



Revival and Renovation of Water Bodies Story of Kapi Teertham



By

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1. Mythology / Mahimai

In the war between Rama and Ravana, under the leadership of 72 commanders, Vanarasena destroyed and defeated the Ravana sena. Because of this bloodshed these vanaras, faced the consequences of Jeeva – Hathya – Dosha. To get rid off this dosha, Nalan under the advice of Rama created a Puskarani which he named as Kapi Teertham. All 72 Kapis took bath in this theertham and got blessed by Sage Agasthya. Further Rama said that one will get Punya by taking bath in Kapi Teertham which will be equivalent to the Punya when one takes bath in Yamuna, Godavari and Cauvery rivers and so people used to take bath in Kapi Teertham by chanting Ramanama.

Moral: Those who ever takes bath here in this theertham, the quality of person improves in multiple folds.



2. Process of identifying Theertham

In case of Kapi Teertham, it has not disappeared totally. Only it was abandoned for more than 40 years by dumping garbage etc. and thus it was not in use. However, everybody knows about its existence as well as name.

i) Synchronizing the mythology with logic and science

We were interested in science behind the story. From the story, the following values are depicted

- ❖ To get rid-off Jeeva – Hathya – Dosha
- ❖ Quality of life improves in multiple fold

In modern times everybody wants to improve their quality of life through various ways in different aspects. There are laws in modern times to punish the guilty, however we can take Jeeva- Hathya-Dosha in a different sense like unconscious trouble given by us to somebody and thus getting rid of the sin by taking a dip in this Teertham.

ii) 1951 Survey maps observations

1951 survey maps are used to identify the survey number of Theerthams. These maps are available in the statistics department/ revenue department. With the help of number, Field Map (FM) is obtained from the revenue department and permission sought from HR & CE for renovation and revival of Teertham.

iii) Interaction with the village community of the concerned Pamban village



iv) Field survey number of the specific area:

SR.No. 1030 and the ward number is 1 of Pamban Panchayat

v) Cleaning of the area, cutting the thorny bushes etc.

The garbage – polythene, Plastic carry bags, paper, broken bottle glasses, Chemicals and cloths were removed. The entire Teertham was full of Juliflora, grass and unwanted weeds. The same was cleared before taking up the actual work.



vi) Removing the water by pumping and then cleaning and de-silting the entire area with JCB



vii) How and why of Renovation?

The beautifully constructed Kapi teertham was always an important place for the devotees who visit Bhairava temple & Bhairava Teertham which are said to be the entry guards for Rameshwaram temple. However, due to several reasons the Teertham was abandoned in the seventies. Peoples started throwing garbage, waste water, drainage water etc. and thus it became a dumping ground rather than a Teertham. In the process, it was also hazardous for the health and so we decided to renovate it because of the public demand.

viii) Teertham Aquifers

Once we identify the aquifer point, we preserved this point by constructing a ring well around the spring point. This is done to protect the water from contamination. This spring was found at 3 ft level inside the Teertham.

ix) Renovation of walls, steps and entry gate etc.

The entire Teertham required maintenance as it was not in use for more than 50 years. The walls were repaired and strengthened at some places, pointing of steps were carried out along with construction of new steps which were not there earlier. A new entry gate with a proper locking system provided.

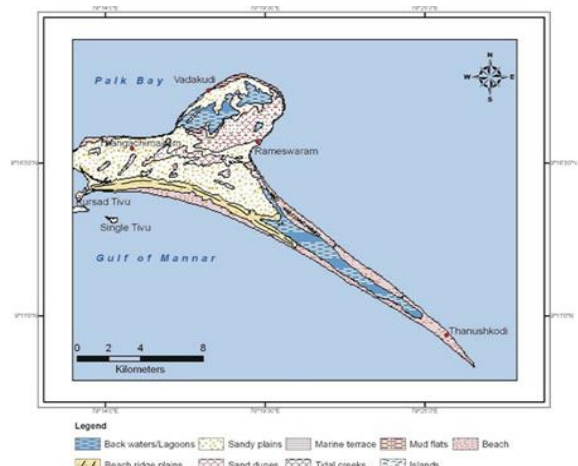
x) Habitation:

Kapi Teertham is in Ward No.1 of Pamban Panchayat which has 15 wards and a total population of about 9500. In and around Kapi Teertham about 1000 people are staying.

Up to 70s people were using Kapi teertham for taking holy dip after taking bath in Bhairava teertham. Also people were taking water from Kapi teertham for poojas in Murgan temple. But after 70s, due to negligence and because of some anti-social elements, Kapi Teertham got polluted with garbage, liquor bottles and also drainage waste from nearby houses.

3. Location and Direction to the Teertham

The Teertham is located around 14 kilometers to the south east of the Ramanathaswamy temple. It is located in Pamban village, which lies on the outskirts of the Rameswaram municipality. Pamban village is the gateway of Rameshwaram Island and is the first village after crossing famous Pamban Sea bridge which joins Rameshwaram with mainland. The Teertham is in front of Bhairava temple in Pamban near to the Bhairava teertham (sea teertham).



4. GPS coordinates

IIT, Chennai Civil Engineering department faculty helped us in giving the Global Position System (GPS) coordinates for the location of the teertham. It will be uploaded on the online Google map shortly.

The GPS coordinates are;

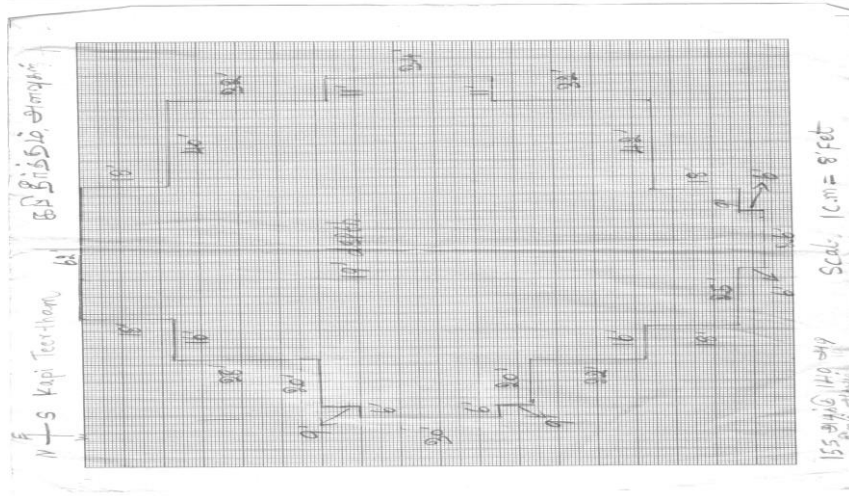
East – 9.28501 North -79.21721

5. Dimensions of the Teertham

The Teertham is oriented in West to East direction.

The dimensions of Teertham are –

- 1) Length - 47.25 meters
- 2) Width - 42.65 meters
- 3) Depth is around 5.79 meters



6. Renovation work and involvement of stakeholders

The work of renovation of the Teertham completed in the month of October. Apart from labourers and masons, local stake holders also contributed by way of Shramdan for a few hours on many days. Panchayat also helped by providing tractors etc. for disposing the garbage.

7. Teerth-Mitra

Mrs. Mariamma (08608845615)

8. Acknowledgement

We greatly acknowledge the contribution of, M/s. BrahMos Aerospace, New Delhi by way of CSR grant in Reviving this Traditional water body. We are thankful to the Dist. Administration, Pamban Panchyat union, HR & CE Dept. and all the local stake holders for their support and encouragement. Also thanks to Shri.Pakshishivarajan for his insightful mythological references.

