

Environment - Ponds - Encroachments - Our ancestors were not fools - They knew that in certain years there may be droughts or water shortages for some other reason, and water was also required for cattle to drink and bathe in etc. - Hence they built a pond attached to every village, a tank attached to every temple, etc. These were their traditional rain water harvesting methods, which served them for thousands of years - Over the last few decades, however, most of these ponds in our country have been filled with earth and built upon by greedy people, thus destroying their original character - This has contributed to the water shortages in the country - Also, many ponds are auctioned off at throw away prices to businessmen for fisheries in collusion with authorities/Gram Panchayat officials, and even this money collected from these so called auctions are not used for the common benefit of the villagers but misappropriated by certain individuals - The time has come when these malpractices must stop.

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