



Shankaracharya Temple

Why in News

Recently, as per the age-old tradition related to the annual Amarnath pilgrimage, the holy mace (**Chhari Mubarak**) of Lord Shiva was brought to the ancient **Shankaracharya Temple**.

Key Points

▪ About:



- It is also known as the **Jyesteshwara temple or Pas-Pahar by Buddhists**. Persians and Jews call it **Bagh-i-sulaiman** or the **Garden of King Solomon**. Persian inscriptions are also found inside the temple.
- It is on **top of the Shankaracharya Hill (also called Hill of Solomon) on the Zabarwan Mountain in Srinagar, Kashmir**.
 - The temple is considered as the **oldest temple of the valley of Kashmir**.
- It is **dedicated to Lord Shiva** The temple is **at a height of 1,000 feet** above the plain and overlooks the city of Srinagar.
- The temple **dates to 200 BC, although the present structure probably dates to the 9th century AD**.
- It was **visited by Adi Shankara and has ever since been associated with him**; this is how the temple got the name Shankaracharya.

▪ Structure:

- This ancient temple is built in the **indigenous early Kashmiri style of architecture** and

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The Vision

- embraces the techniques prevailing in those days.
- The early **Shihara style** is prominently evident in the building design and is indicative of a **horseshoe arch type of pattern**.
 - It is a **massive stone structure built on a high octagonal plinth** about thirty feet high.
 - The **plinth is surmounted by a low parapet wall**. The shrine consists of a cell, circular inside, with a diameter of thirteen feet.
 - The **square building of the temple is supported by the basement**.

Shankaracharya

▪ About:

- He was also known as **Adi Shankara**. Born in **Kaladi, Kerala in 788 CE**.
- Propounded the **Doctrine of Advaita (Monism)** and **wrote many commentaries** on the Vedic canon (Upanishads, Brahma Sutras and Bhagavad Gita) in Sanskrit.

▪ Major Work:

- Brahmasutrabhasya (Bhashya or commentary on the Brahma Sutra).
- Bhajagovinda Stotra.
- Nirvana Shatakam.

▪ Other Contributions:

- Was responsible for **reviving Hinduism in India** to a great extent when Buddhism was gaining popularity.
- Established four Mathas in the four corners of India and the tradition continues to this day.

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