




drishti

Mahamastakabhisheka Celebrations

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Recently, the **10-day long Mahamastakabhisheka** for the **monolith 39-foot high Bahubali** statue started in **Dharmasthala, Karnataka**.

- This year (2019), Mahamastakabhisheka Mahotsava will be observed from February 9 to February 18.
- This is the **fourth mahamastakabhisheka** of Lord Bahubali since its **installation in 1982**. Earlier were performed in 1982, 1995, and in 2007 in Dharmasthala.
- It was sculpted by **Renjala Gopalakrishna Shenoy** under the aegis of Ratnavarma Heggade in **1973**. It was then positioned atop **Ratnagiri Hill** in the temple town of **Dharmasthala in 1982**.

Note:

- In 2018, the anointing ceremony of the **Gomateshwara Bahubali statue at Shravanabelagola** took place from February 17 to February 25.
- The statue at Shravanabelagola is believed to be **one of the largest free-standing statues** in the world (at 57 feet), which was built in **983 AD by the minister of the Ganga dynasty, Chamunda-Raya**.

Mahamastakabhisheka

- The word Mahamastakabhisheka is a combination of **three words viz: Maha (great), Masthaka (head) and Abhisheka (anointing) which literally means 'the head anointing ceremony'**.
- The ceremony is called Mahamastakabhisheka (also referred as Grand Consecration) and not Mastakabhisheka because the ceremony is performed **only once in 12 years**.
- The Mahamastakabhisheka Mahotsava is an anointing ceremony of the statue of Lord Bahubali.

Lord Bahubali

- Lord Bahubali was the **son of lord Rishabhanatha** who was the first of the **24 Jain Tirthankaras**.
- Jain mythology holds up Bahubali as the one who succeeded in **attaining liberty from worldly desires** through a long period of **sustained meditation**.
- The sculpture of Lord Bahubali is in upright posture of **meditation known as Kayotsarga** which stands for renunciation, self-control and subjugation of the ego as a reflection of his life.
- This is the **digambara form of Bahubali** which represents complete victory over earthly desires and needs, which forms the edifice for spiritual ascent towards divinity.

Jainism

- The most famous thinker of the Jainas, **Vardhamana Mahavira was born in 540 B.C.** in Kundagram village near Vaishali. He was a **Kshatriya prince** belonging to the **Lichchhavi clan**.
- According to the beliefs of the Jain tradition, Mahavir was the **24th Tirthankara, who succeeded the 23rd Tirthankara, Parshvanatha**.
- Tirthankara is a Sanskrit word meaning '**Fordmaker**', i.e., one who is able to ford the river, to cross beyond the perpetual flow of earthly life.
- Mahavir attained '**kaivalya**' or **omniscience at the age of 42**.
- He passed away at the age of 72 at a place called Pavapuri, near modern day Rajgir (in Bihar) after preaching for thirty years.
- Jainism attaches utmost importance to ahimsa or non-violence. It preaches **5 mahavratas (the 5 great vows)**:
 - Ahimsa (Non-violence)
 - Satya (Truth)
 - Asteya or Achaurya (Non-stealing)
 - Brahmacharya (Celibacy/Chastity)
 - Aparigraha (Non-attachment/Non-possession)
- The **three jewels or triratna of Jainism** include **Samyak Darshana (right faith), Samyak Gyana (right knowledge) and Samyak Charitra (right conduct)**.
- Jainism is a religion of self-help. There are no gods or spiritual beings that will help human beings. It does not condemn the varna system.
- The texts containing the teachings of Mahavira are **called the Agamas**.
- In later times, it got divided into **two sects: Shvetambaras (white-clad) under Sthalabahu and Digambaras (sky-clad) under the leadership of Bhadrabahu**.