, meeting the energy needs of 200 households through distribution of solar lights to facilitate education, connectivity to the mainland and improvement in quality of life.

This year following are renewable energy updates from Green Rameswaram team

### 3.1 Exploration to revive the defunct non-operational Solar System of Sri Ramanathasamy Temple

Due to Green Rameswaram teams continued insistence in the Island Development Committee Meetings District Collector Shri.Veera Raghava Rao IAS instructed the Joint Commissioner, HR&CE to check the solar power status of the main temple and take necessary steps to revive the same.

Green Rameswaram helped the temple by inviting two vendors to have an assessment of Solar Power in Sri Ramanathasamy temple. Neutral Solutions from Pondicherry and Madurai based vendor Iqube has been invited and on assessment of the existing defunct solar system following are the findings

1. System was installed in the year 2011
2. Battery since it is a maintenance free type it is still under working condition
3. Only the inverter and the solar panels connections has to be reworked

Both the vendors have given the quotations. However the mission is yet to be realized due to administrative delays. Green Rameswaram team is committed to that cause and will take this revival process next year also.

### 3.2 Bio Gas Plants for the Schools

Since utility costs are one of the few areas of a school's budget that can't be trimmed without negatively affecting the student experience, growing numbers of administrators are exploring the benefits of Renewable Energies for schools. It would also will be a demonstration to the school children to learn the different technologies in the school. Green Rameswaram wanted it to be implemented in Government Schools which can serve both the purpose.

Hand in Hand India our Partner NGO has installed three 6 cubic meter Sakthi Surabhi Bio Gas plants procured from Vivekananda Kendra NARDEP, Kanyakumari in three schools as a part of their project funded by National Stock Exchange Foundation.

School Name	Capacity
Sri ParvathaVarthini Amman Girls Higher Secondary School	6 cubic Meter
Pamban Higher Secondary School, Pamban	6 Cubic Meter
Government Middle School, Natarajapuram	6 Cubic Meter

Thus, these schools have got the opportunity to recycle 30 KG of waste everyday into Bio Gas. All these schools are having Mid-Day meals scheme hence the food waste will get recycled.

In fact the school teachers were given a day's orientation about the operation of the plant to empower them with information. They would have transmitted the knowledge to the students also.



Secondary school, Pamban



Natarajapuram Middle School Govt Higher



SPA School, Rameswaram



## Green Health

“To keep the body in good health is a duty. Otherwise, we shall not be able to keep our mind”

**Our traditional medicine systems** can play an **important role** in realizing the dream of 'Rejuvenated India' by providing quality healthcare and medical care for the citizens. At present we are witnessing a highly receptive environment where the value of **AYUSH** systems in healthcare is widely recognised world wide. There is a need to popularize these systems to the general public. Green Rameswaram has taken up this mission since inception.

### 4.1 Yoga

Yoga as a curative therapy has been practiced in Green Rameswaram building and it has reached out to 225 students as of now which also includes 104 women students. Several people came with lots of ailments and were cured. On June 21, 2020 Green Rameswaram has celebrated the International Yoga day in a big way and following were the events happened on the occasion

Event	Number
Training to Indian Coastal Guards, Mandapam	200
Indian Navy office near Rameswaram Jetty	25
Panchayat Union middle school	60
Vivekananda Vidyalaya, Pamban	40
Training to Poojarisangam in yoga in Goswamy mutt	190
Green Rameswaram Building	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>615</b>



#### 4.2 Distribution of Moringa Plant Saplings

Horticulture collaborated with Green Rameswaram and arranged for the distribution of 650 Free Moringa Saplings in Rameswaram. Rameswaram is blessed with the soil that can boost the growth of Moringa plants in a grand way. Hence this is a good value addition to the already existing household plant in Rameswaram. The team took it in a big way and distributed the 650 moringa saplings across the island.

Place	No of saplings planted
Ramakrishnapuram	100
Karaiyur	50
Mankaadu	100
Sambai	100
Thangatchimadam	150
Pamban	100
Kudiyiruppu	50
<b>Total</b>	<b>650</b>

#### 4.3 Free Siddha Camps

This year we have conducted three free Siddha Camps in Rameswaram and around 367 people got benefitted out of this camp. Varma and Siddha medicines were introduced to these patients and got benefitted.

Few clips of the events as follows



At Ramakrishnapuram Moringa saplings distribution



At Mankaadu Moringa Saplings Distribution



International yoga day at Indian Navy Camp





## Landscaping and Beautification

Preserving, and wherever possible, improving the quality of the environment, nurturing the cultural heritage of the state and maintaining the ecological balance

Vision 2023

This year Green Rameswaram has focused on tree plantation across the Island. This portion of this report will take to the Landscaping and Beautification efforts of Green Rameswaram.

### 5. Involving the Government and other stake holders in planting

Beautifying the Government offices requires responsible and sensible officers in place. Involving them in Government and other stake holders in planting promotes

#### 5.1 Government Offices



**TALUK OFFICE PLANTATIONS**

Green Rameswaram has promoted lot of volunteers by beautifying the government offices. In 2018-19 we have beautified Deputy Superintendent of Police office and that inspired Shri. Abdul Jabbar, Tahsildar, Rameswaram Taluk to invite us for the beautification of his office premises. He has arranged for the guards and borne the plant saplings cost also. Whenever we planted his office staffs also participated. This made us to make them participated in outside planting

activities also.

#### 5.2 Dhanalakshmi Bank

Marking the 96<sup>th</sup> foundation day Dhanalakshmi bank Rameswaram Branch planted 15 Saplings near the open place in Kondalar Mutt. Shri. Sreenivasan, Branch Manager, Dhanalakshmi Bank arranged for this event along with Green Rameswaram volunteers.



**1 PLANTATIONS NEAR KONDALAR MUTT**

#### 5.3 Indian Navy Campus

Shri. Dassan, Chief of Indian Navy campus of Rameswaram coast line agreed for a plantation in their garden. Around 20 plants were planted in the event along with Green Rameswaram Volunteers





**Plantations in Indian Navy Campus**

#### **5.4 Schools**

This year we could make Sri ParvathaVarthini Amman Girls Higher Secondary School children participate in our planting activities. Around 100 saplings we could plant with the support of them.



**Saplings Distribution event in SPA School**

#### **I Capitalizing the places for Plantations**

Left out places are galore and sometime we don't move beyond certain limits. It requires geographical eye to identify vacant area which is not having any issue and requires social skills to own the people surrounding it to maintain the plant.

Advantages of such initiative are

- a. Waste dumping will be stopped
- b. Maintenance activity will happen
- c. People movement will be there

We have located such areas in for plantations and we could plant Palmyrah seeds in the coastal areas of around 15 areas in and around Rameswaram.

## ii. Identification of seedlings suitable for the area

Palmyrah (*Borassus flabellifer*) is the state tree of Tamil Nadu. From the leaves being used for manuscripts, to the split trunk being used as roof joists, palmyrah trees had been an integral part of Tamil life. With changes in cultural and social milieu, they lost their importance. In realty and industrial agriculture, they were considered worthless and axed, resulting in significant loss in tree count.

Palmyrah trees are commonly seen between agricultural fields in Tamil Nadu. "People used them to mark boundaries, given their long life of 120 years," Planted around water bodies, they are believed to recharge water. Palm root has a central fibre surrounded by a spongy layer that stores water. "They played a significant role in circulation of water in aquifers,"

Green Rameswaram have obtained 10000 (Ten thousand) Palm Seeds last year from Horticulture Department and we have planted in the sea shores in the following proportion

Status update as below

November 2019		
S.No	Place	No of seeds
1.	Thangatchimadam	500
2.	Pamban	500
3.	Vadakadu	500
4.	Ramakrishnapuram	500
5.	Sathankulam	250
6.	Kudiyiruppu	500
7.	Natarajapuram	250
8.	Tsunami colony	500
December 2019		
9.	Dhanushkodi	1250
10.	Erakadu	750
11.	Olaikuda	750
12.	Kundhukaal	750
13.	Pamban	750
14.	Akkal madam	250
15.	Chinnapalem	250
	<b>Total</b>	<b>8250</b>

Few pictures of the seed planting activities as follows





**Palm Seed plantation at Dhanushkodi and Mukundharayarchatram**

Around 160 volunteers participated in this massive activity including the school children, general public, village heads and Green Rameswaram Volunteers. Latest pics of the seeds planted by us little sprouting has happened after 7 months



**iii.Data Base of Local Volunteers**

Database creation and retention and maintenance is key for any organization involved in community activities. Green Rameswaram is a people's project and we require every citizen of Rameswaram to be a volunteer for all activities. Though many come and attend our programmes only few are regular attendees and are in touch with us for activities. We have created a data base of volunteers in all the areas of Rameswaram to participate in the activities pertaining to that area. We use them then and there to do our activities.

Date	Location	No of saplings planted	Volunteers
23 May 2019	Erakadu	15	7
27 May 2019	Main temple North East	10	2
5 June 2019	Navy Campus	20	5
6 June 2019	Sri Parvathavarthiniamman girls higher secondary school	100	50
6 July 2019	Resource Recovery park, Vadakadu	20	5
10 July 2019	Union middle school no.2, Rameswaram	10	3
15 July 2019	Kamarajar Middle School	20	3
20 July 2019	Erakadu, Kudiyiruppu, Akkalmadam, Thangatchimadam, Olaikuda	108	20
30 September 2019	Olaikuda	20	5
7 October 2019	Taluk Office	30	3
7 November 2019	Taluk office	25	3
14 November 2019	Seed packet Distribution at Erakadu	20	2
17 November 2019	Seed packet Distribution at Ramakrishnapuram	20	2
9 January 2020	Kondalar Madam, Dhanalakshmi Bank	16	5
07 February 2020	Taluk office	15	4
		449	119

Below table of plantation activities throws a light on our reach with the support of our volunteers

We have planted a total of 449 plants of which some 40 are seed packets distribution and the remaining 409 are tree saplings planted. In one km we can plant 143 plants if the gap between plants are having 7 metres. Thus, we have greened 2.86 Kms areas though it is not continuous stretch and is disbursed, with the planting of 409 plants.



### iv. Identification of potential sponsors

Several individual donors contribute for the purchase of plant saplings and seed packets.

108 Tree saplings with tree guards were donated by Shri.RamBallabha Kunj Shree AyodhyaJee. These Tree Plantations were done on July 27, 2019 with the first plant being planted by Shri.Muraleedharan, President, KambanKazhagam in Erakaadu Village



Shri.RamBallabha Kunj Shree ayodhyajee donating the amount to Shri.Vasudeoji, Secretary, Green Rameswraam and second pics Shri.Muralidharan, Green Rameswaram volunteer planting the saplings



## Livelihoods

"If you can create an honourable livelihood where you take your skills and earn a living from them, It gives you a sense of freedom and allows you to balance your life the way you want"

Livelihood is a means of making a living. It encompasses people's capabilities, assets, income and activities required to secure the necessities of life. A livelihood is sustainable when it enables people to cope with and recover from shocks and stresses (such as natural disasters and economic or social upheavals) and enhance their well-being and that of future generations without undermining the natural environment or resource base. Green Rameswaram have done several works related to livelihood. Last year we have promoted around 97 Pasumai Groups and presently we have only 26 Pasumaigroups and due to the following reasons

1. Want of qualified Manpower
2. Our efforts to fusion the Microfinance with the concept of Pasumai has not turned up as expected
3. Several Groups collapsed due to lack of bank Linkage

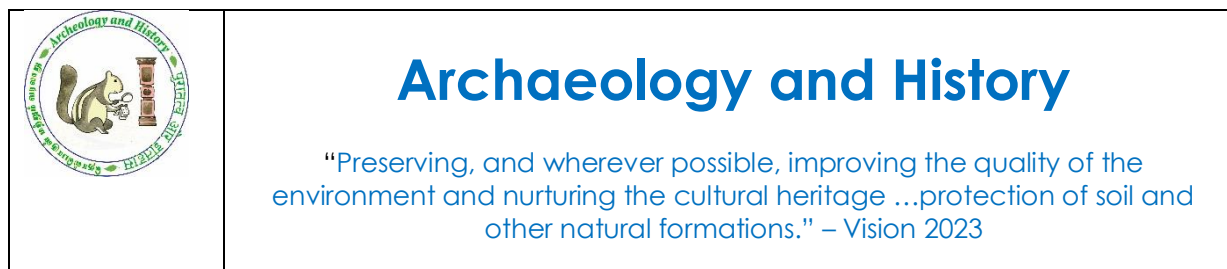
Following is the current status of Pasumai groups

S.No	Particulars	Cumulative
1	Total staffs	3
2	Total No.of SHGs	26
3	Total No of SHGs meeting conducted	25
4	Total No of Members	320
5	Average Members Size	12.30
6	Total Subscription received	3120
7	Total Savings Received	33600
8	Total internal loan disbursed	30300
9	Principle amount received	67700
10	Interest amount received	7850



11	No of SHGs Book money received	25
12	Received the book money	13750
13	Savings returned	0
14	No of SHGs bank Account opened	3
15	Cash in hand	7885
16	Cash at bank	16800





## 7.Archeology and History - Introduction

Archeology – a general definition states that it is the study of human history and prehistory through the excavation of sites and the analysis of artefacts and other physical remains. Whereas History is a systematic recording of the past happenings of a person, place or a thing.

### 7.1Need and Importance of Archeology and History in Rameswaram

Rameswaram Island, known as a centre of spiritual tourism, attracts thousands of pilgrims every day. It contains within its shores history, mythology, spirituality, religion, archaeology, natural beauty, bio-diversity, etc. It attracts tourists and pilgrims in equal numbers. In one square kilometre of the main temple area, as many as hundred thousand tourists can be found on festive days. Rameswaram receives approximately 2 crores of pilgrims and tourists annually through road and rail transport. People mostly visit the Island for religious and spiritual reasons. Rameswaram is traditionally associated with Indian culture with 'Kashi Rameswaram Yatra', which every Indian is enjoined to perform once in her/his lifetime. Agni Teertham, natural fountains used for taking holy dip is one of the most crowded tourist areas in Rameswaram Island. Rameswaram, by Hindus, is considered to be one of the important places for performing rituals in the memory of ancestors.

ThusArcheology and History occupies a centrifugal force in Rameswaram. If properly documented it can be a rich source of tourist attraction. This may be broadly classified as Heritage tourism.

Heritage is the full range of inherited traditions, monuments, objects, and culture of a particular place or region. It is the range of contemporary activities, meanings, and behaviours that we draw from them. Heritage includes preserving, excavating, displaying, or restoring a collection of old things. It is both tangible and intangible, in the sense that ideas and memories--of songs, recipes, language, dances, and many other elements of who we are and how we identify ourselves--are as important as historical buildings and archaeological sites.It can be considered to be made up of the practices and traditions that are passed on from parents to children, but it also has to do with what has been passed on from the family, community and a place where people have been raised.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation in the United States defines heritage tourism as "travelling to experience the places, artefacts and activities that authentically represent the stories and people of the past", and "heritage tourism can include cultural, historic and natural resources".



## 7.2 TYPES OF HERITAGE

Heritage can be broadly classified into the following

- **Natural heritage**, an inheritance of fauna and flora, geology, landscape and landforms, and other natural resources in a specific geographical area
- **Built heritage**, an inheritance of the physical artefacts of the community and it includes religious structures like churches, mosques, temples, etc. townscape, royal structures like palaces, isolated structures like fort wall, bridges, pillars etc. private structures like residential buildings etc., monuments from industrial culture, parks etc.
- **Art and Cultural heritage**, the legacy of the intangible attributes of the society, including local festivals, art and crafts in the region like handloom, pottery, sculpture, textiles, wood carving, foods, language and its dialects, livelihoods practices, market places, literature etc.

Besides having religious and spiritual significance, there are other facets of tourism existing in the Islands which are mostly unknown to the people outside of the region. In fact, Rameswaram is a rich hub of natural, built and art & cultural heritage. In addition to the Ramanathaswamy temple there are plenty of places and practices which are having the potential of attracting tourist from national and international levels. Following is the list of heritage sites and culture prevailing in Rameswaram

Built Heritage	Art and Cultural Heritage	Natural Heritage
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ramanathaswamy Temple</li> <li>• Teerthams</li> <li>• Kothandaswamy temple</li> <li>• Pamban Bridge</li> <li>• Pamban Railway Line</li> <li>• Abdul Kalam's House</li> <li>• Kalam Memorial</li> <li>• Rama Dasa Hanuman temple built by Ramadasa</li> <li>• Vivekananda Bhaskaram, where SwamyVivekakanda stayed during his visit to the Islands</li> <li>• Shakshi Hanuman temple, having association with Ramayana mythology</li> <li>• Gurudwara, where Guru Nanak visited</li> <li>• Local deity temples: UjjainiAmman, NambuNayaki Amman, Bhathrakaliamman, Durgai Amman, Eswari Amman,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Temple Sculptures</li> <li>• Mural Paintings prevailing in Ramanathaswamy temple</li> <li>• Herbal painting prevailing in KumuthaTeertham</li> <li>• Ancient poets' literature on Ramanathasamy</li> <li>• Prominent personalities – Visiting Rameswaram (Rajaji, LalBahadurShashtri, Rajiv Gandhi, Mother Saradha, Swami Vivekananda)</li> <li>• Mulaipari festival</li> <li>• Navarathiri festival</li> <li>• Annadhana practice</li> <li>• PithruTharpanam practice</li> <li>• Aadi, Thai and Mahalaya Amavasya rituals</li> <li>• Mahamaham event</li> <li>• Palm based foods</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ramar Bridge</li> <li>• Dhanushkodi</li> <li>• Ariyaman Beach</li> <li>• Sand Dunes</li> <li>• Green Turtle</li> <li>• Kutla Fish</li> <li>• Dolphins</li> <li>• Blue Crabs</li> <li>• Coral Reefs</li> <li>• Rama's Squirrel</li> <li>• Migratory Birds</li> </ul>



Built Heritage	Art and Cultural Heritage	Natural Heritage
SoundariAmman, KaraiyurMariamman and Kanthari Amman- Peikarumpu <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MohabeerDharmasala</li> <li>• VallabhacharyaPeedam</li> <li>• Pathanjali – RudrakshaBeeds</li> <li>• EkantaRamar Temple</li> <li>• Santhyagappar Church, Thangatchi madam</li> <li>• Church, Pisasumunai</li> <li>• Vivekananda Memorial, Kunthukkal</li> <li>• RamarPadam from where Rama viewed Sri Lanka and is the highest altitude in the Islands</li> <li>• Pisasumunai church</li> <li>• Dhanushkodi-Church</li> <li>• Dhanushkodi-Post office</li> <li>• Dhanushkodi-Railway station/ Hospital</li> <li>• Dhanushkodi - Temple</li> <li>• Rameswaram to Dhanushkodi Road</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Palm Leaf products</li> <li>• Oyillattam dance</li> <li>• Water Sports</li> <li>• Fishing</li> <li>• Fish Market / Beach Auction</li> <li>• Horse Riding vehicles</li> </ul>	

Except a few, the significance of the heritage values above listed of Rameswaram Islands has not been documented for communicating to the people outside the region. Most of the visitors to the Islands complete their trip after having seen the Rameswaram temple and taken a dip in the Teerthas since they are not aware of other potential heritage places, events and activities. These unknown heritage aspects have huge potential to attract tourists on a larger scale and enhancing economic value of the tourism industry of the region.

### 7.3 Principles and perspectives

#### 7.3.1 Listing of these heritage site

Listing of these heritage sites have not been done so far. Tourism department sites are not having such lists.

#### 7.3.2 Explaining the heritage site

Listing requires explanation and exploration of history associated with that place

### 7.3.3 Documenting the heritage site

This requires collection of recordal evidences that supports the claim of the historical association. Getting approval from the Government departments for renovation. Then the preservation of the site

### 7.3.4 Renovation and preservation of the site

This involves huge money. CSR and Individual donations to renovation. However the management and maintenance and preservation requires the Government support

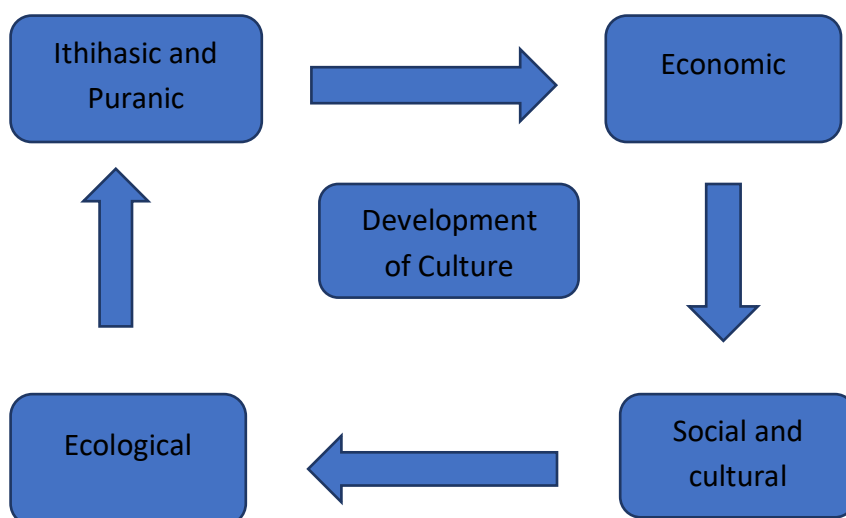
### 7.3.5 Listing it in the Government Site for Pilgrims knowledge

Getting the heritage site listed in the relevant government departments records i.e websites and other formal records.

### 7.3.6 Popularizing the heritage Site

Popularising the heritage site among the local residents and other visiting pilgrims and relevant signages are to be placed.

## 7.4 Perspectives



### 7.4.1 Ithihasic and Puranic perspectives

1. Tamilnadu Government has declared Rameswaram as Heritage city vide GO no.163 dates 06 July 1993 based on the puranic and ithihasic background of the town
2. Back ground of the town has to be further explored and studied and the exact location to be listed out historically

### 7.4.2 Economic Perspectives

1. Tourism potential is huge in Rameswaram. It receives annual footfall of 1.5 crores of pilgrims as per tourism department data for the year 2017-18. More archeological and historical specialties attract more tourists and livelihood opportunities
2. Growth of Rameswaram is based on the pilgrimage specialties and unique palm-based crafts and traditional festivities of Mulaipari festivals in the month of Aadi will attract more and more pilgrims
3. Tourism service industry stands at more than 40% of the employment in the year 2016.

### 7.4.3 Social Perspectives

1. People are mostly fishermen but the thriving tourism industry and the landscape has witnessed rapid transformation of fishing into tourism industry
2. Formal training is required in this industry and tourism department confirms no registered tourist guide in Ramanathapuram District
3. Social Infrastructure development has grown well however still a long way to go
4. Archeology and History captures the societal setups those days

### 7.4.4 Cultural Perspectives

1. Ramayana is part and parcel of every Indian life and inside Rameswaram there are some ten places related to Ramayana RamarPadham, RamarTeertham, LakshmanaTeertham, Seetha Teertham, Hanuman TeerthamVilloondiTeertham, Agni Teertham, Sri Ramanathasamy Temple, JadayuTeertham and EkantaRamar Temple
2. Mahabharatha is another epic which reflects several aspects of Indian life and it is believed that PanchaPandavas has visited Rameswaram and these were the places related to Mahabharathai.eSahadeva, Nakula, Bhima, Dharma, Arjuna and DroupathiTeerthams
3. AshtaDurgas temples are protecting Rameswaram i.e Durga, Bathrakaliamman, Soundariamman, Nambunayaki Amman, Ujjainimaakali, BalaSoundariamman, KaraiyurMariamman and Poomariamman.

### 7.4.5 Ecological Perspectives

1. Ancient monuments and temple related structures have the ecological engineering marvel aspects of it
2. Traditional water bodies have inlets and outlets and natural springs makes it more viable.

## 7.5 Green Rameswaram efforts in Archeology and History – Past and Present

### 7.5.1 Built Heritage

#### 7.5.1.1 Renovation of archaeologically and historically important Teerthams

Green Rameswaram has located and renovated the archaeologically important Teerthams in Rameswaram Island. So far 35 such Traditional Water Bodies are renovated. In this financial year Green Rameswaram has done 5 traditional water bodies of AmuthaTeertham, Deva Teertham, Hara Teertham, VaaliTeertham and AriyanaatchiTeertham.



### 7.5.1.2 Ithihasic and Puranic perspectives

#### 7.5.1.2.1 Deva Teertham

In ancient times, the Devas performed MaheshwaraYaga at Gandhamadhanaparvatham. At the end of the Yagam, Lord Brahma Deva appeared and made the Yaga Gundam a Teertha Kundam. He looks at the gods there and say, "Oh! Devas, this is wonderful, this is the result of the MaheshwaraYagam we have got this Teertham" All those who have a dip in this Teertha kundam will get the benefit of performing Maheshwarayagam. And they will attain the eternal pleasures in the earth.

At the age of seventy-two years, Kritavarman, king of Nidatapuri, for want of child came here and had a dip in the Deva Teertham and worshiped the NambuNayagi Amman and Lord Ramanathaswant continuously for fifteen days. His wife conceived a child and returned to the country and was blessed with great wealth.

This Teertha is known as Deva Teertham. Gods are called Devas in puranas and vedas. This is an ancient Teertha. Whoever comes to NambuNayagi temple will always have a dip in the Teertham and worship the goddess. Since this teertha, have been destroyed over time this practice has got wiped. It has now been discovered and renovated by the Green Rameswaram Team.

#### 7.5.1.2.2 AmuthaTeertham

##### Story:

They say this is just an offshoot of Deva Teertham and is known as the same.

##### Teertha Benefit:

It is also known as universal relief (Sarvaroganivarani) because of its incorporation into the turmeric offering. There is also the practice of providing this teertha as a cure for the disease.

It was recently renovated by Green Rameswaram.

#### 7.5.1.2.3 Hara Teertham

Hara Teertham is created by Haran - one of the vanara chieftain. He served as the chieftain for the Lord Rama's life protecting team in the war. Hara is the Ruthra form of Lord shiva. Demon Ravana had a knife known as Chandravithaaram which is known for demolishing one's confidence Haran demolished this knife to protect Lord Rama.

This Teertham is known for curing the mind health issues. Any one having a dip in this Teertham will get rescued in the unexpected problems in life i.e Accident etc



#### 7.5.1.2.4 VaaliTeertham

Vaali is the undisputed king of kishkintha and was winning every opponents he faced. He had a good practice of bathing in the sea and doing siva pooja during that time he had the opportunity to have a darshan of Lord Vishnu. He prays to Lord Vishnu that he should be killed by Lord Vishnu and not by anybody else. Lord Vishnu said that there is a pond in Gandhamadhanaparvatham area of Rameswaram Island and he requested him to have a dip in the pond and do pooja for him. Mighty Vaali went to Gandhamadhanaparvatham and did the penance and Lord Vishnu appeared and he said you will get Moksha in the Rama avatar and asked him to wait and after his Moksha this pond will be known in Vaali's name and in the same way

Rama killed Vaali and this Teertham was known as vaaliTeertham later on.

#### 7.5.1.2.5 AriyanaatchiTeertham

Ariyanatchi is also known as SaradhaTeertham. If a pilgrim has a darshan he will get patience as special power and clear mind

### 7.5.2 Economic perspectives

All the renovated Teerthams are potential pilgrim centres.

#### 7.5.2.1 Establishment of Nandavanam – Sacred Groves

Green Rameswaram with the support of Green Pilgrimage Network last year made efforts to establish the lost Sacred Grove of Nandavanam in Sri Ramanathasamy Temple. Though there were restrictions for our team to establish it in its original place however the team have established a Nandavanam in the given place. This year due to maintenance issues we have stepped in with our volunteers team to remove the weeds.

#### 7.5.2.2 Documenting Built Heritages

Green Rameswaram through its monthly newsletter has made efforts to capture the built heritages of the Rameswaram and this year following areas were covered

Places	Web Link
Pamban Train Bridge (November 2019)	<a href="https://www.greenrameswaram.org/news/nov19/6-Eco-tourism.pdf">https://www.greenrameswaram.org/news/nov19/6-Eco-tourism.pdf</a>
Pamban Road Bridge (December 2019)	<a href="https://www.greenrameswaram.org/news/dec19/Eco.pdf">https://www.greenrameswaram.org/news/dec19/Eco.pdf</a>
Railway Station – Dhanushkodi (January 2020)	<a href="https://www.greenrameswaram.org/news/2020/01-jan-7-railway-station.pdf">https://www.greenrameswaram.org/news/2020/01-jan-7-railway-station.pdf</a>
Third Corridor (February 2020)	<a href="https://www.greenrameswaram.org/news/2020/02-feb-7-promoting-eco-tourism.pdf">https://www.greenrameswaram.org/news/2020/02-feb-7-promoting-eco-tourism.pdf</a>
Coastal Marine Fisheries Research Institute , Mandapam (March 2020)	<a href="https://www.greenrameswaram.org/news/2020/mar-4-promoting-eco-tourism.pdf">https://www.greenrameswaram.org/news/2020/mar-4-promoting-eco-tourism.pdf</a>



### 7.5.2.3 Archeology and History in Rameswaram in stone inscriptions

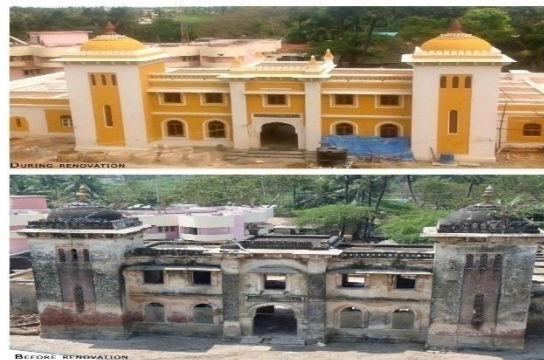
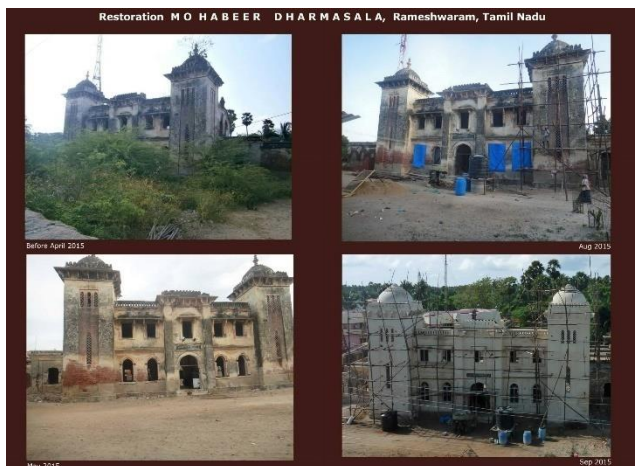


Reach foundation is our partner for Archeology and History in Rameswaram. They have explored the stone inscriptions across the island and has brought out a monograph on the stone inscription of Rameswaram. This has been done in the year 2016-17 and this needs to be updated with the current context since we have discovered few more stone inscriptions like in RettaiThazhaimuneeswarar temple on the way to Dhanushkodi. On preliminary examination we find that it belongs to 8<sup>th</sup> Century and we would like the

archaeological Department explanation on this inscriptions.

### 7.5.2.4 MohabeerDharmasala – an extinct aesthetic archaeological beauty redefined and renovated

Once a dilapidated MohabeerDharmasala having 275 years of history has been renovated by Green Rameswaram on the insistence of the District Collector, Ramanathapuram in the year 2016 started operating from it. All the activities of Green Rameswaram are in housed from



MohabeerDharmasala now. Every day around 200 people come and go. Dying beauty has been brought to life without affecting its natural beauty. Before and After pictures listed below

## Art and Cultural Heritage

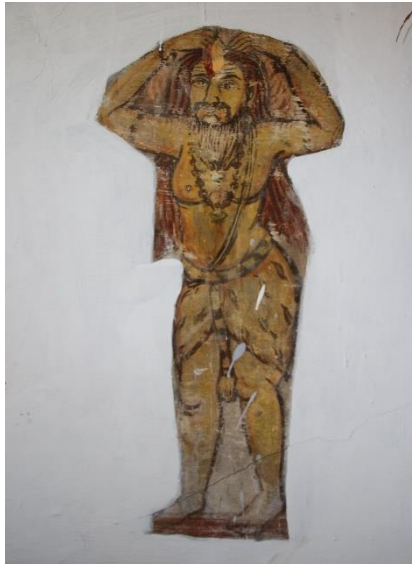
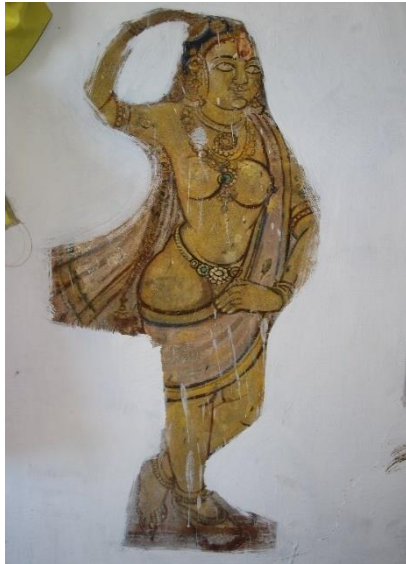
### 7.5.2.1 Archeology and History in the Literature

Literature has lots of historical and archaeological elements of Rameswaram and Green Rameswaram has dived deep with the support of two scholars Dr.Selvaganapathy , Tamil Professor and Shri.PakshiSivarajan , Renowned purohit and brought out two books of

- **Ilakkiyathil Rameswaram (Rameswaram in Literature)** – This book is a literature gem where in from Vedas to till date literature wherever the name Rameswaram has been used documented
- **Rameswaram Teertha Sirappugal (Specialities of Rameswaram Teerthams)** – This book is of course about Rameswaram Teerthams and its specialities
- **NambuNayakiammansthalavaralaru** – This has been done by the green Rameswaram team as a part of the literature documentation. Coincidentally Green Rameswaram has renovated the two Teerthams near NambuNayakiamman. This brings out the oral story as well as the sthala purana as per the literature and also the mythological story of the temple, Teerthams and other sub deities of the temple

### 7.5.2.2 Mural Paintings in Ayyanar Temple near KumuthaTeertham

Green Rameswaram team whilst renovating theKumuthaTeertham which was near an Ayyanar Temple realized that it is having rare herbal mural paintings and it has been documented by Green Rameswaram and the pictures are as follows



நம்புநாயகி அம்மன் வரலாறு



பசுமை இராமேஸ்வரம்

We are exploring the archaeological explanation of these pictures.

- **Revival of Rituals and Nyamas**

- i. **Aadi Perukku Lamp Festival in Teerthams**

On 2 August 2019 Teertha Mitras of Green Rameswaram have conducted Aadi perukku festival in our renovated Teerthams. Team could initiate progress in 17 Teerthams of Agni Teertham, RamarTeertham, Mangala Teertham, Runa VimochanaTeertham, Kapi Teertham, GnanavapiTeertham, DroupathiTeertham, SugreevaTeertham, DharmarTeertham, NarenaTeertham, ParasuramaTeertham, PanachaTeertham, VirekaTeertham, Brahma Teertham, NakulaTeertham and JataTeertham.

- ii. **Thai, Aadi and Mahalya Amavasya**

There is an approximate crowd of 10 Lakhs pilgrims throng in each Amavasya during this period in Rameswaram. Green Rameswaram volunteers help the Rameswaram Municipality and Police to control the crowd.

### 7.5.3 Natural Heritage

#### 7.5.4.1 Dhanushkodi

There are no mass transportation facilities in other parts of the Island. Visitors depend only on private vehicles like cars, vans and motorcycles to reach these places. On July 27, 2020 National Highways road, connecting the Rameswaram and Dhanushkodi, was inaugurated by the government and it has considerably increased the traffic and footprints to Dhanushkodi. While it is a good sign of development of tourism, there are emerging threats to the wildlife in the coastal line. Shortly after the opening of the road, there are reports of threats to the nestling of Olive Ridley turtles—an endangered marine species found in the Gulf of Mannar. The food wastes thrown by the visitors of Arichalmunai area tempts the street dogs to the beach. The dogs, in addition to the food wastes, feed on the eggs of the turtles. Apart from that the Vehicle smoke generates air pollution. There are nil toilet facilities in and around Dhanushkodi and Arichalmunai hence open defecation is the only solution complicating the pollution further.

Our efforts to Green Transport earned fruits in Shri.Parasaran Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha sanctioning one crore from his MPLAD fund towards Green Transport in Dhanushkodi however the sanction is yet to materialize due to administrative delays. This would add a feather in our archeology and historical monuments preservation

#### 7.5.4.2 Rama's Squirrel

Green Rameswaram has adopted Rama's Squirrel as its symbol. A story of the Rama's Squirrel given in the box. Our presence is there in the entire Island hence the symbol of Squirrel is quiet popular in the Island. Green Rameswaram has distributed the squirrels across the Island.

#### The Story of Squirrel

You know that Rama was not just a great king; he was also an avatar of Lord Vishnu. But, did you know that a little squirrel once helped Lord Rama? How? Well, here is the story.

The wicked demon king Ravana had carried away Sita, the wife of Rama, the great prince



who was in exile. Along with his brother Lakshmana, Rama went in search of his wife, and enlisted the help of the Vanara King, Sugreeva. Learning that Sita was kept at Lanka, the kingdom of Ravana, which lay across the ocean, Rama, along with the Vanara army, arrived at the seashore.

To reach Lanka, they had to cross the vast ocean, and after much discussion, it was decided that a bridge would be built across the ocean. The multitudes of monkeys and bears, which formed the Vanara army were asked to bring stones and boulders to the seashore, so that a bridge could be built.



Shouting with excitement, and happy at the prospect of helping Rama, who was a form of Lord Vishnu, the monkeys and bears ran around, looking for the biggest stones they could find. The Vanaras were a strong race, and they carried huge boulders, and even hills, on their shoulders easily, and dropped them in the ocean to help build the bridge.

The other animals at the seashore too wished to help Rama, and each of them helped him in his own way – the fishes and the other sea creatures did their bit by helping the boulders rest at the right place, while the birds flying overhead brought small stones to fill the gaps.

A small squirrel was seeing this huge effort, and he too wished to help. He thought for a moment, and then started collecting small pebbles lying on the shore, and dropped them in the ocean. After a while, he was too tired to even carry those pebbles, but still wanted to participate. He ran to the edge of the water, and, after rolling in the sand, ran to the water and washed himself. He ran back to the shore and rolled again, and more sand got stuck to him, since he was now wet. Again he ran to the water to wash himself. The small grains of sand which stuck to his body were all he could contribute to the massive task of building a bridge across the ocean!!

However, the small squirrel rushing to and fro on the shore was now getting in the way of the monkeys who were carrying huge boulders, and they started shouting at him, asking him to get out of the way.

“Brothers, I too want to help you. These small grains of sand are all I can throw into the ocean as my contribution to the bridge. Please do not shout at me”, said the little squirrel.

The monkeys laughed out loud, and shouted, “Of what use are these tiny grains of sand, which can scarcely be seen among the huge boulders and hills we are bringing. Get out of the way and let us do our work!”

The squirrel was unperturbed, and continued its work calmly. Finally, one of the monkeys, in his anger, picked up the squirrel and flung him far away from the shore.

Rama, who was watching this, caught the squirrel before it fell, and set it down carefully. He then addressed the Vanara army, “O Vanaras, you are brave and strong, and are doing a wonderful job bringing all these huge boulders and stones from far and dropping them in the ocean. But did you notice that it is the tiny pebbles and stones brought by this small squirrel and some of the other smaller creatures which are filling the small gaps left

between the huge stones? Further, do you not realize that the tiny grains of sand brought by this squirrel are the ones which bind the whole structure and make it strong? Yet you scold this small creature and fling him away in anger!"

Hearing this, the Vanaras were ashamed, and bowed down their heads. Rama continued, "Always remember, however small, every task is equally important. A project can never be completed by the main people alone. They need the support of all, and however small, an effort should always be appreciated!"

Rama then turned to the squirrel and said softly, "My dear squirrel, I am sorry for the hurt caused to you by my army, and thank you for the help you have rendered to me. Please go and continue your work happily." Saying this, he gently stroked the back of the squirrel with his fingers, and three lines appeared where the Lord's fingers had touched it.

This is how the squirrels get the 3 stripes on their backs, as a blessing from Lord Rama, to remind us that no task, however small, is unimportant! Every task should be looked upon as service to the lord, and his blessings will always be with us.

## 7.6 Learnings from the progress

1. Archeology and History requires a great attention and patience several of our works are like this only.
2. Archeology and History works requires a lot of literature references, reality checks and the cooperation from all the stakeholders any delays from one end will delay the entire process hence Patience is the key
3. Bringing back the rituals alive requires awareness creation and the attachment to that particular ritual. We have initiated the Aadi perukku lamp festival this year however this requires continuous five years of followup from our side to make it as ritual

## 7.7 Challenges during the implementation

1. Administrative clearance – We have Island Development Committee both at District and State level but the change of civil servants has an impact and we have to wait for the understanding and clearance
2. Awareness among the public – It's the major challenge people especially the pilgrims has to be made aware of the Archeological and Historical importance but the reaching out and the understanding level varies

## 7.8 Way forward

1. Classifying the Sri Ramanathasamy temple as UNESCO Heritage site will ensure the protection of the monument and the recordal history of the deities in the temple says that the temple dates back to 10<sup>th</sup> Century AD after building the temple only the deities would have been built hence the record will move even further to 9<sup>th</sup> Century which has to be brought out.
2. Indepth archeological study is suggested to bring out the hidden treasures and the history of Rameswaram. This would be the only solvation to the lot of cases running in high court and supreme court.





## Eco Tourism

"Leave Nothing but Footprints"

Tourism is one of the major livelihood of Rameswaram. Rameswaram occupies no.1 spot in attracting the domestic tourists within India. Rameswaram is slowly growing in attracting foreign tourists also. In collaboration with Tourism Department and Rameswaram Municipality several activities were taken up to promote responsible eco-tourism in Rameswaram. This year Green Rameswaram got the blessing of One crore fund from Shri.MohanParasaran, Member of Rajya Sabha for implementing E-Vehicles project. Hailing from Ramanathapuram District Shri.Parasaranji has a passion and love towards the development of Rameswaram. On hearing our request he has given this one crore fund towards improving the polluted situation in Dhanushkodi by providing E-Vehicles. However, lot of administrative hiccups due to Government policies a short narration as follows

The superintendent Engineer, Building Department, Chennai corporation vide his letter dated ( க.கு.ந.க.எண். பி10/417/2017 ) dated 30/05/2018 has acknowledged receipt of Rs 1 Crore funds under Member of parliament Local area Development Scheme given by Mr K Parasaran MP for E Vehicles project to provide E- Mini buses (6 No's), E- garbage-4 No's, E- Rickshaws- 10 no's and E- cycles (80 No's) in Rameswaram. It is stated that the minibuses can be operated by the Municipality and the rest of the project to be implemented by the Green Rameswaram project under the guidance of the Island Development Committee. The departments concerned are the Transport / Chennai Corporation / Rural Development and Panchayat Raj. Following is the breakup of the sanction

S.No	Work	No of vehicles	Estimated Amt (In Lacs)	Execution office
1.	E-Mini Buses	6	51.00	Commissioner Rameswaram Municipality
2.	Providing E-Garbage Vehicles	4	10.00	Island Development Committee under Green Rameswaram Project
3.	Providing E-Rickshaws	10	15.00	
4.	Providing E- Cycles	80	24.00	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100.00</b>	

The project needs administrative approval from the Tamil Nadu Government on the norms fixed for Clearance from the Transport Authority (Motor vehicles act) for E vehicles and facilitation on implementing agencies.



## 8.1 Issues and Possible Alternatives

- i. As far as E-Cycles are concerned already a model is there in Coimbatore for rental cycles. In tourist places like Ooty, Kodaikanal, Auroville of Pondicherry already this BiCycle rental system exists. We can also consider the 85 Cycles approved in the MPLAD fund
- ii. Garbage vehicles are widely used in all the Local bodies. Salem and Coimbatore corporations are using the Battery Operated Garbage Collection vehicles and Dharmapuri, Dindigul, Krishnagiri were also using the Battery Operated vehicles for Collecting wastes (Press Clips enclosed)
- iii. E-Bus is concerned World famous tourism spot - Tajmahal of Agra is operating E-Buses for the Tourists and in the same way Goa is operating E- Vehicle tours to popularize the Environment Friendly tourism in India (Press clips enclosed)

Update for the year is that Rameswaram Municipality has called for a tender and no body has approached in the tender through Island Development Committee Municipality approached us for support and we referred them a couple of agencies of which Ampere vehicles hailing from

Coimbatore has been given the tender for 85 cycles. Hopefully this year we will have more progress in this vertical.



## 8.2 Revival of Traditional Teertha yatra


A mock Teertha yatra has been conducted for Purohit sangam members, Rameswaram and they were delighted to do it and they realized the importance of it.



## Marine Bio-Diversity

"The sea, the great unifier, is man's only hope."

No Progress in this vertical

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Social Capital</b></p> <p>....I invite you all to participate and walk with me in achieving my Vision 2023 and in making it a reality. Let us all build a strong, vibrant, prosperous and wealthy Tamil Nadu.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam</b></p>
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Social capital can be defined as the links, shared values and understandings in society that enable individuals and groups to trust each other and so work together. In general Social Capital can be looked to act as bridge between the Green Rameswaram Activities and the People engagement. Social Capital can be classified into four stages

1. Incubation Stage – This stage people are getting oriented towards the concept
2. Participation stage – This stage people will participate in the activity
3. Involvement Stage – This stage people will make others to involve in the activity
4. Advocacy stage – This stage people will lobby among the different stakeholders for the benefit of the activity

Values in different stages

Stage	Values
Incubation Stage	Knowhow, Questioning, Understanding
Participation Stage	Involving, Understanding
Involvement Stage	Mobilize, Making others understand
Advocacy Stage	Betterment of the activity, lobbying with different stakeholders

### 10.1 Progress During this year

Following were the major activities for the year

Activity	Number of Participants
Anna pooja	130
Rangoli Competition	36
Deepa Pooja	2500

Lakshmi College of Education	186
SP Jain institute of Management, Mumbai	5
Pilgrim Visits	152
Women SHGs (26 nos)	364
Teertha Mitras	58
Volunteers in various places Participated in activities	1054
<b>Total</b>	<b>4485</b>

Few clips of these events are as follows

4
www.rameswaram.org

**காலை 6:30க்குள் உங்கள் கைமில் தினமலர்**  
விநாடக்க...  
**98940 09415**  
mdusales@dinamalar.in

**வினம்பரத்திற்கு**  
**98940 09453**  
(காலை 9:30 - இரவு 9:00 மணி)  
mdubranes@dinamalar.in

**செய்திக்கு**  
**98940 09505**  
mdubranes@dinamalar.in



■ ராமேஸ்வரத்தில் தினமலர் தாளிதழ், பகலமை ராமேஸ்வரம் அமைப்பினர் இணைந்து நடத்திய ரங்கோலி போட்டியில் பங்கேற்றவர்கள்.

### ராமேஸ்வரத்தில் தினமலர் நடத்திய ரங்கோலி போட்டி

ராமேஸ்வரம், ஜூன்.18- தினமலர் தாளிதழ் உதவியுடன் பகலமை ராமேஸ்வரம் அமைப்பினர் ரங்கோலி போட்டி நடத்தினர்.

கூடுதல் தாளிதழ் உதவியுடன் பகலமை ராமேஸ்வரம் அமைப்பினர் ரங்கோலி போட்டி நடத்தினர்.

இப்போட்டியில் பங்கேற்றவர்கள் தினமலர் தாளிதழ் உதவியுடன் பகலமை ராமேஸ்வரம் அமைப்பினர் ரங்கோலி போட்டி நடத்தினர்.

கூடுதல் தாளிதழ் உதவியுடன் பகலமை ராமேஸ்வரம் அமைப்பினர் ரங்கோலி போட்டி நடத்தினர்.

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Anna Pooja



Rangoli Competition



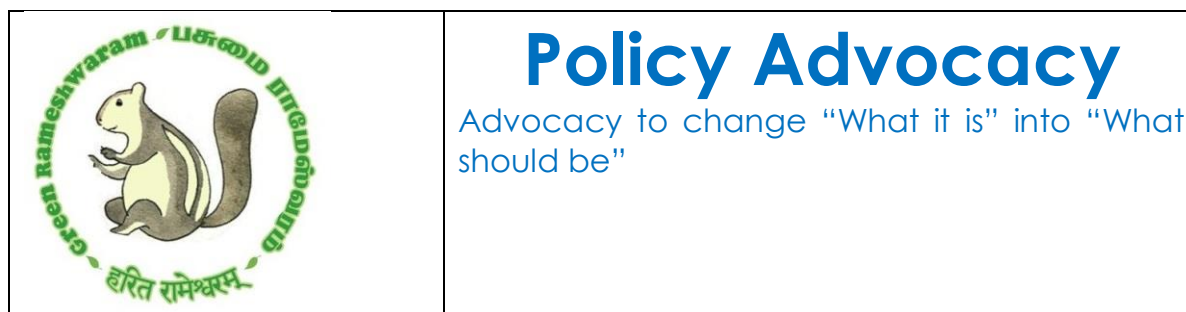
Arichalmunai beach Cleaning



StudentsOrientation



School Activity



There are several stages and levels of advocacy. Our advocacy limits to system and procedural changes but the scope is unlimited. Our efforts in policy advocacy would aim to frame operational guidelines for the envisaged goals. Regulation and Management aspects of the project, regular interaction with the stake holders to understand the holistic aspects of the issues coming out during the implementation of the project.

### 11. Prelude

Despite the initiatives taken at Rameswaram for impacting systems/management/process/policies at the micro and macro levels, the pace of changes/developments were not on an envisaged speed for various reasons. Hence, we are envisaging policy advocacy to be promoted in and around the Island Development Committee (Formal Structure proposed by Government wherein Green Rameswaram has been made as Member Secretary) on each vertical. Proposals mooted under different areas of the verticals are given below:

#### 11.1 Rameswaram Municipality is not given the special status it deserves due to floating population

Population	No of households	No of tourists visiting per year
45968	11563	18000000

#### 11.2 Rameswaram Municipality lacks adequate basic facilities

Take one single example of Toilet

- i. 337 toilet seats are available in Rameswaram
- ii. One seat can cater 40 persons per day
- iii. So  $337 \times 40$  = only 13490 seats are available for shitting
- iv. Hence more toilets are to be envisaged to cater 55000 tourists visiting the Island per day (Per year 2 crore and per day 55000 approximately)

Current second grade municipality status of Rameswaram does not cater to build more toilets hence there is natural urgency to allocate more to the ULB to address the pilgrims needs.

Same is the case of the Dress change room, Drinking water facilities etc



### 11.3 Line of control does not merge at a single point

Though District Administration works for the coordination. It lacks the pooling point. Because every department is having a secretary level head and they are the deciding authority. For a town development common meeting's are very rare and discussions in common forums are not possible. For example we have done Teerthams renovation after getting approval from HR&CE however not listed in HR&CE website as well as not updated in Tourism website nor in District administration website. Renovated Teerthams are the archeological resources for pilgrims and tourism can be developed.

### 11.4 Why there is a need for common integration forum?

#### 11.4.1 Framing operational guidelines

##### **Framing operational guidelines:**

Though the work has been executed however due to lack of coordination we see flaws in maintenance

i.e Mangala vanam – District Administration has spend around 80 lakhs for establishing the park and the land belongs to HR&CE due to lack of manpower for maintenance.

Another classic examples is Swadesh Darshan – First Aid clinics, Dress changing rooms, Water kiosk etc all kept closed for want of manpower. Hence the maintenance is the issue crops after execution of the project. Quality check after establishing standards for maintenance requires long deliberations and framing operational guidelines

#### 11.4.2 Establishing data base on every aspects to be proactive in the course of action.

Building data base will give an understanding of the commonalities and the points for replication and the sampling and the results. It will enable the system to know the people who are producing what and the existing system of management. This will also help in knowing the gaps in data collection. Appropriate software will be at place which will enable the departments to have liason with community based organization to address the gaps in implementation.

#### 11.4.3 Promoting public and private partnership model

Building a network of actors who are involved in managing waste is crucial for an effective model. Towards this the role of informal sector in particular the community based organization is very important. This gives an opening for engagement at grassroots by the people institutions and community based organizations. A model has been established with Lootel a successful PPP toilet model.

#### 11.4.4 Allocation of resources based on experiential management.

Prioritization of allocation of resources based on hotspots for effective management can be done through this model.

#### 11.4.5 Pilots success/ Documentation/ Scaling Up

All the pilots envisaged in the vertical would be taken up for up scaling across the town. There were new technologies which needs pilot testing although we have got institutional experience this needs to be field tested with user feedback and the same would be done after the upscaling.



**11.4.6 Patenting Products by identifying its uniqueness**

Uniqueness of the product would be systematically documented about the Novelty in the product, Sectoral contribution – process of preparation, Design of the product etc, and enabling others for adoption etc. Patent would be given after complying with all the technical qualifications

**11.4.7 Constraints in obtaining entitlements**

Gaps in obtaining entitlements, real constraints can be brought through this common platform

**11.4.8 Follow-up with the Authorities for approvals, data, details etc**

Follow-up with the authorities for data, details and other activities require rigorous system in place. This envisaged common platform will be requested to have exclusive project management committee for the speedy implementation.

**11.4.9 Ensuring the protection from encroachment/theft of the heritage structures: and erosion of traditional social values of national integration, in cultural heritage**

Through rigorous engagement of the stakeholders the heritage encroachment can be averted and ensure that the social values in preserving cultural heritage.

**11.4.10 Formal Recognition of Informal Groups for health by the Public Health System**

Group dynamics brings out the Behavioral change among the members of the group. It has been widely proven in Micro finance. Health Specific Groups would also bring out the desired level of results through a strong Behavioral Change Communication among Pregnant Mothers, Adolescent girls, Elder Care etc. This Governance process of groups for Pregnant Mothers would be tracked and documented and submitted for policy brief with the government.

**11.4.11 Creation of exclusive Pedestrian pathways for walkers/Creation of public parks**

Walkers Club initiative would influence the district authorities to create Pedestrian Pathways which is missing in Rameswaram even in Main Streets. Demand would be raised to create exclusive Public parks for Walkers Club.

**11.4.12 Drawing Boundaries for unique Gathering Places:**

Unique Gathering Places like Dhanushkodi, Arichalmunai, MR Chatram etc are drawing boundaries to that effect as many places the area will be Marshy. Following up with the authorities and getting the formal approvals.

**11.4.13 Green Transport Island**

Efforts will be made to make the authorities declare Rameswaram as a “Green Transport Island”. Stake holder meetings to understand the constraints in this effort and bring out a consensus with alternatives and the efficacy of the same would be deliberated.

**11.4.14 Protecting the Marine Bio Diversity by spotting the wrong practices and devising suitable alternatives for the same**

Wrong Practices would be spotted and will be corrected with suitable alternatives by proper Social Engineering.

The outcome that came are



- GO was passed for formation of Island Development Committee with District level Collector as chairman and the subsequent state level CMD was the chairman.
- Green Rameswaram team lobbied for making Chief Secretary as Chairman and even that modification came and
- Green Rameswaram has also been made as a member in the State level Island Development committee meeting
- Every month District level meeting was conducted by the District Collector

Lets have a self review of what has happened

<b>Framing operational guidelines</b>	We tried to frame the Operations guidelines for Water Sports which Rameswaram has potential however with little success
<b>Establishing data base on every aspects to be proactive in the course of action.</b>	However the committee is not having common platform for pooling the data about Rameswaram
<b>Promoting public and private partnership model</b>	PPP model has been piloted in Lootel. We wanted a PPP model in Mangalavanam however not much movement
<b>Allocation of resources based on experiential management.</b>	No specific budget has been allocated for Island Development Committee hence it is just an review of the existing schemes
<b>Pilots success/ Documentation/ Scaling Up</b>	Pilots has been done in Mangalavanam, Lootel, Traditional Water Bodies renovation,Resource recovery park however the scaling up is not happening due to lack of resources
<b>Patenting Products by identifying its uniqueness</b>	So far no products has been patented
<b>Constraints in obtaining entitlements</b>	Big gap in this area and even OAP has been kept for eligible elders
<b>Follow-up with the Authorities for approvals, data, details etc</b>	We are doing it for our projects however here and there approvals, data and details are always pending
<b>Ensuring the protection from encroachment/theft of the heritage structures: and erosion of</b>	This we have done it in the case of Traditional water bodies however formal recognition is not there from appropriate departments. Same is the case with the Dhanushkodi preservation of heritage sites though state planning commission has made allocation of budget it is still pending.
<b>Traditional social values of national integration, in cultural heritage</b>	We are doing at our minimal level. Yoga
<b>Formal Recognition of Informal Groups for health by the Public Health System</b>	Elder Care group, Women SHGs etc it is yet to be mainstreamed
<b>Creation of exclusive Pedestrian pathways for walkers/Creation of public parks</b>	Several parks were reestablished but pedestrian pathways to be excluded
<b>Drawing Boundaries for unique Gathering</b>	Places like Arichalmunai, Dhanushkodi and



<b>Places</b>	MR Chatram requires attention
<b>Green Transport Island</b>	Our efforts in establishing plastic control checkpoints in Dhanushkodi is still a distant dream
<b>Protecting the Marine Bio Diversity by spotting the wrong practices and devising suitable alternatives for the same</b>	Partnership with fisheries and CMFRI explored which is only a way forward and they are not part of the Island Development Committee eventhough District Collector insisted on the same.

### 11.5 Way out

1. Making Island Development Committee functional and a common platform where all the schemes will be routed.
2. Proper budgetary framework to be allocated by Government of Tamilnadu

Green Rameswaram is a people's project. Contribution from all stakeholders and Government cooperation is a must to meaningful works. Policy advocacy is the core point among all the verticals for being functional and give meaningful contribution to the people.

Following are the list of Island Development Committee Meetings happened for the financial year

Date of the Meeting	Venue	Meeting
25 April 2019	Tourist Guest House, Olaikuda, Rameswaram	District Island Development Committee Meeting
10 June 2019	Mini Conference Hall, District Collectorate	District Island Development Committee Meeting
13 August 2019	Mini Conference Hall, District Collectorate	District Island Development Committee Meeting
09 September 2019	Mini Conference Hall, District Collectorate	District Island Development Committee Meeting
15 October 2019	Mini Conference Hall, District Collectorate	District Island Development Committee Meeting
14 November 2019	Mini Conference Hall, District Collectorate	District Island Development Committee Meeting
13 January 2020	Mini Conference Hall, District Collectorate	District Island Development Committee Meeting
04 March 2020	Mini Conference Hall, District Collectorate	District Island Development Committee Meeting



24 January 2020 (SIDC)	Chief Secretary Meeting hall, Secretariate, Chennai	State Island Development Committee Meeting
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Following were the major items taken up in these meetings

1. Listing Renovated Teerthams by Green Rameswaram in Government Websites
2. E-Vehicles – MPLAD Fund issue
3. Fencing Teerthams
4. Mangalavanam – Utility  
Taken up in SIDC

## 12. NSE Projects in Ramanathapuram District Green Rameswaram as Technical Implementing Agency

### ABOUT GREEN RAMESWARAM TRUST (GRT)

Consortium model of development GRT for promoting green resilient Rameswaram has evolved as an ecosystem-based approach for development. The Trust works closely with the state government and the district administration, civil society and research based organisations. GRT, as a part of its policy advocacy and resource mobilization initiatives approached NSE Foundation, presented its approach for development and initiated a partnership. On principal agreement of NSE Foundation to support for the cause, GRT formed a consortium and identified potential partners having expertise in the fields of water, WASH, primary education and eldercare. NSE Foundation has recognized GRT as a Technical and Resource Partner.

### CURRENT SCENARIO:

NSE Foundation is funding 8 NGO Partners across the focus areas of Primary Education, Water and WASH, and Eldercare. On July 18, the MoU was signed with the district collector of Ramanathapuram. It was during this time where the district collector had mentioned a periodic review of the progress of all the NSE Foundation projects in the district. There have been 3 consortium meetings that have been conducted in the past 6 months, with the latest being in October.

### PARTNERSHIP DETAILS

We suggest Green Rameswaram Trust play the role of anchor partner, with responsibilities spanning the following:

Partnership with	Scope of Work
NSEF & Sattva	<b>District strategy</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recommendations on new strategies within NSEF's focus areas that can be taken up</li> <li>• Recommendations on organisations that NSEF and Sattva can evaluate for future partnership</li> </ul>



NGO Partners	<p><b>Technical and Research support</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitating partnerships with technical specialists</li> </ul> <p><b>Community-based Events and Days</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organising community-based events at district level and ensuring necessary documentation</li> <li>Coordinating with NGO's and district authorities for participation</li> <li>Facilitate key community connects for project expansion and delivery</li> </ul> <p><b>Reviews and recommendations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide recommendations on key issues faced by partners</li> <li>Facilitate monthly review meetings with partners to review project progress</li> <li>Ensure monthly/quarterly reports are sent by partners by 15<sup>th</sup> of next month</li> <li>Document and share best practices of partner organisations for projects</li> <li>Organise annual conferences with partner organisations</li> </ul>
District/Block Officers	<p><b>Regular engagement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organizing meetings with the Island Development Committee, District Collector and block level to apprise them of interventions by the partners</li> <li>Facilitate process for seeking permissions</li> <li>Facilitating Government participation in events conducted by NGO partners</li> <li>Share dates of island development Committee's meetings with partner organisations for participation</li> <li>Identify policy advocacy areas and publish policy brief</li> </ul>

**INDIVIDUAL NGO BASED INTERVENTION**

NGO Partner	Potential Engagement Details with GRT
Gramalaya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assist in organising World Toilet Day on 19<sup>th</sup> November with other partner NGO's and ensuring district/block level stakeholder engagement,</li> </ul>
Gandhigram Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assist in implementation of Ferro-cement technology for toilet construction</li> <li>Support in developing consortium newsletter</li> </ul>



Hand in Hand Inclusive Development Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assist in implementation of the CDI water purification plants</li> </ul>
WASH Institute	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scoping of DEWATS based wastewater project in partnership with CDD</li> </ul>

### NSEF letter assigning Green Rameswaram as Technical and Knowledge Partner



July 12, 2019

To

The Secretary,  
Green Rameswaram Trust,  
Ramanathapuram

**Sub:** Assignment of Green Rameswaram Trust as a technical and knowledge partner for Ramanathapuram district transformation projects supported by NSE Foundation.

**Kind Attention:** Mr. G. Vasudeo,

Dear Sir,

NSE Foundation (NSEF) is a Section 8 company which undertakes CSR activities of National Stock Exchange of India Limited and its subsidiaries. NSEF's key focus areas are Primary education, Elder care and Sanitation & safe drinking water and it implements projects in the above sectors across 9 Indian states.

Recently, NSEF adopted aspirational district transformation programme to facilitate interventions within the key focus areas of NSEF in 4 of the aspirational districts listed by NITI Aayog (viz., Birbhum, Karauli, Nandurbar and Ramanathapuram).

As a part of this programme, NSEF has partnered with NGOs viz., AID India, HelpAge India, Gramalaya, Vidyardambam, Gandhigram Trust, Hand in Hand, WASH Institute and Karuna Trust for implementing the projects in above focus areas. Sattva Consultancy monitors the projects on an ongoing basis.

We are happy to inform you that "Green Rameswaram Trust" has been assigned as a technical and knowledge partner for the above projects and to facilitate the review with the District Collector to monitor the progress of the project at regular intervals.

We solicit the support and cooperation of you and your kind office for the successful convergence and review of the various programmes on a monthly basis as well as whenever required with the Collector and other Government functionaries.

Kindly acknowledge the receipt of this letter and accept the assignment

*Rema Mohan*

Rema Mohan,  
CEO, NSE Foundation



**Copy to:**

1. AID India
2. Gramalaya
3. HelpAge India
4. Sattva Consulting



## Contributions of Partners

Logo	Organization	Activities /Support
 <b>HAND IN HAND INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICES</b>	Hand in Hand Inclusive Development and Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Waste Management is fully managed by HIH.</li> <li>Conducted and took part in all our mass awareness programmes</li> <li>Strategical and policy advocacy support</li> <li>Taken up one NSE Project of Water Security and is supporting Green Rameswaram activities in a big way</li> </ul>
	Gandhigram Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Taken up one NSE Project of WASH and the team is supporting us in several ways in Rameswaram</li> </ul>
 <b>Green Pilgrimage Network</b>	Green Pilgrimage Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nandavanam Revival and Maintenance was done with the support of Green Pilgrimage Network</li> <li>Strategical and policy advocacy support</li> </ul>
 <b>ABDULKALAM</b> INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION	Kalam Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>200 Saplings given by the Kalam Foundation during the year</li> <li>logistical support during the Public events</li> </ul>



सत्यमेव जयते  
Government Of India



Gandhigram Trust



VK Nardep



Green Pilgrimage Network



## Our Technical Partner's



Rural Technology Action Group  
IIT MADRAS



Control the Future, Invent it

