



Revival and Renovation of Traditional Water Bodies (Teerthas) Story of Jata Teertham



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Location: This Teertham is located on the way to Dhanushkodi inside the jungle. It is a form of a pond.

Mythological Story:

1. Rama after the war takes off his interwoven Jata (curly hair) to take bath in the Teertham that was held high and so also called as Akasha Ganga.



2. The second story is with regard to the Jata of Shiva flying in air along with Ganga hidden in the lockless Jata of Siva freely flowing to form a Teertha. And so called as Jata Teertham.



3. In the third story Rishi Brighu asks his father Varuna, how to become a chitta-shuddha. On the advice of his father Brighu comes down to JataTeertham and takes bath. He attains chitta-shuddhi through this act. Dhurvasa-Maharishi and Dattatreya follows the same precedent to become chitta-shuddhas.
4. There is a beautiful conversation between father Vyasa-Maharishi and his son Shuka muni. Shuka asked, Oh! My omniscient Guru, can you tell the secret of destroying the ignorance and attaining the Supreme knowledge, so that at the end one can attain the indestructible heaven. Oh! My Lord even after sitting at your holy feet and studying all the Holy Scriptures did not purify my heart. Kindly tell me the means to purifying my heart and attain that infinite bliss.

Vyasa Maharshi who is incarnation of Vishnu, told to his beloved son and the dearest disciple the secret of untying from the clutches of ignorance and destruction of cycle of birth and death and also means to attain the infinite bliss.

“Oh! Shuka, listen, I shall tell you the secret of untying from this cycle of birth and death and purifying the mind and attain the supreme knowledge. There is a Jathateertham on this holy land of Bharata Varsha in Gandhamadhana Parvatam* at Rameshwaram Island. It is holiest of holy teertham because Lord Vishnu incarnated in Tretayuga as Sri Rama, had washed his locks in this teertham. So who ever take a dip in this holy Teertham, his all the sins of not this life but also previous lives get destroyed. The sins which did not get destroyed by penance, not by observing fast, not by japa, not by uttering prayers would get destroyed by simple bathing in this holy Teertham.

**Gandhamadhana Parvatham and Jata Teertham are at a distance of 8 KMs however geography changes with time*

GIS Map of JataTeertham



GPS Coordinates are North - 9.258018; East - 79.315976

Our Work

Since there is a Siva Temple located near this Teertham, the basic structure was in existence however in a dilapidated condition without much maintenance. When we entered this area through one of our Green Rameswaram Volunteer Smt. Saradha in Ramakrishnapuram there were seepages and the walls were having cracks in it. Hence we did a complete renovation of the tank. De-silted the pond and walls repaired & height raised and steps were rebuilt. Mythologically it washed the hair of Lord Rama hence as per Valmiki Ramayana it is known as Jatamukuta Teertham we have placed a board near the temple guiding the pilgrims.



Majestic JataMukutaTeertham with full of water

Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries are the nearby Ramakrishnapuram village people and the pilgrims visiting Dhanushkodi. Due to this renovation work 6,30,000 litres of water is getting saved when the tank is full. Every month during Pradosham, an auspicious day for getting the blessing of Lord shiva nearby villagers gather and they do both Pradoshapooja as well as Teerthapooja.



Teertha Pooja in Jata Teertham being conducted by Green Rameswaram team and attended by local villagers



Shri.Pakshi Shiva, Green Rameswaram historian and priest explaining the benefit of Teerthapooja in local language

Maharanonbu Festival

During Maharanonbu Festival which comes once in 12 years, thousands of pilgrims gather and they celebrate the Teerthapooja in this JataMukuta Teertham. Last February 2016 this festival was celebrated a clip of the event is shown below:

