



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
Only IAS Academy by Grandson of "Perunthalsivar Kamarajar"

Nataraja sculpture

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Why is in news? 28-ft Nataraja sculpture from T.N. to adorn G-20 venue

A 28-foot Nataraja statue, meant to be placed at the venue of the G-20 Leaders' Summit to be held next month in New Delhi, was sent by road on Friday from Swamimalai, a small town in Tamil Nadu's Thanjavur district, known for its bronze sculptures.

About the idol:

Nataraja (Lord of the Dance), the Hindu God Shiva in his **form as the cosmic dancer**, is represented in metal or stone **in many Shaivite temples**, particularly in South India.

It is an **important piece of chola sculpture**.

The upper right-hand holds the **drum**, which signifies the sound of creation. All creations spring from the **great sound of the damru**.

The upper left-hand holds the **eternal fire**, which represents destruction. Destruction is the precursor and inevitable counterpart of creation.

The lower right hand is raised in the **gesture of Abhay mudra** signifying benediction and reassuring the devotee to not be afraid.

The lower left-hand points towards the **upraised foot** and indicates the path of salvation.

Shiva is dancing on the **figure of a small dwarf**. The dwarf symbolises **ignorance and the ego of an individual**.

Shiva is shown as the **source of all movement within the cosmos** and as **the god whose doomsday dance**, represented by the arch of flames, accompanies the dissolution of the universe at the end of an eon.

The matted and flowing locks of Shiva represent the flow of the river Ganges.

In ornamentation, one ear of Shiva has a male earring while the other has a female. This **represents the fusion of male and female** and is often referred to as **Ardhanarishvara**.

A snake is twisted around the arm of Shiva. The snake symbolises the **kundalini power**, which resides in the human spine in the dormant stage. If aroused, one can attain true consciousness.

The Nataraja is surrounded by a nimbus of glowing lights which symbolises the vast unending cycles of time.

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