



“Revival and Renovation of Traditional Water Bodies” Vibhishana Teertham



By
Vivekananda Kendra – Nardep

Type: Open with steps on one side for easy access to the water

Location: on the way to Dhanushkodi – inside the forest

Coordinates: Lat-9.234226, Long-79.36455,

Measurements: L 5.78 m B 3.11m D 3.20m

Water holding capacity: 51000 litres

Water availability: Throughout the year

Literary mention: Skandapurāṇam

Affiliated to: Ramanathaswamy Temple;
HR&CE

Deity: Lord Rama

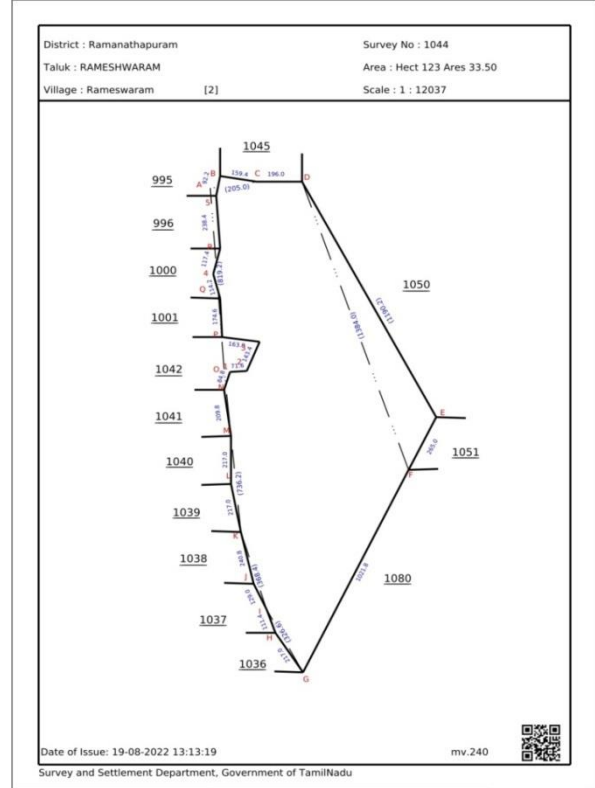
Survey no: 1044/2, Rameswaram Revenue village, Rameswaram Taluk

Ritual cleansing: Cures Diseases and Removes the Sins

Year of renovation: 2022

Working period: 29 September 2022 to 22 October 2022

Renovation work sponsored by: Vivekananda Kendra - NARDEP



Vibhishana Teertham is a water body located in the forest area of Rameswaram Municipality, on the way to Dhanushkodi near Kothandaramar Temple. Other water bodies namely Jatamukuta, Sarvaroganivarana and Jatayu Teerthams are in the vicinity. Tharavai wetlands are approximately 1kms away from VibhisanaTeertham.

VibhisanaTeertham is located 6.4 KM from the west tower of Sri Ramanathasamy temple towards the South West direction.

Etymology

Rāvaṇa, Kumbhakarṇa and Vibhīṣaṇa were born to Viśravas by his wife Mālinī. A daughter named Śūrpaṇakhā also was born to them. Kumbhakarṇa and Vibhīṣaṇa went to do penance under the leadership of their eldest brother Rāvaṇa. They did severe penance and obtained

various boons. The boon given to Vibhīṣaṇa was to live as a righteous life. After that they came back and defeated Kubera, the ruler of Laṅkā and brought Laṅkā under their control. Rāvaṇa became the ruler of Laṅkā. Rāvaṇa married Mandodarī, Kumbhakarṇa married Vajrajvālā the daughter of Mahābali and Vibhīṣaṇa married Saralā, the daughter of Śailūṣa a Gandharva, according to Uttara Rāmāyaṇa. Rāvaṇa conquered the three worlds and was ruling as the emperor of the whole world, when ŚrīRāma and Lakṣmaṇa went to the forest, with Sītā. Rāvaṇa carried Sītā away to Laṅkā. Rāma and Lakṣmaṇa, with the help of the monkey-army entered Laṅkā. At this time Rāvaṇa called together his ministers to consider the details about the battle with ŚrīRāma. Every one present except Vibhīṣaṇa voted for the battle. Vibhīṣaṇa advised Rāvaṇa to return Sītā, and beg Śrī Rāma for pardon. Rāvaṇa got angry and expelled Vibhīṣaṇa from Laṅkā. Vibhīṣaṇa joined the side of ŚrīRāma and informed him of all the military secrets of Rāvaṇa. In the battle which ensued Rāvaṇa was killed and Vibhīṣaṇa was made the king of Laṅkā by ŚrīRāma. It is stated in Kambarāmāyaṇa, Yuddha Kāṇḍa that according to the instruction of ŚrīRāma and at the instance of Indra, Viśvakarmā came to Laṅkā and renovated the city of Laṅkā. (See full article - Story of Vibhīṣaṇa from the Puranic encyclopedia by Vettam Mani)

Mythology and religious significance

As per Skandapurana there is a Tīrtha made by Bibhīṣaṇa (Vibhīṣaṇa). It liberates one from sins. It subdues great miseries. It dispels ailments. It is like fire unto the heaps of great sins. It is the destroyer of the torture of Kuṁbhīpāka and other Narakas. It destroys evil dreams. It is conducive to wealth. It removes poverty. He attains Vaikuṇṭha.

Architecture

The entire construction of this water body is to suit cattle and wild animals. Thus, there are no wall or gate so that the cattle can reach the water source without any difficulty. Only the steps have been constructed on one side for easy access to the devotees.

Process of Renovation

Though this has been located by the Green Rameswaram team in the year 2016 itself, we could renovate it only in November 2022. Green Rameswaram team was helped by the temple authorities for locating the Teertham. Teertham was tough to reach. Especially the materials transportation was a great challenge. After cleaning the area with JCB, Tractors were used with great difficulty as the pathway was wet and slippery because of the adjacent Tharavai wet land. Construction material was carried on head in the last stretch. Following works were carried out:

1. Removing the thorny bushes
2. Cleaning the entire area
3. Digging the water body and cleaning the debris etc.
4. Giving proper shape to the Traditional Water Body – Teertham
5. Providing steps for entry to the water body to the devotees
6. Installing Nagaraja idols on the entry pillars



Construction materials unloaded on the way as the tractor cannot go further in the jungle as the area is wet land



Water started oozing after digging only one foot



Cleaning of the dirt from the water body



Construction of steps for easy access to the Teertham



Idols of Nagaraja placed after the finishing work



Performance of pooja by the local purihits after completion of the work

