



Revival and Renovation of Traditional Water Bodies” Jatayu Teertham



By
Vivekananda Kendra - Nardep

Type:
Stepped Tank

Location:
On the way to Dhanushkodi – inside the forest

Coordinates:
Lat-9.25655, Long-79.31602

Measurements:
L9.14 m B 9.44m D 3.65m

Water holding capacity:
314927 litres

Water availability:
Throughout the year

Literary mention:
Sethu Purana Vasana Kaviyam

Affiliated to:
Ramanathaswamy Temple; HR&CE

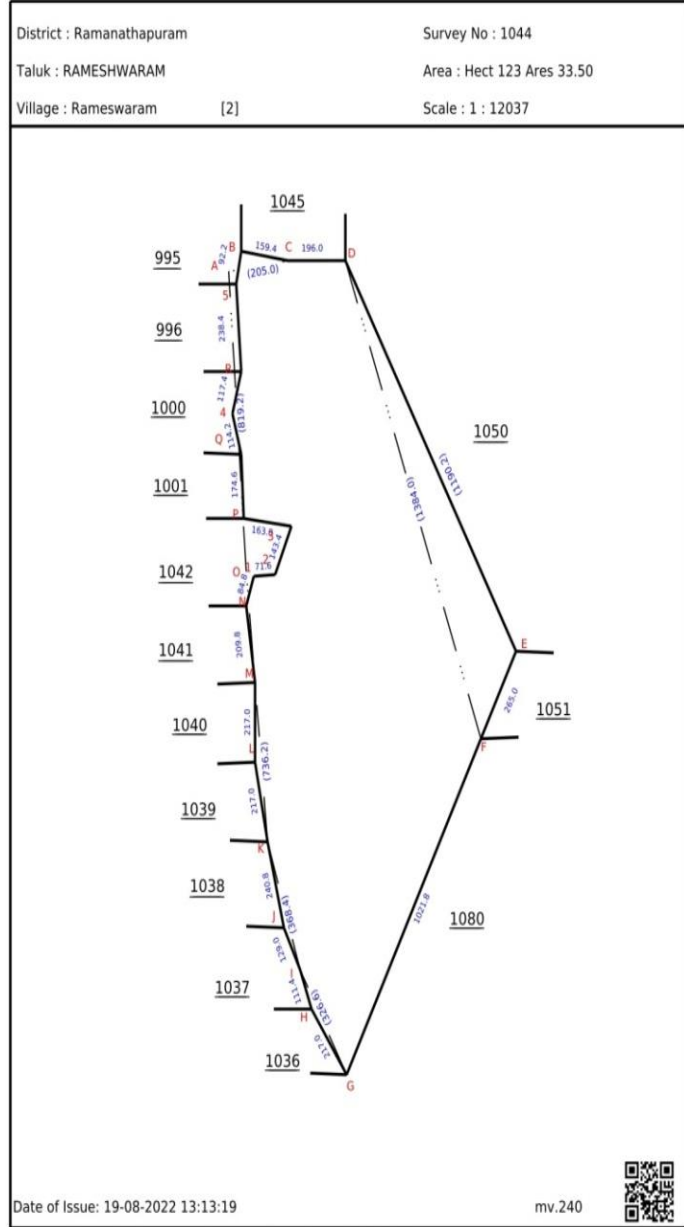
Deity: Lord Rama

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

Ritual cleansing:
Cures Diseases and Removes the Sins

Year of renovation: 2022

Renovation work sponsored by:
Vivekananda Kendra - Nardep



Jatayu Teertham



Jatayu Teertham is a tank located in the forest area of Rameswaram Municipality, on the way to Dhanushkodi. Other water bodies namely Jatamakuta, Sarvaroga nivarana, Vibhishana and Sarabha Teerthams are in the vicinity. Tharavai wetlands are approximately 3kms away from Jatayu Teertham.

Location (Lat-9.25655, Long-79.31602)

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



Mythology and Spiritual Importance

As per Sethu purana vasana Kaviyam there is a Teertham in the name of Jatayu – Bird which communicated the abduction of Sita to Lord Rama. Anybody who has a dip in this Teertham will have the sins cleared and acquired punya and they will have the different forms of wealth.

Architecture

The entire construction of this water body is to suit cattle and wild animals. Thus, there is no gate so that the cattle can reach the water source without any difficulty. Moreover the steps are wide and almost like a ramp, so that the animals will not find any difficulty in reaching the pond. However it is raised by a parapet wall on three sides to prevent sand sliding.

Process of Renovation

Shri.Pakshi Sivarajan, literature scholar from Rameswaram who is also a volunteer of Green Rameswaram from its inception, informed us the existence of Jatayu Teertham. When the renovation team visited the location dilapidated Teertham structures were visible and the area was covered with thorny bushes. Water was stagnated in the area and wild animals use to quench their thirst in the Teertham. Initially renovation team considered the Jata Makuta Teertham, which is 1.5 km away from this spot, as Jatayu Teertham. A careful literature review and consultation with field experts cleared the ambiguity.

Teertham renovation works started with Bhoomi Pooja on August 29, 2022. Shri.Ganesan, Community leader from Ramakrishnapuram and other members participated in the event.



Traditional Bhoomi Pooja at Jatayu Teertham



Neem Tree plantations and hiding ground for the LTTE

In the forest area, the department has systematically planted Neem trees which are growing nicely. Once upon a time the forest was used by the LTTE militants during the conflict with the Srilankan Government.



Following renovation activities were carried out:

- i. Clearing thorny bushes
- ii. De-silting
- iii. Bund Strengthening
- iv. Side Wall repaired on all sides
- v. Cement Plastering
- vi. Parapet walls raising
- vii. Repair and Construction of steps
- viii. Entrance structure
- ix. Installation of Nagaraja idols on the parapet wall

Helping the wild animals and cattle in the remote forest



Vivekananda Kendra NARDEP is working in the field of Environment for number of years and thus the members felt that the water body also should be created for cattle and wild animals.



During the survey period, they found the ponnies digging the ground in search of water. It is believed that ponnies know the ground water source which they use it emergency. Seeing this, the members approached the forest department and after lot of hassles, they got the conditional permission.

During the construction work ponnies and pigs came for inspection to see the work carried out for them. Perhaps, they wanted us to do the perfect work so that they can utilize the source for number of years.





Teertham before Renovation



Clearing thorny bushes



Strengthening Side walls



Repairing Sidewalls



Raising the Parapet walls



Repairing the steps



Steps repaired



Installation of Snake God Idols

