



Broken Idols Found at Bhojshala Complex

Why in News?

Recently, 1,710 relics, including 39 broken idols, were found during a survey carried out by [Archaeological Survey of India \(ASI\)](#) to establish [Bhojshala/ Kamal Maula Mosque complex](#) in Madhya Pradesh's Dhar district.

Key Points

- Hindus consider Bhojshala, an **ASI-protected 11th-century monument**, to be a temple **dedicated to Vagdevi (Goddess Saraswati)**, while the **Muslim community call it Kamal Maula Mosque**.
- As per an arrangement made by the ASI on 7th April 2003, Hindus perform puja in the Bhojshala premises on Tuesdays, while Muslims offer namaz in the complex on Fridays.
- The **high court** had on 11th March 2024 **ordered the ASI to conduct a "scientific survey"** of the Bhojshala-Kamal Moula mosque complex within six weeks.
 - The idols which were uncovered include those of **Vagdevi (Saraswati), Mahishasur Mardini, Ganesh, Krishna, Mahadev, Brahma and Hanuman**.

Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)

- ASI, under the [Ministry of Culture](#), is the premier organization for the archaeological research and protection of the cultural heritage of the nation.
- It administers more than **3650 ancient monuments, archaeological sites, and remains of national importance**.
- Its activities include carrying out surveys of antiquarian remains, exploration and excavation of archaeological sites, conservation and maintenance of protected monuments, etc.
- It was **founded in 1861** by [Alexander Cunningham](#)- the first Director-General of ASI. Alexander Cunningham is also known as the "**Father of Indian Archaeology**".

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