

Green Rameswaram Annual Report 2018-19



“Blessed is the little squirrel; he is doing his work to the best of his ability. I simply want to be like the squirrel in the building of Rama’s bridge, who was quite content to put on the bridge his little quota of sand-dust. That is my position”.



- Swami Vivekananda
At Shakespeare Club,
Pasadena, California
31 January 1900



PREFACE

lokasaṃgrahamevāpi saṃpaśyaṇ kartumarhasi (3.20)

(One should perform well for the sake of benefitting the world)

Green Rameswaram Trust (GRT) is unique in its approach in bringing all the stakeholders to work together to build Green Resilient Rameswaram. GRT, an initiative mooted by Vivekananda Kendra-Natural Resources Development Project has earned laurels across people from different walks of life for building sustainable island catering for generations. The model emphasizes to inspire the stakeholders (Loka-samparka), mobilize them for addressing the cause (Loka-sangraha), Equip them (Loka-samaskara) and Enable them (Loka-vyavastha) to address the issues that cause imbalances in the fragile ecosystem and promote balance through its verticals.

Dedication of renovated traditional water bodies Teerthas to nation by Shri Banwarilal Purohit this year reinforced the need for integrating the ecological and cultural dimensions at the forefront. This event has enabled to position the cause of resilient Rameswaram at the state level to promote the State Island Development Committee, which will integrate all the departments of the state to work for Green Rameswaram blue print prepared by GRT which was released by Honourable Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

We acknowledge the contributions of the partners who are associated with the cause of verticals promoted by Green Rameswaram despite the grassroots challenges and mainstream institutions. Enabling one and all for the cause of the island through the HumanArch program was a significant event where people from all walks of life showed their participation in the campaign by preparing posters, pamphlets to echo the cause of Green and Clean Rameswaram will go a long way to build the social capital which GRT is striving through its verticals.

GRT playing the role of value and a culture builder in collaboration seeks patronage of all the stakeholders to contribute to the sustainability of its verticals namely solid waste management, livelihoods, Eco- tourism, marine biodiversity, water security. GRT will continuously strive to influence the policy making bodies in consideration of the needs of the island. We also understand the challenges in sustaining the momentum built by us. We believe the perspectives, principles and practices of building Green Rameswaram will enable the partners to converge and synthesize their activities integrating the needs of the island in their agenda of development.


Best Wishes,

G.Vasudeo
Secretary

Contents

Particulars	Page no
Water Management – Proofing Temple Tanks for Generations	4-19
Waste Management	20-22
Renewable Energy	23-24
Green Health	25-28
Landscaping and Beautification	29-33
Livelihoods	34-35
Archaeology & History	36-38
Eco Tourism	39-41
Marine Bio-Diversity	42
Social Capital	43-46
Policy Advocacy	47-49
Contributions by Partners	50

Annual report 2018 – 19

	<h3>1. Water Management</h3> <p>“Environmental Preservation would encompass --- conserving ground water and rivers and other water bodies, protection of the coastal zones and fragile eco systems”</p> <p>(Tamil Nadu Vision 2023)</p>
---	---

Proofing Temple Tanks for Generations

Friends from Vivekananda Kendra who have promoted Green Rameswaram Trust have planned the renovation of the holy water bodies of Rameswaram. Today, they have renovated decades long abandoned polluted water bodies. They have removed the thorns, shrubs, which occupied the Teertham. They have removed the putrefied stagnant polluted water; they have removed the liquor bottles and other pollutants that had been thrown in to the Teerthams. Now the pilgrims can visit these Teerthams. This noble task by Green Rameswaram Trust is a praiseworthy service. I congratulate each and every one of you who participated in this noble endeavour

- **Dr A P J Abdul Kalam**

1. Temple tanks: Perspectives and Principles

Temple Tanks are reservoirs built as a part of the temple complex in Indian Temples. They are called by various names namely Pushkaraini, Kalyani, Kunda, Sarovara, Tirtha, Talab, Pukhuri etc. in different languages and regions of India. In Indian Religious rituals, temple tanks are called as Teerthams or traditional water bodies and are treated at par with the God himself. Every Teertha is associated with certain mythology and said to various diseases and maladies. They are rightly called as cultural remnants. These water bodies provide percolation points within the precincts of inhabitation of a town. They maintain an aquifer balance. It caters to cultural, ritual, community and utilitarian functions

1.1.1 Temple Tank: Pilgrimage for Purification

Pilgrimage is a pursuit of pilgrim to find the expanded meaning of their own self resulting in personal transformation. It is a journey to invoke moral or spiritual values in oneself and to achieve benefit towards their wellbeing. Most of the religious places have become the source of pilgrimage. In many religions, pilgrims undertaking the pilgrimage during the life time have been the natural phenomena. Pilgrims believe the water in the temple tank purifies internally and externally.

1.1.2 Temple tanks are Rejuvenators

Pilgrims chose their destination of their choice based on the ancestor's values and beliefs. The purpose is to get rid of sins committed in the past. This is stated in different puranas namely Sethu Puranam, Deviula, Agni Puranam, Valmigi Ramayanam, Ananda Ramayanam, Bhagavatha Puranam, Sivapuranam, Skandapuranam, Manusmriti books. As per the old Sayings of "MalaiyeriKadaladu" which means "Climb the hill to bath in the Sea" refers that Kasi Payanam will end after visiting Rameswaram.

1.1.3 Temple tanks are manifestations of Gods:

Lord Shiva is described as Teertheswarar by SaintThirunavukkarasu says in his verses

"Teerthannal thillai chirrambalathil Theeyadum Koothan
Endru Sendradu Teerthangal Aanaarthaame"
"Theevaayingmuppurangal Neera Nokkun
Teertha purananeyendren Naane"

Thirumurai. 6:37:2

1.1.4. Temple Tanks are destinations of Teertha Yatra.

In Indian context of pilgrimage and worship three aspects were given great importance. They are Sthala (Place), Murthi (Deity) and Teertha (Sacred Water). At different points of time, in one's life cycle, Teertha Yatra is called for in number of faiths. It is known that during the idhikasa(Ramayana/Mahabharatha) period itself these Teertha Yatras were popular. In Ramayana Kaikeyi step mother of Rama asks Dasaratha two promises. This reflects in the following verses of

"AazhisoolUlagamellam Bharathane Aala, Nee poi
Thaazhirumaaadaigalthaangi, thaangiirumthavamergondu
Boomivengaanam Nanni, Punniyathuraigal Aadi
Aazhiranduaandilvaa"

("Rama should tie his hair and go to jungle and do Tapas and he has to conduct Punya Teertha Yatra and live for 14 years as such and come back)

Even in Mahabharatha, Panja Pandavas went to Jungle, worshipped rishis and conducted Teertha Yatra. There were references that Arjuna conducted Teertha Yatra separately. Siva, Vishnu and Brahma all have connections to the Teertha.

Rameswaram Teertha yatra	
Place	Gods /Teerthams
Uppur	Vinayagar temple/Surya Teertham
Thirupullani	Chakra Teertham and Sethukarai (Sea Based)
Devipattinama	Navapashana Teertham
Mandapam	Papavinasaka Teertham and Vedhala Varadha Teertham
Pamban	Bhairava Teertham (Sea Based) and Kapi Teertham
Thangatchimadam	Mangala Teertham, Runavimochana Teertham and Amirtavapi Teertham
Rameswaram	Lakshmana Teertham and Ramar Teertham
Rameswaram	Panchapandava Teertham
Rameswaram	Agni Teertham (Sea based) and 22 Teerthams inside the temple
Dhanushkodi	Jata Teertham
Arichalmunai	Aadhi Sethu Teertham (Two seas merging point)
Reference: Sethu and Rameswaram, Written by Shri.Vanamapillai, Treasurer of Arulmigu Ramanathasamy Temple published in the year 1929	

1.2 Teerthams and Culture

Culture encompasses social behaviour and norms found in human societies and it includes the knowledge, beliefs, art, laws, customs, capabilities and habits of the individuals in these group. Through the process of enculturation and socialisation humans acquire the same which are distinct and unique in each faith. Culture is expressed in behaviour, dress, language and demeanour in a situation, which serves as a template for expectations in a social group.

Temple tanks have code of conduct which bounds the pilgrims and has become the centre of social religious and cultural activity. They serve as spaces for cultural celebrations and social interactions.

Several places and temples are named after Teerthams and as such in pennahadamiraiyoor. Lord Shiva is in the form Thahamtheertheswaran means Eswaran who has quenched the Thirst of Water. In this place, Lord Shiva incarnated as Suyambu Lingam. In Thirukayilai also there is a place called as Teerthapuri is there. This is in Sutlej river banks. This is the place where Lord Shiva killed Parasuram. Here one can find warm water aquifers in many places. In Kasi Lord Shiva has appeared with the name of Teertharajar. Near Tiruchirapalli, Thiruvanaikka Temple is there in this Lord Shiva is believed to be in the form of water. There were references that Parvathi Devi has created Shivalinga with Water and worshipped. Here Lord Shiva is known as Appulingam and Seluneerthirai.

In Kanchipuram near Ehambaranathar temple there is a big pond named Sarva Teertham. In the banks of this pond a Shivalinga with the name of Teertheswarar is worshipped. Lingams in Thamirabharani River banks rocks were also known as Teertheswarar. Bharaniputhur, Gayapakkam, Thiruvallur, Vennanthoor, Chennivanam, Kadambanur in Ramanathapuram District have Teertheswarar Temples.

Thiruthuraipoondi place is known as Navakodi Teerthapuram as per puranas. God in this place is known as Teerthavidangar and goddess is known as Teerthavalli. Near Dharmapuri district there is a place known as Teerthamalai. Here also Lord Shiva is known as Teertheswarar. Here Rama Teertham, Ahasthya Teertham, Agni Teertham, Kumara Teertham and Gowri Teertham five Teerthams were there.

In Madurai to satisfy Kanjanamala mother of Thadathagaipiratti lord Somasundarar has brought in seven seas into one Teertha and it is known as SapthasagaraTeertham. Same way on the way to Tanjore to Kumbakonam there is a place named Thirunallur wherein Kunthidevi in order to relieve from the sin of leaving her son Karnan in the childhood and she obtained Sapthasahara Teertham and then she also bathed in Mahamaha pond in Kumbakonam and got relieved of her sin. Every year Masimaha pond attracts thousands of Pilgrims for a dip in the pond.

Our ancestors have created temple tanks for many socio economic and religious purposes. It gives water to the temple and the inhabitants of the surrounding area. It is a source for several temple rituals like abhiseka, cleaning the premises etc. The concept of cleanliness is established by the rule of washing feet and hand before entering the temple. Pouring water in the head is an important practice. Tanks were also used for performing ablutions to the ancestors like pitruDarpanam etc. Important festivals based on Teerthams are Teppotsavam and the Teerthavari. Beautifully decorated raft will carry the deity in the Teerthams is known as Teppotsavam. Teertha vari is bathing the deity in the Teertham on specific date is known as Teertha vari. This is very famous in Tirumala Tirupati and Sabarimala. Thus, in various ways, tanks were associated with temples, divinities, holy rishis, saints and sages and highly valuable treasures like gold and divine nectar (amrita). They were revered as holy tirthas which helped in their preservation. It is learnt that Padma purana devotes one special chapter on the subject of Maintenance of Temple tanks.

1.3. Teerthams improves the Ecology of the area

Temple tanks are not only aesthetic and showcase piece of Architectural excellence they are instrumental in controlling the micro climate of the place helping to maintain the hydrological balance of the area. It is primarily a water storage structure. Improves the water level of surrounding water bodies. It in fact improves the greens in the surrounding areas. In coastal areas like Rameswaram it arrests the sea water intrusion. It also prevents the soil erosion in the surrounding areas. In some places it serves as a water to the surrounding households

Runa Vimochana Teertham



1.3.1 Potable Water

Temple tanks are the important storage structures. Most of the tanks also served as potable water to the surrounding households. In Rameswaram outside the temple tanks are mostly located in the hamlets where people live. It serves as a potable water to the general public and in some places which are located outskirts of Rameswaram it serves as a potable water to the animals also.

1.3.2. Storage Structure

Besides showcasing the architectural expertise and aesthetics of their time, temple tanks also play an extremely important role as water storage systems. Stone walls of these temple structures avoid sliding of soil. Steps provides better accessibility. Mostly inlets of the temple tanks are connected to the feeder channel.

1.3.3. Increases Green Cover



Wherever the Temple Tanks are located it boosts the growth of green in the surrounding areas. Those days' temple sacred groves or Nandavanams are located near the temple tanks. Nowadays availability of the same is very rare. Still the surrounding areas plantations are taken care by the traditional water bodies.

1.3.4. Arrests the Sea water intrusion

Water in the temple tanks arrests the sea water intrusion in coastal areas especially in Rameswaram

all these 108 Teerthams have served this purpose a lot. Presence of fresh water tanks in areas prevents soil erosion and it recharges the surrounding wells and it further arrests the sea water intrusion.

1.3.4 Improves the water level of surrounding Wells

Temple tanks, recharges the surrounding wells and the water level thus get improved at least for 100 metre surrounding. Recently a study was conducted by IIT Madras Water Resource Mapping. They have concluded that the presence of Teerthams in the areas had improved the water level of the surrounding walls.

1.4. Temple Tanks improves Bio-Diversity

1.4.1. Fish Breeding

In many village ponds and lakes fish breeding is a common affair and it yields income to the local bodies. Even temple tanks have plenty of fish. They eat the algae and other dirt and micro-organisms and grow. Fish Breeding is done in many temple tanks and in some it is also used to earn income for temple authorities. It is also a religious activity to offer puffed rice – which is known as pori to the fishes as punya. This is again an income generation activity for the Temple.

1.4.2. Lotus/Lilly

Evaporation of the water is prevented by growing Lotus and Lilly plants. A lotus or lilly plant are beautiful and gives aesthetic feel to the pond. Moreover, in Indian Context Lotus and lilly can be offered to Gods hence temple tanks having lotus is another income generating source for the Temple administration



Teertham with full of lotus

1.4.3. Algae

Algae are either live independent as well as depend on other organism for existence. Algae are of different varieties ranging from 30000 to more than 1 million species. This is very vital for aquatic eco system and important in evaluating the water quality.

Microalgae are an important source of vitamins, minerals, proteins, polyunsaturated

fatty acids, antioxidants, etc. Edible oils from microalgae rich in some PUFAs are suitable for children, pregnant women, vegetarians and patients with fish allergies. Microalgae can play an important role in the future. Microalgae are a potentially great source of natural compounds, which could be used as functional ingredients. They are one of the potential sources of foods and feeds provided by Nature with the potential to feed an ever growing and affluent population. Algae and micro algae are present in many of the temple tanks supporting the fish feeding and other aquatic growth.

1.5 Relevance of Teerthams with reference to SDGs

Goal no.1 No poverty: Water existence eradicates the poverty. Water is the central pillar around with human interactions begin. Potable water available in the temple tanks saves money for the families surrounding the tank. In improves the Green Patches and increases the water level of surrounding wells.

Goal no.2 No Hunger: Water has lots of minerals. Without food humans can survive more number of days but without water not even 24 hours. Availability of water is another gamut of no hunger.



Goal no.3 Good health and well being

Good water source ensures the Good health and well-being of the humans. Temple tanks contribute towards this.

Goal no. 6 Clean water and Sanitation

Temple tanks were used as potable

water and also as source for health and sanitation usage. It is also instrumental in water resources management during the lean period. Hence Temple tanks are having the potential to become the messiah for providing clean water and sanitation

Goal no. 13 Climate Action

Temple tanks are the vital contributors and it prevents the soil erosion and arrests the sea water intrusion. This is a very big contribution. This is apart from the ecological and hydro geological contribution of Temple tanks

Goal no.14 Life Below water

Teerthams consists itself fishes, Algae and Micro algae the research into these aspects will improve our knowledge on life below water Temple tanks either directly or indirectly contributes towards above mentioned 6 goals of SDGS



1.6. Temple Tanks: Sacred and Developmental

Temple tanks are indeed sacred bodies equivalent to Temples because they have been built with a development perspective by our ancestors. Below table indicates the key dimensions and relative conceptual points.

Sacred		Developmental
Ancient rituals like Deepa Pooja and ancestors worship revived		New tourism potential got revived. Income generation to temple and purohits
Water storage for maintaining the Temple garden		Water storage influences greenery in surroundings
Teppotsavam		Cleans the Traditional Water Body and keeps it ready for the next hydrological cycle
Teerthavari		Deity baths in the Teertham makes the pilgrims bath in the same Teertham increases the tourism potential
It supplies the water to the maintenance of Nandavanam or Sacred Groves		Greening cycle activates –Water – Water Vapour, clouds, precipitates as rain and the rain water moves across land into the ground and ground water moves into plants. Again the plants transpire to atmosphere and condensation and transportation and cloud formations and precipitates as rain.
traditional	water	bodies
renovated		Water storage in recharged surrounding 6522 open wells up to 1 feet Travelling distance to procure water reduced about 1.5 Kms for 1200 household
Feeding Fish is punya		It breeds the fish with multi-nutrients improvement of income generation by way of selling fish feeds i.e. puffed rice and also improves the fish health
Lotus and lilly growth for aesthetic		It protects the evaporation of water

1.7. Temple Tanks and Eco System Services

The eco system services has to ensure maintenance of biodiversity, food production, water supply, adequate energy resources, adequately nourished, clean water, energy for cooking and livelihood. The different types of eco system are mountain based eco system (Kurnai), Forest and rain fed eco system (Mullai), Wetland eco system (Marudham), coastal Eco system (Neithal), dryland eco system (Palai) and Urban Eco system (Mixed).

Land	Regulating	Provisional	Cultural	Supporting
Kurinji	Water are in the form of Waterfalls and Tanks are controlled by the temple authorities often located in the foothills	Bathing ghats are there and in famous pilgrim centres it is also having structured bathing places	Bathing Tarpanams Teertham taken as prasadam	Since the water falls are natural made it is believed to have lot of medicinal values

Mullai	Water are in the form of Rivers, tanks, ponds and Lakes	Bathing ghats	Bathing Teertha pooja Deepa pooja Maharasankaranthi Teerthams taken as prasadams Darpanams	Lot of sangam references for the healing effects of these water bodies
Marutham	Tanks and ponds managed by village authorities	Mostly linked to irrigation tanks nearby inlet and outlet channel	Bathing Teertha pooja Deepa Pooja Teerthams taken as prasadams	Lot of Sangam references for the healing effects and water management system for local area
Neithal	Wells, Tanks, Sea and Ponds	Structured bathing ghats in available ponds	1. Bathing 2. Teertha pooja 3. Deepa Pooja for Seas 4. Teerthams taken as prasadams	It is believed to have lot of sin eradicating characteristics in the ponds

1.8 Practices of Green Rameswaram Trust for Rejuvenation of Traditional Water Bodies

Tamil Nadu Vision document 2023 calls for conservation of water bodies. There are 44121 Traditional water bodies under the control of HR&CE department. Tamil Nadu is having 2359 temple tanks. Of which 1291 are in good conditions as per HR&CE website. 1068 Temple tanks are proposed for renovation. Recent High court order insisting to declare the assets of the Temples have gained momentum in renovating these lost Traditional water bodies.

Green Rameswaram's experience in restoring the temple tanks of Rameswaram are envisage in three phases:

1.8.1 Pre-Implementation

- Teertha Site Identification with maps based on literature
- Authentication with Revenue Department by obtaining Field Measurement Book
- Interaction and Cross checking with the community through participative mapping
- Ascertaining the ownership of Teerthams for seeking permission to renovate from Panchayat/ Municipality /HR&CE

1.8.2. During Implementation

- Removal of weeds
- Removal of Stones
- De-silting through manual work and JCB
- Strengthening of Bunds

- Identification of Springs
- Building of Walls
- Painting the Walls
- Sacred ceremony
- Community /Bhaktha Sabhas/Pilgrims worshipping the Teerthams



1.8.3 Post Implementation:

- Regular Maintenance by Teertha Mitras
- Microbes from our technology partner PoinTec - Bangalore for water purification.
- Mud-Ball with Microbes technology piloted for water Purification – Clover Organics, Haridwar
- Partner with IIT-Madras for phyto-remediation
- Regular Water Quality Checking with TDS Meter and PH Meter.
- Ecological Indicator Boards
- Formalizing with Panchayat/HR&CE/Municipality through Island Development Committee
- Evolving roles and responsibilities for Stakeholders
- Beautification – Aeration of Teerthams/Solar lighting/Fishing/Lotus for improving the Bio-diversity and Fencing of Teerthams
- Make the pilgrims participate in maintenance



“Vivekananda Kendra along with District Administration and other NGOs has prepared an Action plan for Green Rameswaram and I appreciate all the organizations involved in this endeavour and I particularly congratulate Vivekananda Kendra for coordinating this”

From Prime Minister's speech

Shri.Narendra Modiji, Prime Minister of India releasing the Action plan Document of Green Resilient Rameswaram

1.8.4 Rehabilitation of Traditional Water bodies in Rameswaram – work carried out by Vivekananda Kendra-NARDEP

S.No	Name of the Water Body	Water Storage Details					Location (Rameswaram)
		L (m)	D (m)	W (m)	A	Total Capacity (in liters)	
1.	Agasthya	6	5	6	36	180000	Near Agni Teertham (Ward no.21)
2.	Hanuman	20	7	15	300	2100000	Near Bhadra Kali Temple
3.	Droupathi	10	5	5.5	55	275000	Opp. Near Bhadra Kali Temple
4.	Sahadeva	12	4.5	5.5	66	297000	Sambai
5.	Nakula	13	4.8	6.5	84.5	405600	Sambai
6.	Arjuna	30	3.3	14	420	1386000	Near Forest area
7.	Bhima	21	4.5	6		567000	-do-
8.	Dharma	2	7.5	2		30000	Back Side of Ramar Padam
9.	Jambavan	2	5	2		20000	On The Way To RamarPadam
10.	Angada	15	5	14.5		1087500	-do-
11.	Sugreeva	79	4.5	78		27729000	-do-
12.	Rama	25	5	28		3500000	Near Town Police St. Rameswaram
13.	RunaVimochana	28	5.5	28		4312000	Thangatchi Madam (Opposite to Ekanta Ramar Temple)
14.	Mangala	2	6.3	2		25000	Entrance of Thangatchimadam
15.	Amritavapi	27	4.5	22		2673000	Inside Ekanta Ramar Temple

16.	Jata Makuta	18	3.5	10		630000	On The Way To Dhanushkodi
17.	Jatayu	9	3	8		216000	On the Way to Dhanushkodi
18.	Kumuda	11.97	4.33	11		570131	SK Patti
19.	Sarvaroga	47	6	42		11844000	On the way to Dhanushkodi and near to Jata Makuta Teertham
20.	Nivarana						
20.	Naga	10	4.5	9.44		424800	Vivekananda Baskaram (Ward no1)
21.	Panacha	5.02	3.65	8.53		156295	Mankadu Village
22.	Parushuram	7.62	3.96	5.48		165360	In-front of Bhathrakali Amman Temple
23.	SK Kulam	10.66	5.18	7.62		420767	Pamban
24.	Brahma	3.8	3.96	3.8		57182	Mankadu Village
25.	Virega	18	4	10		720000	Mankadu village, opposite to Brahma Teertham and near to Kaliamman Temple
26.	Kapi	4	4	5		80000	Pamban - Near Balamurugan Temple, Opposite to Vivekananda Vidyalaya Matriculation school,
27.	Narena	8	4	6		192000	Olaikuda (near Church)
28.	Gnanavapi	9	3	12		324000	Erakaadu Village
29.	Neelakantha	7.5	3	7.5		168750	Vadakadu Village, near Ayyanar Temple
30.	Papa Vinashaka	5	3	4		60000	Near Kalanjiam Temple, National Highways nearer to Mandapam
						60616386	
						Litres	

Storage structure of 60.61 million litres has been created out of renovating these 30 Traditional water bodies.

5.5. Dedication of Renovated Teerthams to Nation



Mangala Teertham at its full hold capacity

Shri.Banwarilal Purohit, Governor, Tamilnadu visited Rameswaram on January 12, 2019 and dedicated the renovated 30 Teerthams of Rameswaram. He said that this work has strengthened the national integration through culture. The work of Green Rameswaram Trust deserves appreciation. He called for the state and district administration to give infrastructural support for facilitating the pilgrims to visit Renovated Teerthams as

there is a huge potential for pilgrimage in Rameswaram. He wished Green Rameswaram Team should do all the 108 Teerthams Rejuvenation.

1.8.5 Showcasing Model of Renovation:

About 7 acres of Mangalavanam land (attached with the Mangala Theertham) was first cleared of thorny bushes, weeds, *prosopis* using a JCB. A well of 20 ft. deep was dug at the site. In order to regularly water the site water tanks (1,000 litre capacity) at 10 places were put up to store the water which are inter-connected with a PVC pipeline across the site. The Panchayat office has constructed a shed to house the motor which draws water from the well for watering the site. After the site was cleared, and levelled, pitting was carried out. Salt tolerant species were selected for planting. a Navagraha-vanam (9 nos.), Rasi-vanam (12), Nakshatra-vanam (27), an herbal garden (54) and planted several tree species (1175). A big Teertha pooja was organized in this vanam with Shri.Banwailal Purohit, Governor, Government of Tamilnadu attending the function.



Shri.Banwarilal Purohit, Governor, Government of Tamilnadu, doing Teertha pooja in Mangala Teertham when he came for Dedication of Teerthams to the Nation

1.9. Impact of the Restoration of temple tanks

1.9.1 Tangible Impact

- 33 traditional water bodies renovated
- 60612 Cu.m of Water saved
- Travelling distance to procure water reduced about 1.5 Kms. for 1200 households
- Water storage in recharged surrounding 6522 open wells up to 1 feet
- Shallow aquifers charged with fresh water arrests seawater intrusion
- Water storage influences greenery in surroundings like renovated Mangala Teertha now supports water requirement of 7 acres of land with 1100 trees
- 8000 households benefitted Water body renovation
- 15847 Man-days employment generated
- Resource mobilized (Rs. 3, 12, 60,784) for Revival of Teerthams.
- Revival of ancient Rameswaram Teertha Yatra through training tourist guides

1.9.2 Intangible (Qualitative benefits)

- New tourism potential has increased
- Ancient rituals like Deepa Pooja and ancestor worship at revived Teerthams.
- Integration of multiple line departments building water security
- Improved habitat through water & ecological conservations
- Increased employment and livelihood opportunities

1.10 Sensitization through dissemination.

Target Group	Mode	Numbers	Frequency
Pilgrims	Flyer & Pamphlets - 2000/day	19,80,000	Daily
	Face to face interaction -34 pilgrims/day	33,660	Daily
	Public Announcements		Daily
	Religious Gathering and Satsangs	28,652	Daily
Households	Door to Door Campaign - households in 30 Teertha area	12,468	Monthly since April 2016
Government Departments – 30 line departments	Meetings of Island Development Committee - 53 Meetings	1,524	Monthly since April 2016 and special meetings
CSR Partners	Letters and proposals	527	
Student Academic community /	Eco clubs and meetings at all schools and colleges in location	316	Members
Special Events and programme	HumanArch/Governor Dedication programme/Mahasivarathri /Amavasyas/Teertha pooja	35,000	Quarterly since April 2016
Teertha Mitras	Individuals	30	

1.11 Policy advocacy at Different levels.

Vivekananda Kendra NARDEP's policy advocacy efforts for Green Rameswaram with Municipal Administration has resulted in constituting the Island Development Committee at district level to handhold the Green Rameswaram initiatives by passing a government order (G.O. M S No 119 dated 16/11/2017).

To bring convergence of different departments, Green Rameswaram Trust advocated for constitution of State Level Island Development Committee with the Chief Secretary as Chairman. The persistent efforts resulted in passing the Government order (G.O. MS No 90 dated 15/07/2019) for constitution of State Level Island Development Committee to broad base and include all the departments for effective integration for building Green Resilient Rameswaram.

Regular Island Development Committee meeting with the Collector as Chairman is being held. So far 11 Island Development Committee meeting are held at District level and 1 State level Island Development Committee meeting is held at Chennai.

1.12. Way forward and Challenges

1.12.1 Challenges

- Encroachments is a major hurdle faced by us


- Maintenance we are currently depending on Teertha Mitras and volunteers and this would be a major challenge in the future
- Joint survey by HR&CE /ULB/RLB and Revenue should happen and coordination between them is a bigger challenge
- Popularizing the Ancient Teertha yatra
- Sand dune movements puts brakes for the Teertham Discovery
- Fencing the Teerthams
- Beautification of the Teerthams
- Polluting the renovated water bodies by miscreants

1.12.2 Way Forward

- HR&CE and local bodies should take the ownership and do the fencing and beautification of the Teerthams
- Tourism Department should announce the Rameswaram Teertha yatra and declare the renovated Teerthams as tourist places
- All these Teerthams with the mythological story should be updated in Tourism website
- Cleaning and Maintenance should be taken care by the HR&CE and Local bodies
- Exclusive Pandit for performing Darpanams should be made available in these Teerthams
- An exclusive Teertha Circuit to be made and it should be vouched by the Government
- A Special purpose vehicle to be promoted and the entire Rameswaram Island to be managed by the Special purpose vehicle headed by an exclusive IAS officer for Island Development
- Every Teertham should have a story booklet available in the market
- Every Teertham and mythological story and other details to be made available in the Video format and made available in social medias.



Annual report 2018 – 19

	<h2>2. Waste Management</h2> <p>“...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>Tamil Nadu Vision 2023</p>
---	--

2.0. Introduction

Given the floating tourist population in a small land area, solid waste management, though an obligation of the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) remains a challenge in Rameswaram. A shift in waste collection methodology from “Community bin collection” to “Door to Door Collection” is noted in all wards. Secondary Collection mechanism indicates predominant usage of Tipper Lorries and tractors over minivans indicating the higher volume of waste. Per capita waste generation in Rameswaram is about 350 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 pilgrims.

Given this context, Green Rameswaram and Hand in Hand India our partner in Waste Management has taken the 21 wards of Rameswaram to manage the waste scientifically and systematically.

2.1 Progress for the year 2018-19

2.1.1 Solid Waste Management

Rameswaram Municipality consists of 21 Wards and 13500 Households generates about 20 tonnes of waste per day. There is an average increase in waste generation of 5.56% every year. In 2025 Rameswaram Municipality is expected to generate around 732000 tonnes of municipal waste every month. In addition to this, marine waste such as seaweeds that are washed ashore becomes part of municipal waste. Every day near about 4 tonnes of seaweeds are washed ashore which are not a part of the municipal waste estimate.

Door to Door collection is the strategized tool to improve the collection of waste. Through our continued interaction we could get 85% of the households in our working wards doing the segregation of waste. The project is managing the Rameswaram Municipalities Resource Recovery Park, established in the Vadakadu hamlet of Rameswaram where all the wastes are segregated, processed and recycled. Ever increasing tourist population and the manpower requirement make Rameswaram a tough choice in Solid waste management. Removal of discarded clothes and clearing of unclaimed corpses is additional work executed as part of waste management.

The project is successful in Door to Door collection. However, the tourist based waste collection is still a challenge. Following provisions are the expectations from the Green Rameswaram team to make the Rameswaram a real clean Rameswaram

2.1.2 Liquid Management

2.1.2.1 Lootel Café in Rameswaram

Following the Indore model lootel café has been permitted in Rameswaram due to the Green Rameswaram efforts. An expert team from Indore made a visit to Rameswaram and did an inception study and made three choices one at Agni Teertham, Lakshmana Teertham and a mobile toilet to Dhanushkodi. This has been approved after a one long year of process. We hope in the next financial year it will start functioning. Clean Toilets with washroom and storage cabins with café in the front Lootel stands as a stand out option for the pilgrims.

2.1.2.2 Pay, Use and Redeem concept of Lootel

Today's society has an increasing commitment to health and personal care. Lootel toilet offers the best hygienic solution for the issue. Lootel works on Pay, Use and Redeem concept. Where user needs to pay for washroom usage and the user can redeem washroom coupon at Lootel café on food and beverages bill.

At a cost of Rs.10 pilgrims gets the following

- Dry and Hygienic wash rooms
- Central Air conditioning
- Anti – Bacterial seats
- Shower Facility
- Instant Clean up after every usage
- Wi-fi facility
- IOT (Internet of Things) based hence safety assured in case of auto lock / safety issues

2.1.3 Awareness Creation and sensitization programmes to achieve Clean Rameswaram

Direct Reach

Around 5000 students have been reached through various activities to achieve Clean Rameswaram objective.

Around 50000 local population has been sensitized on the concept of Waste Segregation

Indirect Reach

Around 2.5 Lakhs of pilgrims would have been reached through our regular announcements in Agni Teertham.

Through Handbills, Notices and posters we have reached through at least 2 Lakhs of People

HumanArch for Clean and Green Rameswaram

Island Development Committee in its endeavour to hand hold the Green Rameswaram project in consultation with the stakeholders conducted the HumanArch Event on Oct 14, 2018 at Rameswaram on the eve of the birth anniversary of former President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam. The Chairman of the Island Development Committee Shri.K.Veera Raghava Rao, IAS., and the Green Rameswaram project holders anchored the event. Around 5000 people participated in the programme in the morning at 10.30.

Union Minister for State for Finance and Shipping Thiru.Pon Radhakrishnan joined hands with the school children and general public forming the human chain and took a pledge along with the Collector K. Veera Raghava Rao on Clean and Green Rameswaram. Earlier offerings were made at the Memorial.



(Honourable Minister for State for Finance & Shipping, Thiru.Pon Radhakrishnan, District Collector Thiru K.Veera Raghava Rao IAS and Thiru A. Balakrishnan, Vice President, Vivekananda Kendra, along with school children and general public takes Pledge for Clean and Green Rameswaram)


Concluding function was organized by the Island Development Committee- Green Rameswaram at Goswami mutt at 11.30 a.m. Minister for Information Technology Dr M Manikandan addressed the function which was presided over by the Dist. Collector Shri.VeeraRaghava Rao. More than 1500 people attended the grand function. The event had releases and launches to celebrate the Clean and Green Rameswaram initiatives to build resilience for future generations.



Miles to go before we fulfil the challenges involved in managing the solid waste. We require additional manpower, vehicles, tractor, compactor. The resource park has to be upgraded with the hydraulic bailing machine, conveyor belt to segregate wastes, weigh bridge scale and incineration plant for inert waste. Efforts are made to keep the road clean through sand vacuum sucking machine and behavioural change communication activities to pilgrims and native residents on segregation.



Annual report 2018 – 19

	<h3>3. Renewable Energy</h3> <p>.....improving the quality of the environment By minimizing atmospheric pollution and in general maintaining the ecological balance across the entire state.</p> <p>Vision 2023</p>
---	---

3.0 Introduction

Energy production from renewable sources is the future for the growing energy needs. Rameswaram Island is tied to abundance of natural resources such as sunlight and biomass, which can generate sustainable energy for local needs. The district administration attempts to create awareness to preserve the sanctity of the place by reducing atmospheric pollution through battery operated vehicles in and around the temple and converting kitchen waste to biogas. 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 Mohabeer Dharmasala 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.

3.1 Progress for the year 2018-19

Ms.Aishwarya, an intern of IIT Madras conducted the study on the Impact of the solar panels given to 200 households in Dhanushkodi using survey methodology for 100 beneficiaries. Following were the major inferences from the study

- With increased demand and the needs of people in their day – to –day life drives them to upgrade themselves with the usage of TVs, even though with 50w capacity of panels.
- Besides, with the advent of panels, the expenses incurred over the kerosene have been drastically reduced.
- About 67% of families have been following the maintenance of pouring distilled water at an interval of monthly once.
- The minimum and maximum money incurred by the people over the kerosene and distilled water expenses ranges from Rs25-Rs100 per month where with kerosene it is Rs 30-Rs 900 per month.
- Over 56% of families out of 100 are using the panel's outcome only for lighting purposes at households during nightfall.
- About 40% of families are using the panel's outcome for lighting purpose, to entertain themselves with TV and to know the day to day happenings.

- About 1% were using the panel's outcome both for fishing works during nightfall and for household needs.
- Over 6% of families have self-invested their money in buying increased capacity of solar panels apart from being spent Rs 2000 for the panels installed by Vivekananda Kendra Organization, to meet their demand.

Adversity to Safety



I am Ramalakshmi. Fishing is my family's occupation. We are earning the income of about Rs 2000- Rs 3000 per month. Before the advent of panels, we have been using the Kerosene lights and Kandans for our lighting needs both at the household and for fishing purpose. We have been spending the monthly expenditure of about Rs 170 / month. Our family has undergone a tragic fire accident one time and 3 members of my family have died in this incident. After that incident we never slept peacefully at night, we also had a fear in us of the usage of Kerosene lights and Kaandans. Once, after the advent of panels, we got rid of those fears. We also have replaced the lighting sources with the help of the panel's outcome. Now, we also have been using the charged batteries to

be taken to the seashore areas at night times for fishing purposes and to make the segregation of fishes at nightfall.

Here, since the battery can have the backup of DC power from the panel's outcome. This DC power can be used to light the bulbs with no need for any conversion (i.e DC to AC).

Innovation upgraded – Switching over to Consumptive to Entertainment



I am Kumar. My occupation is fishing. My family's monthly expenditure is about Rs 5000-Rs10000. The electrical appliances used in my family includes 2 strip lights, 1 bulb, 1 LED TV. I have afforded a solar inverter separately for the usage of LED TV. I was able to use the TV whenever I needs with the continuous usage of 2 hours at regular intervals. While utilizing the TV I will be using one strip light alone at night times. I am getting sufficient power supply for my household need from the panel's outcome. Shri.Kumar is availing with AC power supply 24"inch LED TV (with the help of solar inverter to convert DC to AC) whereas it's not in case of others home. The main important reason in getting increased back up of batteries is that the user's TV model has

employed with LED(LCD) backlight technology, this reduces the power consumption to about 10 percent that of actual energy consumption.

The scope of enhancing the use of renewable energy is promising as people are willing to pay the prices for the additional requirement of bulbs and a few have enhanced or replaced the battery for better backup of power.



Annual report 2018 – 19

	<h3>4.Green Health</h3> <p>“To keep the body in good health is a duty. Otherwise, we shall not be able to keep our mind”</p> <p>Vision 2023</p>
---	---

4.0 Introduction

Green Health advocates getting back to AYUSH (Ayurvedic, Yoga, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy) way of life. Medication should aim to give the human health and well-being which is the ultimate deliverable from Green Health. In collaboration with UNICEF we have conducted Siddha Camps in the year 2015-16.

Government hospital in Rameswaram is having Siddha unit. However, due to the limited presence of practitioner, it is not very popular. There are two Siddha medical shops along with two practitioners, but both were often closed. Even the traditional Siddha practitioners in local areas have stopped practicing or it is only optional additional income generating option for them. Hence People in Rameswaram always depend on the Allopathic medicine and in case of emergency they have always been referred to the GH in Ramanathapuram or with other private facilities in Ramanathapuram.

Our efforts

- Yoga as a therapy has been popularized for the past four years in Rameswaram and has reached out to 120 students on a regular basis.
- Conducted Free siddha medical camps and around 1376 people participated in the camp

4. Yoga

Yoga is a way of life that has existed for thousands of years, designed to free us from diseases and invoke our potentiality. Yoga unifies us into the nature. Green Rameswaram has over the years, popularized yoga in Rameswaram. Around 120 people attend yoga classes on a daily basis. Many of the regular practitioners have got health benefits. Special focus on diabetic patients were given and they have been administered yoga Asana's separately. Many got out of their Diabetes effectively.

Leading a Diabetes Free Life – An inspiration to all Elders above 50 years

Shri.Thillaibackiam, 62 years is a regular student of Green Rameswaram yoga classes.



He was having diabetes before coming to our classes, but now due to our focused attention he is living a diabetic free life. “He says regular yoga practice makes your body and mind perfectly. I am thankful to Green Rameswaram for giving me this opportunity and that too on a free basis for the residents of Rameswaram. I have referred to several people about our yoga classes and whenever I get a chance I want to change people into Yoga way of life. Thanks Green Rameswaram for teaching me this life changing Yoga” Shri.Thillaipackiam did a presentation on yoga and day to day life in one of the workshops organized by us as a prelude to HumanArch Event.

4.1. International Yoga Day Celebrations

Vivekananda Kendra, along with ‘Green Rameswaram’ project partners celebrated International Yoga day in a big way on 21st June. Events took place at the following places:

Event	Number
Training to Indian Coastal Guards, Mandapam	300
Indian Navy office near Rameswaram Jetty	35
Sri Ram Middle School	40
Sri Parvathavarthini Amman Girls HSS	450
Vivekananda Vidyalaya Matriculation school	300
Green Rameswaram team at Goswamy Mutt	225
Total	1350



SPAGHSS Students meditating



Participants performing Yogasana at Goswamy Mutt

4.2. Siddha Camp for Rameswaram People

Rameswaram is not having proper alternate medical facilities for the people. Hence, in order to boost the Green health of Rameswaram we have conducted Free Siddha Varma Medical camps and Dinamalar participated with us for the first three camps. The following methods were used for reaching out to the people

- (i) Distribution of Pamphlets
- (ii) Personal invitation to schools and other institutions
- (iii) Announcements in Rameswaram through Auto campaigning etc.
- (iv) Social media messages, posts on Facebook, WhatsApp etc.

Yoga and Varma goes hand to hand. It has interlinked. Since Yoga has been widely practiced and taught in Mohabeer Dharmasala it is fitting that Varma camp has been done in this place. In all the events Auto Campaign was made in the following villages

- Sambai
- Mankaadu
- Olaikuda
- Pudhu Road
- SalliMalai
- Natarajapuram
- Verkodu
- Thitakudi
- Semma Madam

The news was published in Dinamalar Daily for every two days prior to that and on the day of the event too. The treatment for patients starting at 10 am and the whole event ended at 2 pm. The following table gives the coverage

Day	Venue	Reach
17 July 2018	Vivekananda Vidyalaya Matriculation school, Melavasal, Rameswaram	470
26 June 2018	Green Rameswaram Building	350
18 September 2018	Green Rameswaram Building	530
26 March 2019	Green Rameswaram Building	26
Total		1376

Green Rameswaram building was divided into two parts, one part for men and another part for women. Five Siddha doctors attended women and 10 Siddha doctors attended the men. We could sense that there was a considerable need in this segment. As a follow up, the separate WhatsApp group has been made with all the patients.



Patients getting enrolled before the treatment



Siddha Varma Camp treatment



Dinamalar News coverage on September 19, 2018

Based on the enrolment we could get the following details

- 10% of the patients were having chronic ailments
- Around 40% of the patients were women.
- Oil massage treatment was done for most of the patients and they got relief from the pain as soon as the treatment finishes.
- Peoples also visited from other cities such as Madurai, Pondicherry, Paramakudi, Coimbatore, Erode and Ramanathapuram.



Annual report 2018 – 19



5. 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

5.0 Introduction

Rameswaram is a small landscape catering to the needs of 1.5 Crore pilgrims visiting every year and the local residence of 43500 as of 2016. The physical infrastructure is inadequate since it needs to cover a very large municipal area. Fringe settlements including rural areas depend on the town's infrastructure, services, and socio-economic needs. Commercial areas encroachment upon roads, and as in all heritage towns there are dilapidated buildings, unsanitary conditions due to lack of proper infrastructure facilities, narrow streets with buildings devoid of proper light and ventilation as some of the common problems seen. In the core areas, around the temple, there is a lack of open spaces and the circulation system is haphazard.

Landscaping and beautification brings out the tourism potential of the island for the visitor to relish and cherish for generations the same way it greens the island. Strengthening the sacred groves, forming Navagraha-vanam, Rasi-vanam, Nakshatra-vanam, Herbal garden, Kitchen Garden at every backyard of all the 13500 households and Planning of native species are the key activities.

5.1 Strengthening the Sacred Groves

Nandavanam of each temple is famous for its usefulness in supplying flowers for the poojas and rituals. It also relates to the belief that nature maintenance is the basic duty of all human being and God is not exempted in this endeavour. Sthala Vruksham's concept further endorses the school of thought. Nandavanam of Sri Ramanathasamy Temple is huge with more than 45000 square feet in its fold. Green Rameswaram, has taken efforts to restore Nandavanam by occasionally cleaning the Nandavanams with volunteers (mostly students and Seva Sangh) at least monthly once this happens. However, this is not enough considering the hugeness of the Nandavanam. Practically we require a dedicated person for maintaining the Nandavanam. Efforts are made to mobilise resources from different stakeholders across the globe for strengthening the sacred groves.

5.2 Cleaning and Greening Nandavanam

Smt. Jayshree Balachandar, of Green Pilgrimage Network supported the Nandavanam initiative for Sri Ramanathasamy Temple. The process went has been narrated in the following passages: There was huge debris, thorny bushes across the north tower outskirts. With the support of Hand in Hand team (Partner of Green Rameswaram) and volunteers from local, we could clear the debris and thorny bushes. After establishing the proper piping and water facility we ensured that the planting has happened. Following flower plants saplings (850) were planted.

S.No	Name of the Flower in Tamil	Scientific Name	No of plants
1.	Nandhiavattai	Crape Jasmine	32
2.	Malligai poo	Jasmine	500
3.	Arali	Ghanera/Nerium Oleander	40
4.	Paarijatham	Night flowering Jasmine	23
5.	Idly Poo	Ixora	64
6.	Sembaruthi	Hibiscus	42
7.	Tulasi	Basil	25
8.	Manjal poo	TecomaStans	36
9.	Marikozhundhu	Laws Persian Violet	15
10.	Alli	Jasmine Auriculatum	73
Total			850

At regular frequency, the team is watering and organic boosters were planned to be given. The land given to Jeyam Nursery for reincarnating Nandavanam is 48 cents of Land approximately 21000 Square feet of land and the same has been planted with 850 number of plants with Jasmine being the highest number with 500 plants. Approximately 3.00 Square feet gap is left between each plant. Few Pictures were as below



After the plantation



Doing the planting

5.3 Promotion of Kitchen Garden/Terrace Garden

5.3.1 Terrace Garden Training in collaboration with Dinamalar

Half a Day Terrace Garden Training program was conducted on 09th June 2018 by the Green Rameswaram team in collaboration with Dinamalar at Mohabeer Dharmasala Green Rameswaram Project Office. The total no of participants were 65 members. Shri.Rajamony, Research Associate, Vivekananda Kendra NARDEP, Kanyakumari took this session. As a follow up Action we have created a WhatsApp Group Titled Terrace Garden and we are regularly sharing the Terrace Garden related updates in the group. On 12th December 2018, Horticulture Department organized a Terrace Garden Training program for General Public in collaboration with Green Rameswaram and Dinamalar at Mohabeer Dharmasala. Around 65 General Public

attended the training program. Of which some 13 participants wanted to have the Terrace Garden kit of the Horticulture department on a subsidy rate. They were given this kit at a concessional cost of Rs.320 with the subsidy. Names were obtained in the program and the kit has to be procured by the Horticulture Department since for the current year they have sold all the kits available with them.



Terrace Garden Training programme

5.3.2. Kitchen Garden Training programme

In order to provide fillip to the Green Endeavour of Pasumai Groups NRDC (National Research Development Corporation) from New Delhi has supported VK-NARDEP to conduct Home Garden Training to Pasumai Group members. About 12 batches were trained benefitting 360 members



NRDC Training programme Snap-shots

Clearing Doubts into reality

Ms.Poomayil who is 41 years old attended our Kitchen Garden training program on 30 November 2018. Her husband is a fisherman. Both the children were pursuing their graduation in Coimbatore. Her household hobby is



to grow plants. Except for Coconut and papaya trees, she is not successful in growing plants especially vegetable plants. Either due to insect infection, her plants would die or it will not grow properly. But after attending our training she has received a combo of Grow Bags, Vermi compost, Panchagavya, Seed Tray, Five plant seeds, Couple of tools Weed remover and plougher and Kitchen garden book in Tamil. Her feedback is that the book is an important asset for her. She will refer on and often in case of any

doubts. She could grow some 7 plants in her backyard using the grow bags and she is very happy sharing the brinjal growth and the taste of the vegetables are too good. Now she is planning to grow it in the sand in a larger way. She shares that she had inhibitions in applying the boosters but now being organic boosters like Panchagavya gives a fillip to the overall growth. She is confident in applying Panchagavya in the plants.

Doubtful Passion turns into hobby

Ms.Saradha, 40 years is a resident of the Pudhuroad area. She had a passion for growing plants. However, due to several difficulties, she is not successful. She attended our training program on 30 November 2018 and she got cleared all her doubts. Our kit was given after the conclusion of the training program further motivated her to go for planting. She has



however used grow bags only for growing flowers. She planted all the vegetables in the backyard in the soil and she could reap good harvesting. She is a classic example of turning her passion into reality. Her love for nature and the organic way of growing has reaped her good benefits. She has planted tomatoes, Pumpkins, Cluster Beans, Brinjals, Chilly, Bitter

gourd, etc. has been grown in her backyard. Planting it in the backyard has reaped maximum growth and has reaped maximum benefits out of the growth. Her eyes were glowing when she said that Brinjals were huge in size and she proudly holds it in her hands. She is also excited to say that she wants to grow more and more vegetables in her backyard.

5.3.3 Greening Students Minds - Plant Sapling Distribution Function

On September 5, 2018, Green Rameswaram Team organized a function of Plant Sapling Distribution function with the support of Kalam International Foundation contributing the plant saplings in Green School of Sri Parvathavarthini Amman Girls Higher Secondary School, Rameswaram.



Plant Saplings Distribution function in SPAGHSS

Shri.Saleem, Grandson of our late president, Dr.APJ. Abdul Kalam presided the function and shared the vision of Kalamji in planting saplings. Plant Saplings donated by Kalam International Foundation was given to the Kalam Tree Growers club of the school which had 223 students enrolled in it. Then each team of NSS, Red Cross, NCC, Eco Club students have distributed the plants. Greening Kalam Library with the support of NCC team of Government Boys Higher Secondary school was also organized resulting in plantation of 30 saplings besides cleaning.

As a surprise element Smt.Managayarkarasi, Joint Commissioner, Sri Ramanathasamy Temple, Rameswaram has arranged for the Jasmine Plant Saplings for the Teachers also as the day coincided with Teachers Day. Everybody was happy. Around 450 Saplings were given to the students and Teachers. Ms.Vigneshwari, XII std. who spearheaded the Kalam Tree Growers club also gave a speech on the occasion and assured that the students will grow the plants and set an example to the world. Overview of our total plantations

S.No	Place	No of Plants	Remarks
1.	SPAGHSS	450	Kalam Foundation
2.	Pasumai Group members	360	NRDC
3.	HumanArch	990	
4.	Nandavanam	850	
	Total	2650	



Annual report 2018 – 19



6. 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”

A person's livelihood refers to their “means of securing the basic necessities (Food, water, Shelter and clothing) of life”. Rameswaram peoples' livelihoods depend on two major industries of Fishing and allied activities and Tourism. There is the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) at Mandapam where research is carried out on sea-weed culture, pearl culture, sea cucumber and sea shell culture, and the research applications are transferred to fishermen. Nearly 3000 different boats are running in and around Rameswaram. However, the fishing holiday period of 60 days in a year will make the fishermen suffer a lot due to their non-saving habits and uncertain income in fishing activities. Moreover, the over reliance on marine resources would affect the biodiversity of the Gulf of Mannar. Hence the need for promoting alternative livelihoods in Rameswaram

6.0 Progress for the year 2018-19

6.1 Pasumai Groups

Pasumai means Greening. Greening is nothing but living environmentally friendly life. Pasumai groups are nothing but Self-help group, but the self-help will not restrict itself to Microfinance but it will facilitate to live environment friendly life

Environment Friendly life means

1. Plastic free life
2. Reduced Carbon emissions
3. Ensuring Green health – Siddha, Varma, Homeopathy, Yoga, Unani and Ayurveda
4. Conserving Focus than Consumption Focus
5. Greening the household first, the street next and the Village is a must
6. Supporting the Local Economy
7. Zero Waste Generation

We have so far promoted 120 Pasumai Groups and of which active groups are 89 pasumai groups and an exclusive unit for Microfinance has been promoted in this financial year.

S.No	Particulars	Cumulative
1	Total staffs	3
2	Total No. of SHGs	97
3	Total No of SHGs meeting conducted	89
4	Total No of Members	1291
5	Average Members Size	12.25
6	Total Subscription received	66630

7	Total Savings Received	820940
8	Total internal loan disbursed	703620
9	Principle amount received	143378
10	Interest amount received	13950
11	No of SHGs Book money received	70
12	Received the book money	18710
13	Savings returned	18250
14	No of SHGs bank Account opened	30
15	Cash in hand	392991
16	Cash at bank	223560

6.2 Search for Alternate Livelihoods

On 25th November, 2018 Green Rameswaram team has conducted a Search Exercise with Pasumai Groups. Around 35 Pasumai Groups members attended the programme. Search exercise revealed the following needs.

1. Goat Rearing
2. Solar Drier for Drying fish
3. Moringa
4. Agarbatti making
5. Mushroom Rearing
6. Tailoring

We had elaborate discussions with Leaders related to Water Security. Different Methods of preserving drinking water has been deliberated. Rain Water Harvesting structures in household storage method several myths were there among the Pasumai group members.



A view of the meeting





7. Archaeology and History

“Preserving, and wherever possible, improving the quality of the environment and nurturing the cultural heritage ...protection of soil and other natural formations.”

Vision 2023

7.0 Introduction

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.

People mostly visit the Rameswaram Islands for religious and spiritual reasons. Rameswaram is traditionally associated with Hindu culture with ‘Kasi Rameswaram Yatra’, which every Hindu is enjoined to perform once in her/his lifetime. Agni Teerthams, 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.

Teertha Yatra –Rameswaram - Kashi

South Indian Way of Kasi Yatra

Dhanushkodi, the southern tip of India, which is just off Rameshwaram will be visited first and 33 times dip in the sea as per sastra. People collect sand from this holy place and carry it all the way to Kashi, where it is used to make a lingam and prayed to, at the confluence at Prayag, before being immersed in the water. Then people worship Lord Vishwanath and return home with pots of the holy water from the Ganga. Again, there will be a return to Rameswaram again, where we bath Lord Shiva in Rameshwaram with the sacred Ganga water, which we get from Kashi, thus completing the Kashi Yatra.

But for North Indians, they complete the same cycle, but in reverse due to geographical reasons. They first visit Kashi and collect Ganges water, then visit Rameshwaram to do the Abhishek to the deity. They collect sand from Dhanushkodi, and immerse it at Allahabad on their return.

Whilst there are several architectural features in the Ramanathaswamy Temple that are worth mentioning, none is as magnificent as its corridors. For a start, the temple has three sets of corridors. The outer set of the temple’s corridors has a height of almost 7 meters and stretches for roughly 120 meters in both the eastern and western directions. The corridors to the north and to the south, on the other hand, are about 195 meters in length. It is commonly claimed that this is

the longest set of temple corridors in the world. In addition to its length, the outer corridor is also remarkable for the number of pillars that support it, which is over 1200 in number. Moreover, many of these pillars are decorated by ornate carvings. It is interesting to note that the temple is one of 12 Jyotir-lingam temples where Shiva is worshipped in the form of a Jyotir-lingam, or “pillar of light”.

Rameswaram has sites of archaeological significance and historical value. Our past efforts are

- Listing of cultural / historical / archaeological sites to record their heritage significance.
- Detailed Project Report for Dhanushkodi prepared for showcasing its archaeological value.
- Mythological supplements for the discovered traditional water-bodies (Teerthas) are documented, revealing the past and present efforts for protecting the natural formations.
- History of civilizations of the coastal area in the context of the reign of different dynasties is documented for posterity.
- With the support of the district administration, conservation architecture showcased in the historical site – Mohabeer Dharmasala for adoption by pilgrims and local people.

7.1 Teertha Pooja

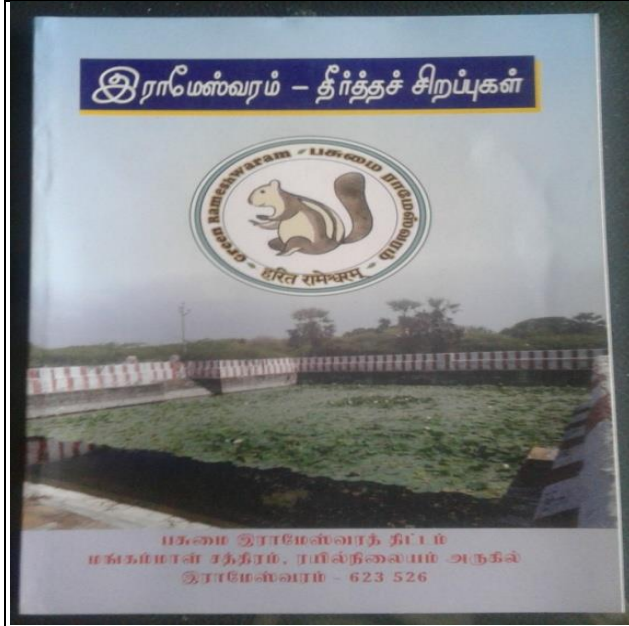
Teertha pooja as a practice got revived. Teertha pooja is continuously done for Agni Teertham and Kapi Teertham on all Full moon days. This was done by our Teertha Mitras and pilgrims also participate regularly.



7.2 Release of book on Rameswaram in Literature

Green Rameswaram Trust published Tamil book -Ilakkiyathil Rameswaram. This book lists out the passages in the poems from the Vedas to the modern day poems wherein the mentioning of Rameswaram is there along with an explanation of the shloka and poems. This book is a collective work of several scholars and pundits and consolidated by Shri. Pakshi Sivarajan and Dr.Selvaganapathy, a renowned Tamil professor.

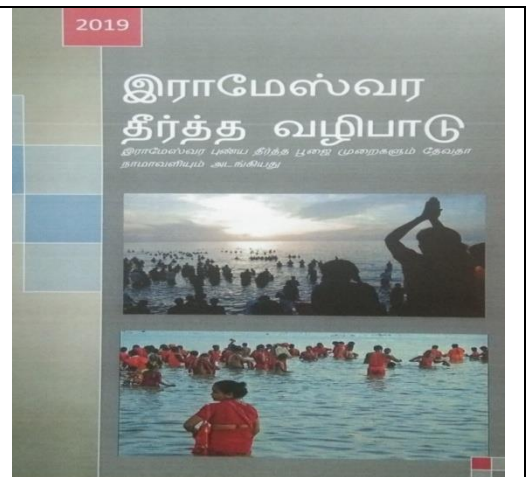
7.3 Release of Book on Rameswaram Teerthams



A book on Rameswaram Teerthams was released by Shri.Banwarilal Purohit, Honourable Governor, Government of Tamilnadu on January 12, 2019 in a massive public function at Rameswaram. An earlier Tamil version of it was released on October 12, 2018 HumanArch function. Dr.Selvaganapathi and Dr.Karpagam renowned Tamil professors along with Shri.Pakshi Sivarajan has authored it. It documents all the Teerthams renovated by Green Rameswaram. All the mythological stories of each Teertham were narrated in the book. Authors have started with the documentation of the concept of Teertham, Meaning of Teertham in different sects of the Hindu religion and then drops down to Rameswaram in specific and then to Teertham.

7.4 Release of Book on Teertha Namavali

Another book on Rameswara Teertha Vazhipadu–book to worship Teerthams in Tamil was released by Shri. Banwarilal Purohit, Honourable Governor, Government of Tamilnadu on January 12, 2019 in a massive public function at Rameswaram. It is a unique and a first exclusive book on Teertha worship. It is written with the support of Pandit Shri.Pakshi Sivarajan from Rameswaram. He has contributed from ancient texts, which was specifically done for Teertha worship and has Varuna Pooja shloka.



Annual report 2018 – 19



8. Eco Tourism

“Leave Nothing but Footprints”

8.0 Introduction

Rameswaram Island, known as a centre of spiritual tourism, attracts thousands of pilgrims every day. It attracts tourists and pilgrims in equal numbers. Environmental Protection and Tourism are closely linked together. Outdoor recreation requires a healthy environment. A tourist place with clean environs – air, water, and the scenery is most sought after by leisure seekers. According to the World Tourism Organization (WTO), “tourism that involves travelling to relatively undisturbed natural areas with the specified object of studying, admiring and enjoying the scenery and its wild plants and animals, as well as any existing cultural aspects (both of the past and present) found in these areas is Ecotourism”. Ecotourism requires a concerted clean, green package to attract more pilgrims again and again. Non-motorized transport like cycling, walking, rickshaw, battery vehicles, etc. contribute much to reduce air pollution. Thus Rameswaram needs Eco-Education, new avenues for Tourism like Bird Watching spots and Green Transport.

8.1 World Tourism Day Celebration- September 27, 2018

World Tourism Day celebrations started with a series of Programmes with the participation of NSS Students from Schools.

8.1.1 Rangoli Competition in Sri Parvathavarthini Amman Girls Higher Secondary School

Students from SPA Girls Higher Secondary school participated in the Rangoli Competition held on 24 September 2018. Almost around 50 Students participated in the competition under the theme of Eco-Tourism. The following were some snapshots of the Competition. Green Rameswaram Coordinated the event



8.1.2 Speech competition in St. Joseph Matriculation School

The speech competition was held in St. Joseph Matriculation School, Verkodu, Rameswaram in the theme of Eco-Tourism. Around 16 students participated in the contest and three won the prizes. Again this event was also coordinated by Green Rameswaram.

8.1.3 Railway Station awareness programme on Cleaning

Railway Station Cleaning was organized by the Department of Tourism as a part of the Tourism Day Celebrations along with Railways department, NSS Students of Sri Parvathavarthini Amman Girls higher Secondary School, St. Joseph Matriculation School, and Green Rameswaram Team on September 25, 2018. Around 70 students participated in the event.



Students give awareness pamphlets to the passengers

8.1.4 Heritage Walk

Heritage Walk was organized by the Tourism department for the NSS Students of Sri Parvathavarthini Amman Girls Higher Secondary School, Rameswaram, and St. Joseph's Matriculation Higher Secondary School. They have been taken to Mohabeer Dharmasala - 250 years old building near Railway Station. They have been taken around the building of Mohabeer Dharamsala and explained the history of the building, important technologies in the old building like Limestone Organic building structures, Rainwater Harvesting structures in the building, Airy spacing, Mother Saradha Stayed room, etc were shown and explained to them. The Green Rameswaram team also has spoken to them about the heritage structures in Rameswaram. It was a good exposure to the students and they all enjoyed the trip very much.



Students were explained the specialties in the building

8.1.5 Quiz Programme and the concluding Event

As per the request of the Tourism Department, Green Rameswaram Team conducted a quiz program on the culminating day of World Tourism Day on September 27, 2018. The event was attended by 150 students and 40 general public and the quiz was conducted by 10.00 AM and three schools of Government Higher Secondary school, Thangatchimadam, SPA Girls Higher Secondary School and St.Josephs Matriculation school participated in the event. Questions were related to Rameswaram Tourism Spots Exclusively. St.Joseph Matriculation School won the quiz with maximum marks followed by the other two teams.

8.1.6 World Tourism Day



District Collector Gracing the function on World Tourism Day held at GRT office

Shri.Veera Raghava Rao IAS, District Collector, Ramanathapuram presided over the function and Shri. Vasudeo, Secretary, Green Rameswaram Trust attended the function as a special guest. Tourism Officer, Shri. Marimuthu welcomed all the participants and the chief guests, lighted the lamp as a mark of the start of the function. Then Shri. Veera Raghava Rao, District Collector delivered the Chief Guest address. He talked about the importance of Tourism in Rameswaram, the Importance of keeping the Tourism places clean, Knowledge improvement in Tourism to all the pilgrims, etc. Winners of the Quiz, Rangoli, Speech and Essay competitions were felicitated by the District Collector.



Annual report 2018 – 19



9. Marine Bio-Diversity

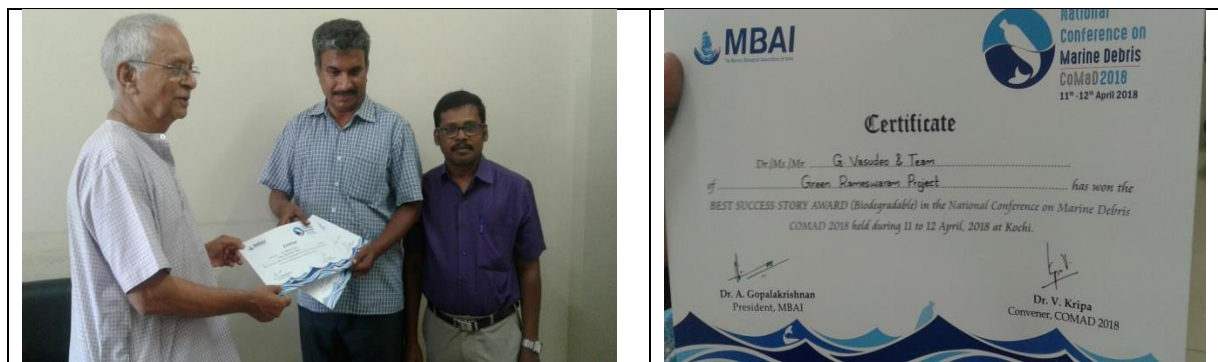
“The sea, the great unifier, is man’s only hope”

9.0 Introduction

Rameswaram Island is in the Gulf of Mannar. The Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve covers an area of 10,500 km of ocean, 21 islands and the adjoining coastline. The islets and coastal buffer zone include beaches, estuaries, and tropical dry broadleaf forests, while the marine environments include seaweed communities, seagrass communities, coral reefs, salt marshes and mangrove forests. Located on the south-eastern tip of the Asian subcontinent, the Gulf of Mannar is known to harbour over 3,600 species of flora and fauna, making it one of the richest coastal regions. Attempts are made to develop a plan to increase the footprints at CMFRI Marine Museum, which is located some 25 Kms. away from Rameswaram and promotion of ornamental fishes at an alternative option.

9.1 Award to Green Rameswaram

The Green Rameswaram project selected as the Best Success Story at the National Conference on Coastal Debris Management which was held on April 11 & 12, 2018 at Kochi. It was organized by The Marine Biological Association of India. A paper on Green Rameswaram efforts has been presented through CMFRI in the conference. Shri.Vasudeo has been given the award by Dr.Tamilmani, Scientist Incharge, Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute on August 4, 2018.




Shri.Vasudeoji receiving the award certificate from Dr.Tamilmani, Scientist Incharge, CMFRI

Dr.Raju Saravanan, another Scientist was also there. Shri.Vasudeo, Secretary, Green Rameswaram also got special individual appreciation for his efforts to preserve Marine Eco System. Green Rameswaram explored the possibilities of tying up with Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) at Mandapam and they have advised their readiness to conduct training for the fishermen folks from Pamban to Dhanushkodi on Ornamental fishing. In fact, CMFRI is ready to do the market tie up for ornamental fishing for the trained fishermen.



Annual report 2018 – 19

	<h1>10. Social Capital</h1> <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>Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam</p>
---	---

10.0 Introduction

Building social capital to carry out the activities of different verticals for building Resilient Rameswaram is our cherished aspiration. This process of building social capital fulfils the aims and interest of all benefitting mutually. Moreover, it builds the cooperation, confidence and competency of all the stakeholders through collective activities. Evidences show in all the sectors that when people are related in networks and groups to implement conservation and development activities then the activity becomes sustainable. Under Green Rameswaram, under each vertical, the scope of building social capital is explored through multiple activities to build stakes and sustainability.

Vertical	Engagement
Water Management	Teertha pooja
Waste Management	Awareness rallies, Competitions, Mass cleaning events
Renewable Energy	Awareness creation
Livelihoods	Self Help Group formation
Landscaping and Beautification	Planting Trees, Establishing Kitchen Garden and Herbal Garden
Green Health	Siddha camps
Eco Tourism	Tourist awareness creation
Archaeology and History	Heritage Walks/Teertha Yatra
Marine Bio Diversity	Training programmes on ornamental Fishing
Policy Advocacy	Island Development Committee Meeting at District Level and State Level

Building citizen engagement is seen as a potential tool for the sustainability of the verticals promoted under Green Rameswaram. Social engineering is essential for building ownership and management of Green Rameswaram. There is a lack of commitment, engagement of the citizens and stakeholders in this regard. Social Capital is a special purpose vehicle to carry out the project goals. It is the key to the Project Management of Green Rameswaram.

Building social capital through camps and campaigns for the sustainability of the initiatives launched so far has resulted in popularizing the perspective among different communities. We hope both the locals and the tourists will take the cause further for posterity.



Awareness Hoardings held by Students during the HumanArch Event



Students visiting the SWM awareness stalls



View of the crowd during the Governor's Visit



Green Rameswaram Volunteers explained about the plant growing



Picture taken during the Focus Group Discussion




Picture taken during the Social Mapping Exercise in Mankaadu village

The following table indicates the public and pilgrim engagement done this year

Particulars	Type of mobilization	Number
120 Pasumai SHGs	Members	1620
HumanArch Event	Volunteers/Public	10500
Governor Teertha Pooja	Volunteers/Public	650
Governor visit to Mohabeer Dharmasala	Volunteers/Public	150
Governor Public function - Dedication of Teerthams to the nation	Volunteers/Public	1500
Teertha poojas @ Agni Teertham	Volunteers/Public	2000
Teertha poojas @ Kapi Teertham	Volunteers	350
Teertha Poojas @ other Teerthams	Volunteers	1000
Mass cleaning of Teerthams	Volunteers	4500
Awareness Campaigns and Rallies	Volunteers	1200
Greening the Rameswaram Island	Saplings	2650
Tree Guards	Donors	50
Seminars and workshops	Participants	650
Siddha Medical Camps	Patients	1376
Through pamphlet, notice and other media	Pilgrims/Citizens of Rameswaram	10000
Public announcements in Streets and Agni Teertham	Pilgrims	250000
Social Media Facebook, WhatsApp, Twitter	Friends/well-wishers/pilgrims	4673
Total		292869



Annual report 2018 – 19

	<h1>11. Policy Advocacy</h1> <p>Advocacy to change “What it is” into “What should be”</p>
---	--

Policy advocacy efforts of Green Rameswaram has resulted in issuing Government order to support Green Rameswaram Project by forming Island Development Committee with District Collector as Chairman at the District Level and Commissioner of Municipal Administration as chairman for State Level. This year in following dates Island Development Committee Meeting was conducted at District Level

Date of the Meeting	Venue
12 May 2018	District Collectorate, Ramanathapuram
14 September 2018	District Collectorate, Ramanathapuram
12 November 2018	District Collectorate, Ramanathapuram

First State Level Island Development Committee Meeting was conducted on March 5, 2019 with Smt. Girija Vaidyanathan, IAS., Chief Secretary chairing the meeting. We supported the District Administration in preparing the Agenda notes. Whatever is left unresolved at the District Level has been taken up in the State level. Following was the summary of the agenda notes shared at the state level

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> MPLAD – E-Vehicles Project: MPLAD fund received from Rajya Sabha MP Shri. Parasaran, to the tune of 1 crore facilitating the purchase of 100 E-Vehicles (80 nos. E-cycles; 6 nos. E-Bus; 4 nos. E-Garbage vehicle; 10 nos. E-Autos). Funds received processed only for E-Cycles and for which Funds received were kept unused for exploring innovative means to implement the project as technical clearance from Transport department involved lot of clarity. Establishing Plastic control check post: This NEW NH from Mukundarayar chatram to the tip of Indian Border Arichalmunai launched a hustle of pollution problems. Already several tourist destinations were doing this. Plastic control check post. Establishing one such will set a good precedent for the nature lovers Mangalavanam: A sacred grove with tourist destination potential on the NH road built by the District Administration and HR&CE is being kept idle for want of resources. Sustainability of the Mangalavanam has to be ensured with income generating viable options. Lead role has to be taken up by some department to ensure the same
--

4. **Dhanushkodi Monuments Preservation:** Popularly known as Ghost town is visited by lakhs of tourists every year to see the reminiscences of the 1964 sea invasion. The remains of the ecologically important place are kept open for the locals to tamper and exploit the business potential of the place. It requires proper attention, scientific preservation, tourism enhancement.
5. **Water Sports:** Having shallow waters is a blessing in disguise to enhance the tourist inflow and improve economics. It is still an unexplored horizon as far as Rameswaram is concerned. Goa is one state which capitalizes and throngs with leaps of tourist potential and a preferred destination for sports lovers. Rameswaram has the same potential adopting with adequate safety measures will attract more tourism options.
6. **Mobile App for Rameswaram:** Mobile App exclusively for Rameswaram is still a distant dream. We have several precedences for Madurai, Tanjore, Mysore, Bangalore for creating an app. Tourists are not enjoying the full potential places of Rameswaram. This is a good opportunity for improving the places with Tourist foot prints.
7. **Teertham Distribution in Water Bottle:** Tamilnadu Government has banned the one-time usage of plastics in all the forms irrespective of thickness. Having set of good precedence in entire India, but still even in popular temples like Sri Ramanathasamy temple Teerthams are sold in Plastic. While much more crowded places like Varanasi has shifted to brass and copper vessel, it is still a dream here in Rameswaram.
8. **Boat Services from Rameswaram to Dhanushkodi:** With a small geographic area of 67Km Rameswaram suffers due to the visit of number of tourists. Traffic control on crowded days parking is a menace in Rameswaram. Alternate travelling options like Boat services from Rameswaram to Dhanushkodi, Mandapam to Rameswaram can be explored. It's a viable business option and tourists will throng to have a ride. We have success stories in Kanyakumari to Vivekananda Rock memorial on the sea. This precedence may be replicated by the Government
9. **Secretarial Role to Green Rameswaram in Island Development committee:** When JNNURM is launched City Volunteers Technical Corps (CVTC) was formed in major cities, NGOs having good number of years of experience has been roped in to anchor the process. Similar role can be given to Green Rameswaram Trust to anchor the Island Development.
10. **Mass cleaning Campaigns:** A feel of Cleanliness which makes pilgrims behave cleanly is a missing element in Rameswaram. There were lot of Government building walls left unpainted. Clean and Green Rameswaram as a message can be reached out to all the public through colourful artistic messages through these walls. LED information boards which conveys strong message on Swachh Bharat and Swachh Rameswaram to be displayed across important destinations. Helpdesks in main temple four corners, Agni Teertham and Railway station to assist the pilgrims. Pamphlets displaying the different themes of Green Rameswaram (Water Management, Waste Management, Renewable Energy, Landscaping and Beautification, Livelihoods, Green Health, Eco Tourism, Archeology and History and Marine Bio-Diversity)

State Island Development Meeting concluded with the assurance to meet quarterly once and the amendment of GO for broad basing the participants with Chief Secretary as a Chairman and Secretary MAWS as Member Secretary. This will be facilitated by Secretary MAWS in consultation with the Chief Secretary.

Thus this forum of State Island Development Committee has been utilized for impacting the policy advocacy of Green Rameswaram activities. Apart from this Green Rameswaram team has floated different Concept notes to explore the partnership with Government Departments and CSR agencies

Vertical	Concept Note
Eco Tourism	Ferry Boat Services from Rameswaram to Dhanushkodi
Archeology &History	Heritage Beautification of Rameswaram Railway Station
Green Health	Anaemia Reduction among Adolescent Girls and Pregnant Mothers
Eco-Tourism	Promoting Heritage Tourism of Rameswaram through Communication Media
Landscaping and Beautification	Greening of Rameswaram Island
Renewable Energy	Promoting Green Transport
Social Capital	Community Radio
Landscaping and Beautification	Signage from Pamban to Dhanushkodi



Contributions of Partners

Logo	Organization	Activities /Support
 <p>Vivekananda Kendra - NARDEP</p>	Vivekananda Kendra – NARDEP, Kanyakumari	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revival and Renovation of Water Bodies • HumanArch and Governor visit were fully supported and Participated by them • Conducted and took part in all our mass awareness programmes • Strategical and policy advocacy support
 <p>HAND IN HAND INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICES</p>	Hand in Hand Inclusive Development and Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste Management is fully managed by HIH. • HumanArch and Governor visit were fully supported and Participated by them • Conducted and took part in all our mass awareness programmes • Strategical and policy advocacy support
 <p>GANDHIGRAM TRUST TAMIL NADU</p>	Gandhigram Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Took part in HumanArch and Governor Event • logistical support during these events
 <p>ABDULKALAM INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION</p>	Kalam Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1500 Saplings given by the Kalam Foundation during the year • Logistical support during the Public events
 <p>Green Pilgrimage Network</p>	Green Pilgrimage Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nandavanam Revival was done with the support of Green Pilgrimage Network • Strategical and policy advocacy support
	CPR Environmental Education Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting Mangala-vanam Initiative • They took part in our Environmental Day Celebration at Rameswaram • Took part in the Governor Programme

Green Rameswaram Project - Associates



Our Technology Partners

