

Revival and Renovation of

# Chidambara Teertham

Rameswaram



Supported by



Executed by

Vivekananda Kendra -nardep  
Kanyakumari -629 702



# Chidambara Teertham

Type: Tank

Location: Pamban

Coordinates: Lat 9.272068, Long 79.225782

Measurements: 40'x30'x6' Water holding capacity: 231065 Litres

Water availability: During Summer the water may not be there

Literary mention: Sri Rameswaramennum Sethu Vasana Kaviyamand SthalaVaralaru

Affiliated to: Thangatchimadam Panchayat

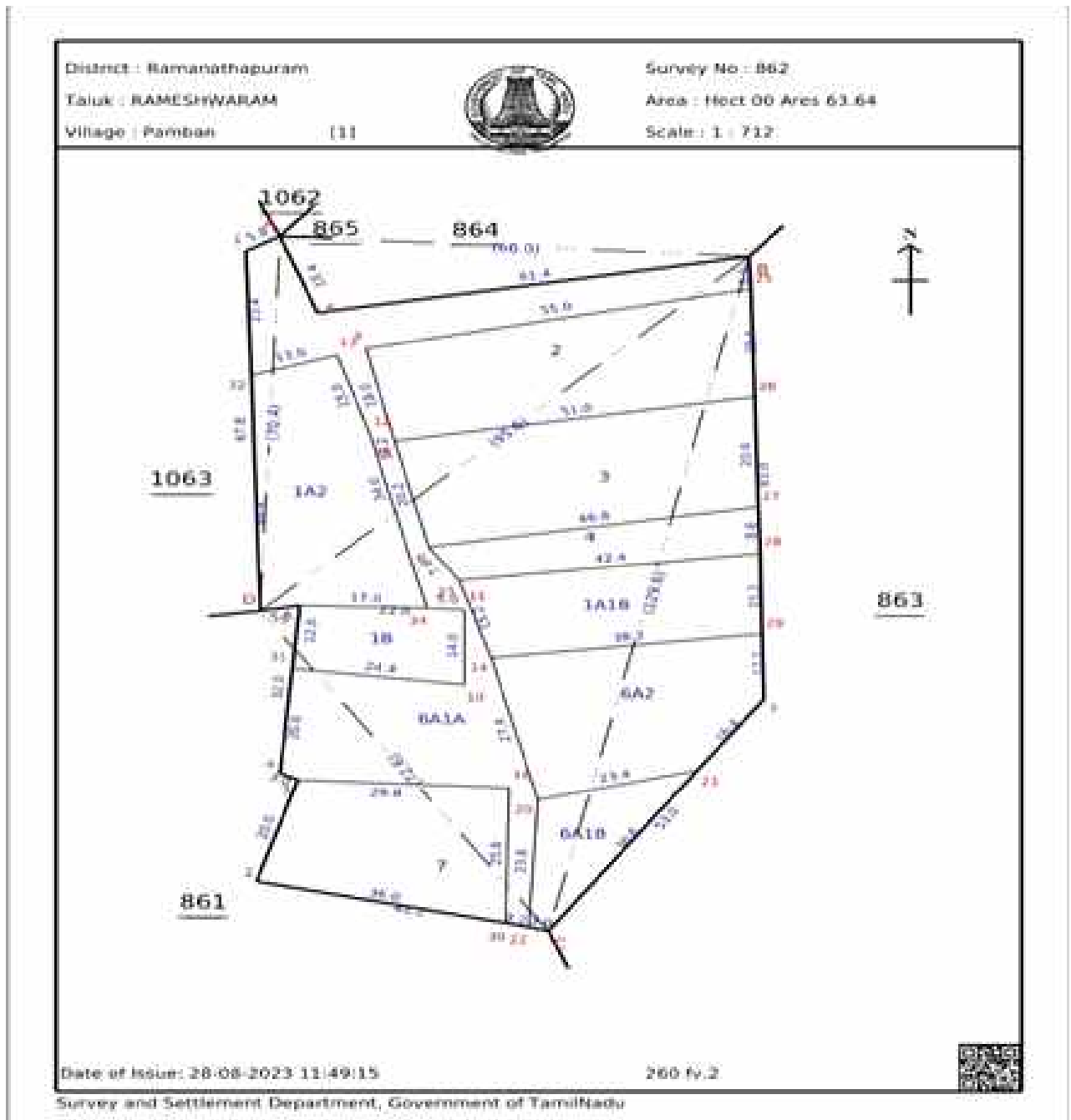
Deity: Sri Nataraja / Lord Shiva

Survey no: 862/3

Ritual cleansing: Cures Sins and Diseases

Year of renovation: 2024-25

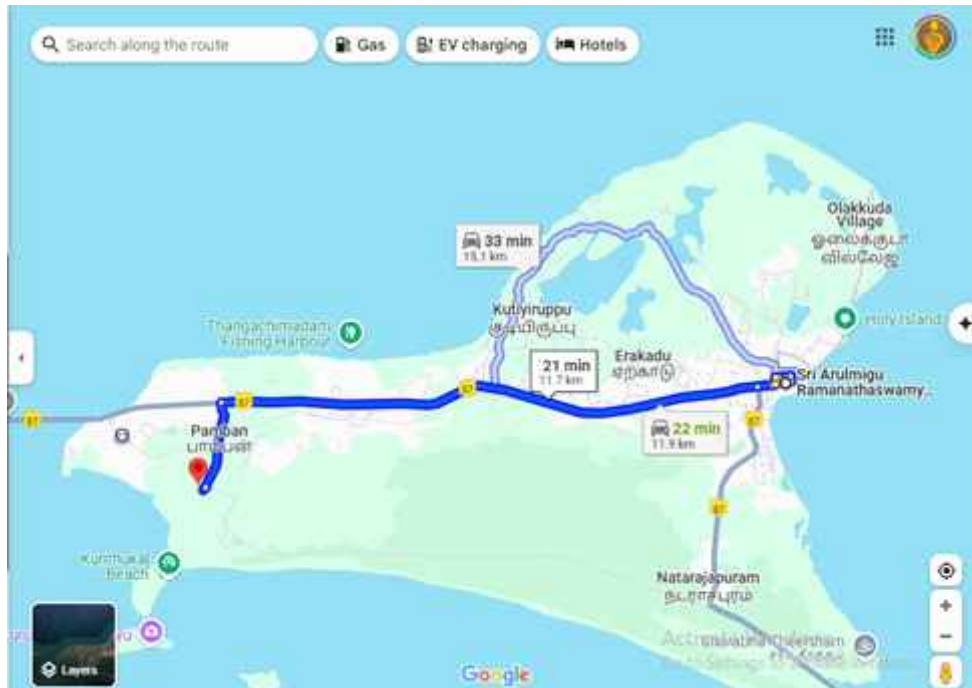
Renovation work sponsored by: Karur Vysya Bank Ltd



# Chidambara Teertham

## Chidambara Teertham - Location :

Chidambara Teertham is a tank located inside Graveyard of Tharavai Thoppu area of Pamban



## Etymology

The name Chidambara (Chidambaram) originates from Sanskrit and Tamil roots:

1. Chit - Meaning consciousness or wisdom (referring to divine cosmic consciousness).
2. Ambaram - Meaning space or sky (symbolizing the boundless, infinite nature of divinity).

Literal Meaning:

"Chidambaram" means "the sky of consciousness" or "the space of divine wisdom", representing the cosmic void (Chidambara Rahasya) where Lord Shiva performs the Ananda Tandava (dance of bliss).

## Mythology and religious significance

### 1. Lord Rama's Purification Ritual

According to Ramayana legends, after Lord Rama's victory over the demon king Ravana in Lanka, he felt the need to perform penance for the sins of killing a Brahmin as well as a learned scholar. To absolve himself of this sin, Lord Rama bathed at various teerthams in Rameswaram, including Chidambara Teertham. The waters of this teertham are believed to carry Lord Shiva's blessings, helping Rama complete his purification.

### 2. Creation of the Teertham by Sage Agastya

Another popular legend says that Sage Agastya, a revered pandit known for his deep devotion to Lord Shiva, created Chidambara Teertham by invoking the blessings of Lord Shiva. The sage was performing severe penance when Lord Shiva appeared and



# Chidambara Teertham

granted him a boon. Agastya requested a holy water body that would cleanse the sins of those who bathe in it. Thus, Chidambara Teertham was formed as a divine gift to humanity.

## 3. Connection to the Pandavas

It is also said that the Pandavas, during their exile, visited Rameswaram and performed *tarpanam* (ancestor rituals) at Chidambara Teertham. By offering prayers and bathing here, they sought to honour their forefathers and seek blessings for victory in their eventual battle against the Kauravas in the *Mahabharata*.

## 4. Shiva's Boon to the Devotees

Another ancient story mentions that Lord Shiva once appeared at Chidambara Teertham in a divine form to bless his devotees. It is believed that anyone who bathes in the sacred waters with complete devotion will be freed from the cycle of birth and death and will be granted a place in Lord Shiva's heavenly abode, Kailasa.

## 5. The Teertham's Connection to Parvati

A lesser-known mythological tale says that Goddess Parvati meditated at this spot to invoke Lord Shiva's presence. Her devotion created a divine energy at the Teertham, which now blesses devotees with prosperity and spiritual enlightenment. Those who bathe here often pray for marital harmony and family well-being.

## Renovation process of Chidambaram Teertham

- ★ Awareness programmes for developing Social Capital
- ★ Cleaning of entire area
- ★ Cleaning of Thorny trees
- ★ De -Watering and De-silting
- ★ Construction of Inner pond ( earth work excavation, plain cement concrete, foundation , retaining wall and steps etc.,)
- ★ Construction of Outer Tank ( earth work excavation, plain cement concrete, foundation , retaining wall and steps etc.,)
- ★ Colouring - Painting
- ★ Cleaning of the entire crematorium yard.
- ★ Repairing and maintenance of Crematorium building.
- ★ Repairing and maintenance of post Cremation Ritual shed.
- ★ Well construction
- ★ Entry gate construction
- ★ Name board installation



## Inaugural Pooja -07 August 2024



## Local Stakeholders





# Cleaning of thorny Trees





## Cleaning of thorny Trees with JCB



## Cleaning the area around cremation shed





## Pumping out the stagnated water





## De-Silting the traditional water body



## Use of JCB to speed up the work





## Deepening the water body





## Deepening the water body



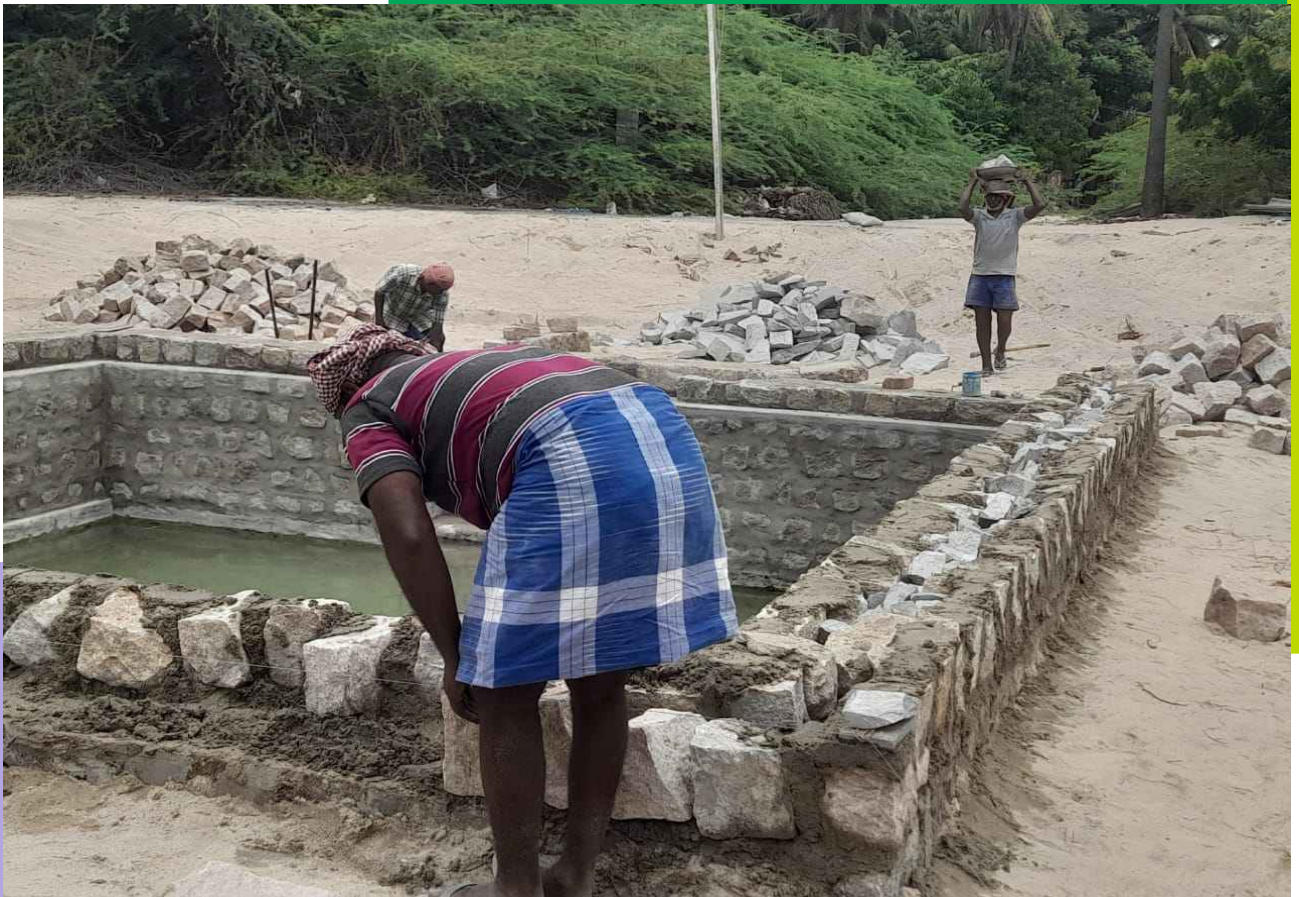


## Inner Pond construction- 20' X 20'





## Inner Pond Retaining wall construction- 20' X 20'





## Inner Pond Retaining wall construction- 20' X 20'





## Inner Pond Retaining wall construction- 20' X 20'





## Pointing work - Inner tank





## Filling and packing of Soil for further work





## Filling and packing of Soil for further work





## Steps and platform construction





## Steps and platform Finishing work





## Flushing out of silt from Inner pond





## Final View of Inner pond





## Outer pond Foundation work - 60' X 60'





# Construction of Outer pond Retaining wall





# Construction of Outer pond Retaining wall





# Construction of Outer pond Retaining wall





## Filling of soil between Inner and outer pond





## Again Filling and packing the soil surrounding the outer wall





## Again Filling and packing the soil surrounding the outer wall





# Increasing the height of the Retaining wall





# Increasing the height of the Retaining wall





## Finishing work of outer pond Retaining wall





## Entrance Arch work



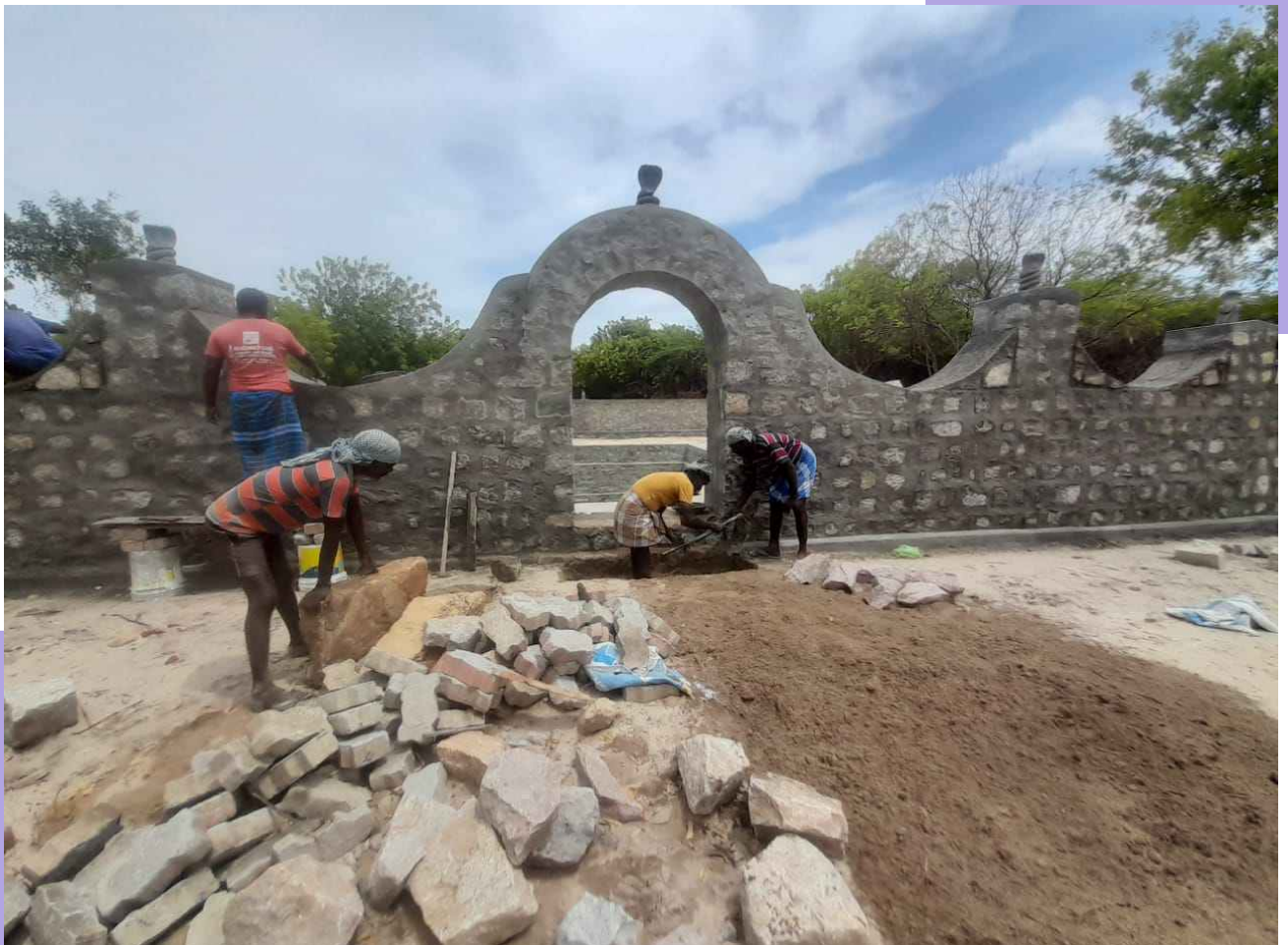


## Giving Easthetic look to outer pond Retaining wall





## Entrance Steps construction





## Front side view of the tank





## Primer and white washing





## Primer and terracotta colouring





## Primer and terracotta colouring





## Primer and terracotta colouring





## Platform construction for entrance





## Awareness Programmes

S.No	Places	Date	No of Participants
1	Pamban Near Simma Teertham	24.09.2024	20
2	Pamban Murugan Temple	20-10-2024	40
3	Vivekananda Nagar Pamban	27-12-2024	40
4	Mankaadu	06-01-2025	30
5	SK patty	08-01-2025	40
6	Erakadu people held at Mangammachatram	25-01-2025	55
7	Therkkuvadi held at Mangammachatram	25-01-2025	25
8	Parvatham and SKPATTI held at Mangammachatram	25-01-2025	35
9	Sambai held at Mangammachatram	25-01-2025	45
	Total		330





# Awareness Programmes





## Repairing of Cremation shed





# Finishing and colouring of Cremation Building





## Repairing of post Rituals yard





## Repairing of post Rituals yard





## Repairing and Finishing work of Ring Well





## Name board installation





## Entrance Pillar and Gate work





## Teertha Pooja

Our work of involving community in doing Teertha poojas is going on smoothly. Locals are trying to take the ownership of the programme with the help of SHG members. In this month, we could perform Teertha poojas at 26 Traditional water bodies with 133 volunteers. The details are given below.



*Teertha Pooja at Bhairava Teertham*

<i>Sl.No.</i>	<i>Name of the Teertha</i>	<i>March 25</i>	<i>Participants</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
1	Kapi, Bhairava	5 <sup>th</sup>	12	SHG
2	Simha, SK Kulam and Chidambara Oorani	5 <sup>th</sup>	10	SHG
3	Hara, Panacha and Virekha	6 <sup>th</sup>	25	SHG
4	Ramar	8 <sup>th</sup>	11	SHG
5	Krishna, veera	9 <sup>th</sup>	7	SHG
6	Parameshwara	11 <sup>th</sup>	6	SHG
7	Saraba, Jada, Sarvaroganivarani, Jadayu	12 <sup>th</sup>	5	SHG
8	Ariyanatchi, Kumutha	15 <sup>th</sup>	08	SHG
9	Gnanavapi	17 <sup>th</sup>	10	SHG
10	Dharmar	19 <sup>th</sup>	11	SHG
11	Runavimochana, Mangala and Amirthavabi	19 <sup>th</sup>	10	SHG
12	Villundi	27 <sup>th</sup>	13	SHG
13	Amutha Deva	28 <sup>th</sup>	05	SHG
	<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>133</b>	

