

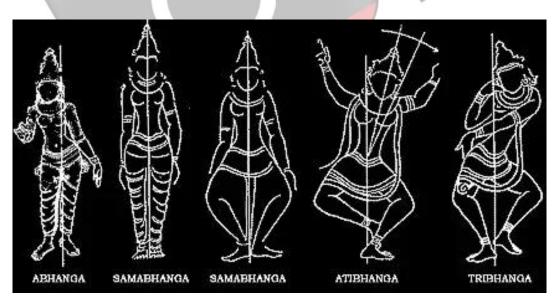
Dual-Faced Lamp Depicting Shiva-Vishnu Syncretism

Source: TH

A rare 15th-century dual-faced lamp, intricately showcasing the syncretic fusion of <u>Shaiva and Vaishnava traditions</u> has been discovered at the <u>Perdoor Anantapadmanabha Temple</u> in <u>Udupi district</u>, <u>Karnataka</u>.

Key Points

- Dual Religious Significance: The lamp uniquely blends depictions of Shiva (as Nataraja) and Vishnu (as Anantapadmanabha), reflecting rituals of both Shaiva and Vaishnava cults.
- Historical Donation: Inscribed records reveal the lamp was donated in 1456 CE.
- Narrative Sculptures:
 - First Face: Depicts Shiva's Pralaya Tandava (destructive dance)
 with Parvati, Ganapati, drummer Bringi, and Khadga Ravana is seen seated on a standing woman, identified as Goddess Mari, in Vismaya Mudra.
 - Vismaya Mudra is a one-handed gesture that expresses a sense of wonder.
 The palm faces inward toward the body, with the fingers spread apart and open.
 - Second Face: Shows Brahma, Indra, Anantapadmanabha, Agni, and Varuna pleading with Vishnu to pacify Shiva's destructive dance, symbolizing cosmic harmony.
- Artistic Details: Figures are in Samabhanga pose (equal distribution of the body limbs on a central line, whether standing or sitting) with distinct headgear.
- Cultural Continuity: The presence of Khadga Ravana-Mari worship in the temple's outer prakara highlights the survival of ancient folk-deity traditions alongside mainstream Hinduism.



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