



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
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Jainism and its heritage sites

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Why is in news? A Jain heritage site in T.N. battles the elements

With much of the **art in Sittanavasal either damaged or vandalised**, Archaeological Survey of India has undertaken conservation measures and also introduced digital checks to track public access.

Jainism: Jainism is **one of the world's oldest religions, originating in India at least 2,500 years ago.**

The **spiritual goal** of Jainism is to **become liberated from the endless cycle of rebirth and to achieve an all-knowing state called moksha.**

Jainism traces its spiritual ideas and history through the **succession of twenty-four Tirthankaras** (supreme preachers of Dharma), with the **first - Rishabhadeva**, the **twenty-third tirthankara - Parshvanatha**, and the **twenty-fourth tirthankara - Mahavira**, around 600 BCE.

The **three main pillars of Jainism:** ahiṃsa (non-violence), anekantavada (non-absolutism), and aparigraha (asceticism).

Three jewels of Jainism: right belief, right knowledge and right conduct.

4 sins of Jainism: anger, pride, deceitfulness, and greed.

Jainism teaches that the **path to enlightenment is through nonviolence and reducing harm to living things** (including plants and animals) as much as possible.

Like Hindus and Buddhists, Jains **believe in reincarnation**. This cycle of birth, death, and rebirth is determined by one's karma.

Gomateshwara Statue, Shravanabelagola (Karnataka) probably one of the most **well-known Jain temples** in India by both Jains and non, this temple has a **massive black stone structure of Gomateshwara** - the **first Tirthankara** standing 18 metres tall.

Shri Digambar Jain Lal Mandir in New Delhi is one of the **oldest Jain temples**, dating back to the **reign of Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb**. It was originally built in the year 1656, and is famously known as the **Lal Mandir** or the '**Red Temple**' because it is built out of red sandstone.

The **Ranakpur temple in Rajasthan**, is one of the **largest** temples of Jain culture.

Other sites include **Ajanta & Ellora caves, Pattadakal, Khajuraho temple complex**, etc.

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