"Revival and Renovation of Traditional Water Bodies"

By

Green Rameswaram Trust

1. Teertha Poojas:

During this month, Teertha Poojas were performed at 13 traditional water bodies with the participation of 254 volunteers. Members of Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Teertha Mitras, and yoga students actively volunteered in conducting the poojas. The detailed list is given below.



Teertha Pooja at Kumutha Teertham

Sl.No.	***Name of the Teertha***	***Date***	***Participants***	***Remarks***
1	Jambavan	8th	5	Teertha Mitras
2	Angada	8th	5	Pasumai Kutumbam
3	Gyanavapi	10th	12	Pasumai Kulu, Teertha Mitras
4	Dharmar	13th	4	Pasumai Kulu
5	Vaali	13th	4	Pasumai Kutumbam
6	Veera	13th	9	Teertha Mitras, Anadalaya Pasumai Kulu
7	Panacha	15th	7	Pasumai Kulu, Pasumai Kutumbam
8	Kumutha	15th	21	Pasumai Kutumbam, Anadalaya.
9	Neelakantha	23rd	145+	Teertha Mitras, Anadalaya, Pasumai Kulu, Yoga team, Pasumai Kutumbam and local volunteers.
10	Simha	29th	15	Pasumai Kulu.
11	Amutha	30th	8	Pasumai Kulu, Teertha Mitras.
12	Hanuman	31st	8	Yoga Team (Men)
13	Ramar	31st	6	Teertha Mitras
	Total		**254**	



Teertha pooja at Gnanavapi Teertham

2. Neelakantha Teertham - Land Retrieval Struggle and cleaning of the area:

- ***The Encroachment Issue:*** Situated on the outskirts of Vadakadu village, the open spaces surrounding Neelakanta Teertham (being a coastal area) were gradually converted into residential plots, pulling the teertham's lands into encroachment. This severely threatened the security of the teertham and restricted access for grazing cattle and local wildlife.
- **Raising the Issue in Teertha Mitra Meetings (August 8th , 2026):**To tackle this challenge, Vadakadu Village President Muniyandi and Secretary Karuppaiya consistently brought up and discussed the *teertham* issue during our monthly 'Teertha Mitra' meetings.
- ***VAO Petition and Official Surveyor (September 18th 2026):*** Acting on the leaders' initiative, we all jointly visited the Village Administrative Officer (VAO) and submitted a formal petition. Welcoming our request, the VAO office extended full cooperation and immediately dispatched a land surveyor.
- ***Successful Land Retrieval* (October 13th , 2026)*:*** In the presence of our Green Rameswaram staff, the land surveyor, and local villagers, the teertham land was thoroughly surveyed. Rear and left-side encroachments were precisely identified and cleared. Immediately, boundary stones were planted, successfully retrieving the encroached teertham land and restoring it safely to the Vadakadu villagers. This has brought immense relief to the locals and deeply strengthened their trust in Green Rameswaram Project.



Land surveyor

Comprehensive Documentation Report:

Geographical Location & Significance:

- The teertham is located on the outskirts of Vadakadu village, approximately 5.2 km northwest of the west tower of the Ramanathaswamy Temple.
- Being close to forest areas, it features a specially designed sloping ramp and protective walls so that grazing horses, buffaloes, goats, and other animals can easily descend to drink water.



Before survey

Mythological History & Spiritual Connection:

- ❖ The teertham is revered because Lord Shiva consumed the toxic Alaahala poison that emerged from the ocean of milk to save the universe, earning the name ***'Neelakantan',*** while sages and devas prayed for universal well-being.
- ❖ Regarded as one of the 108 sacred teerthas of Rameswaram, bathing in or worshipping at this teertham is believed to cure illnesses and remove toxic afflictions.

Weather Challenges & Community Effort:

- ❖ Even though the land was successfully surveyed and retrieved, continuous heavy rains in the days leading up to the puja posed a major challenge. However, the village leaders and local residents took the lead, speaking with neighbors and clearing out encroached sections collaboratively.
- ❖ **On October 22nd 2026** Recognizing that the teertham surroundings were deeply depressed, the villagers themselves hired a JCB machine at their own expense to completely level and prepare the site for the puja.



Preparing the site for the puja after survey

Maha Teertha Pooja:

The Neelakantha Teertham Pooja was held on 23rd October, Friday at 04:00 pm**,** starting with preparations at 04:30 pm. Guests were welcomed traditionally by volunteers.

- Pooja performed by Shri.Lakshmi Krisihna assisted by Shri Nagarajan.
- Rituals included Ganapathi Pooja, Kalasha Pooja, Teertha Poojas, Maha Aarathi, recitation of 108 Teertha Names, 108 lighting of lamps, final Karpura Aarathi, and offering pori to fishes.
- According to the Puranas, the teertham is revered because Lord Shiva consumed the

toxic Alaahala poison that emerged from the ocean of milk to save the universe, earning the name ***'Neelakantan',*** while sages and devas prayed for universal well-being. Regarded as one of the 108 sacred teerthas of Rameswaram, bathing in or worshipping at this teertham is believed to cure illnesses and remove toxic afflictions.

- Shri Ramakrishnan, Director of VK NARDEP, Kanyakumari, spoke on the significance of Teertha Pooja.
- 145 participants attended, including Teertha Mitras, Yoga students, SHGs, villagers, and media representatives.
- Event concluded with prasadam distribution (Aval, Pori, Pongal, and Puliyotharai).



Teertha Pooja at Neelakantha Teertham



Maha Arathi

- **Honouring Contributors**: Village President Muniyandi and Secretary Karuppaiya who stood as strong pillars of support from day one for retrieving the encroached the land were honoured with traditional ponnadai (shawls) on behalf of Teertha Mitras.





Village President Muniyandi, Secretary Karuppaiya



Prasatham Distribution

Media Coverage:

ராமேசுவரத்தில் உள்ள

நீலகண்ட தீர்த்தத்தில் மகாதீர்த்த பூஜை

■ ராமேசுவரம்

ராமேசுவரம் அருகே வடகாடு கிராமத்தில் உள்ள நீலகண்ட தீர்த்தத்தில் மகா தீர்த்த பூஜை நடைபெற்றது.

ராமேசுவரம் அருகே வடகாடு கிராமத்தில் உள்ள நீலகண்ட தீர்த்தத்தில் விவேகானந்தா கேந்திரம் மற்றும் சமுதாய உதவியுடன் தூய்மைப் பணி நடைபெற்றது. தொடர்ந்து இத்தீர்த்தத்தில் பசுமை ராமேசுவரம் திட்டம் மற்றும் விவேகானந்தா கேந்திரம் சார்பில் உலக நன்மை வேண்டி மகா தீர்த்த பூஜை நடைபெற்றது. இதையடுத்து சிவாச்சாரியார்கள் கலச பூஜை நடத்தி தீர்த்த குளத்துக்கு அபிஷேகம் செய்தனர்.

பெண்கள் ஏராளமானோர் தீர்த்தத்தை சுற்றி அகல்விளக்கு ஏற்றி வழிபட்டனர். மேலும் சிறப்பு பூஜைக்கு பின் மஹா தீபாதாரணை நடைபெற்றது.

பக்தர்கள் மலர் தூவி தீர்த்தத்தை போற்றி வணங்கினர். இதில் நூற்றுக்கணக்கான பெண்கள் கலந்துகொண்டு சிறப்பு வழிபாடு செய்தனர்.



நீலகண்ட தீர்த்தத்தில் நடைபெற்ற மகாதீர்த்த பூஜையில் கலந்து கொண்ட பக்தர்கள்



உலகநலன்வேண்டி, பசுமை ராமேஸ்வரம், விவேகானந்தாகேந்திரம் மற்றும் வடகாடு கிராம மக்கள் இணைந்து, வடகாடு கிராமத்தில் உள்ள நீலகண்ட தீர்த்தத்தில் மகா தீர்த்த பூஜை நடைபெற்றது.