



## Reviving Ancient Water Bodies in Coastal Karnataka Towns

Recently, the two coastal towns **Moodbidri** and **Karkala** in **Karnataka**, are reviving their ancient water bodies that date back to thousands of years ago.

- These water bodies are part of the **natural heritage** and cultural identity of the towns, which are also known for their **Jain temples** and **monasteries**.
- The citizens have taken up the initiative to **restore** these water bodies by petitioning the **authorities, raising funds, and engaging in community work**.
- **Moodbidri** town is known as '**Jain Kashi**' (Benares of the Jains). It is home to **Jain temples (Basadis and Nishidis)** as well as monasteries.
  - **Moodbidri** draws **Jain pilgrims** from across the world and has also grown into an educational hub.
- The revival of these water bodies has multiple benefits such as **improving groundwater recharge, enhancing biodiversity, providing drinking water, and preserving cultural heritage**.

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