



Glory of Bharath » Bharath Darshan

Dear Sai Brothers and Sisters,

This month our sojourn is to Mudabidri in Karnataka which is also popularly known as the Jain Kashi of South India.

Mudabidri

Moodabidri also called Mudabidri is lying 40 kilometers to the north-east of Mangalore, in Dakshina Kannada district of Karnataka. Moodabidri is often referred to as the Jain Kashi of south India, due to its 18 Jain basadis (temples) dedicated to the memory of the Tirthankaras. Jains from all parts of India come here to worship these famous 18 Jain basadis.

History

The history of Jainism in Moodabidri is very ancient. Jainism flourished in Moodabidri in the beginning of 13th century A.D. During 14th - 16th centuries Moodabidri witnessed an unprecedented growth as a center of Jain religion, culture, art and architecture and 18 Jain temples, known as Basadis, were constructed during this period. The most famous among them are Guru basadi, TribhuvanaTilakaChudamaniBasadi and AmmanavaraBasadi.

Guru Basadi



The Guru basadi is believed to be the earliest of the Jain monuments of this place. Lord Parshwanatha the 23rd Tirthankar of Jainism is the presiding deity of this temple. A beautiful stone idol of Parshwanatha, about 3.5 metres tall, is installed in the sanctum of this basadi. It is in this basadi that the rare Jain palm leaf manuscripts of 12th century A.D. known as 'Dhavalas texts' were discovered.

TribhuvanaTilakaChudamaniBasadi



The TribhuvanaTilakaChudamaniBasadi is the largest of all basadis and is considered to be the most ornate of the Jain temples of this region. This basadi is known as Thousand pillared temple (SaviraKambadaBasadi) due to the large number and variety of pillars in this basadi. This is a huge granite construction originally

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built in 1430 A.D and was completed in three stages. The 2.5 metres tall bronze image of Lord Chandranatha Swami housed in the sanctum of this basadi is considered to be an image of utmost importance in Jainism.

This huge, three storied monument was constructed by the collective effects of the rulers, the Jain Swamiji, merchants and also the common people by this ancient city. The most beautiful part of this temple is the open pillared hall in front, consisting by a rich variety of ornate pillars. The pillars and the roof this open hall are decorated with beautiful and minute carvings typical of Vijayanagara style. There are beautiful images of Jain Trirthankar, Yakshas and Yakshis in every Jain basadi of Moodabidri.

In front of the basadi the 15-meter tall freestanding single stone pillar called manastambha is indeed a marvel by art. Nagagala Devi, the queen of Bhairava Raja, erected the Manastambha, a huge monolith of a height of 50 feet, in front of the basadi. The Jain tombs and Nyayabasadi at Kodangallu, in the outskirts of Moodabidri are movements of great historical interest.

Jain Literature

Moodabidri was an ancient centre of Jain literature. RatnakaraVarni, the doyen of medieval Kannada literature and the author of BharateshaVaibhava belonged to this place. The famous Jain canonical texts known as Dhavala texts and also a number of palm leaf manuscripts of immense literacy value are in the possession of the Jain monastery here.

Our sojourn continues next month...Till then Sai Ram

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