

Cleaning up of a Pushkarani in Srirangapattana

A temple built in 2005 at his place of birth in Hale kiranguru near Srirangapattana in Karnataka, to honour Sri Thirumalai Anandalvar who built and founded Tirupati Tirumala temple about 1000 years back, and who was a contemporary of Ramanujacharya, has a squarish pushkarini about 1,000 years old, dug up and restored in recent years (2005-06) and which has water all round the year, even during the dry months of April-June. Like all village and temple tanks and ponds, this pushkarini too had accumulated algal growth over the years which covered it with a thick growth.

The magic of Swami Valmiki Sreenivasa Ayyangarya worked and he developed an ayurvedic preparation named Guruvani which once applied in this pushkarini cleared the algal growth and arrested its spread, in just a day. The pushkarini is about 65 feet deep and has a huge volume of water even during the dry summer months, estimated at around 500,000 litres.

The water is now crystal clear and sweet to taste and drink. The water in the pushkarini is clear in the pond down to several feet. The algal sludge has settled down to the bottom and it will be cleaned just like in other pond cleaning. However even before such removal the water remains crystal clear if taken up in a white paper cup. This water is comparable to bottled mineral water and sold at high prices. It has curative and health giving properties. The pushkarini attracts a regular stream of visitors both human and avian. Kingfishers and white storks visit to fish, which thrive here. Having slept at the temple for several nights, absence of mosquitoes is noticeable.

Such technologies can be applied to all water bodies in India and globally. Village ponds and lakes usually covered up with thick algal growth can be restored to a healthy condition. Hydro electric projects with water storage facilities can keep the water body free of algal growth, which contribute to methane emissions with this technology. A priceless invention indeed!

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Srirangappattana