



Revival and Renovation of Water Bodies (Discovering Vetala Varadha Teertham)



**By
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Locating Vetala Varadha Teertham

Locating Vetala Varadha Teertham was not easy. Sister Saraswathi and team took a variety of steps to locate the Traditional water body.

Formalizing the presence of Vetala Varadha Teertham

On 20 October 2020 Sister Saraswathi and Teertha Mitras along with Green Rameswaram volunteers visited Mandapam Panchayat union office and requested the support in locating the Vetalai. The party visited Saathakone village and then they reached Vetalai Oorani. The presence of the Oorani in the name of Vetalai motivated the unit to go further. The team collected the copy of Field Map of Vetalai Oorani and returned back.



Vetalai Oorani



Green Rameswaram Team along with VAO and other revenue officials inspecting the site

Authenticating it with the history

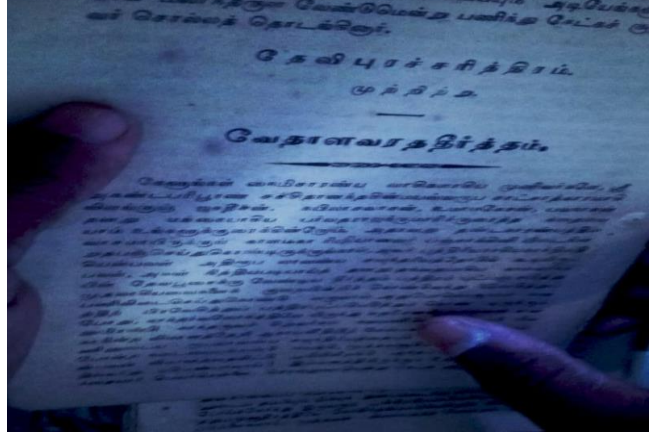
Shri.Pakshi Sivarajan is a renowned purohit and pandit in Indian Literature. He is helping Green Rameswaram team right from the beginning in historical and archaeological research. He visited Vetala Varadha Teertham site on 23rd October 2020. There were evidences from Sethu Mahatmyam as well as a book published in the 1924 - “The Setu and Rameswaram” by Shri.Vanamapillai, Treasurer, Rameswaram.



Shri.Pakshi sivarajan along with other GR Volunteers.

3. *Vetala Varadha Theertha* (near Mantapam), which restored the Gandharva prince from his double curse of human birth and ghoulish life which was the result of his assaulting the beautiful daughter of the sage Galava, while she was gathering flowers for her father's daily worship. His brother cursed into a mortal for abetting his crime was first freed from his curse by the sight of the Guru and then led his brother to this Theertha. The first bath freed him from his ghoulishness and the second bath restored to him his Gandharva form.

The Setu and Rameswaram



Vetala Varadha Teertham Reference Setu Mahatmyam

Interaction with the locals

On October 25, 2020 a Focused Group Discussion took place in the village and then the team went around the Teertham. Everybody sensed the archaeological importance of the site and felt that it will be an important milestone.



Visit to the Saathakone village along with team members

