



Dual-Faced Lamp Depicting Shiva-Vishnu Syncretism

Source: TH

A rare 15th-century dual-faced lamp, intricately showcasing the **syncretic fusion** of [Shaiva and Vaishnava traditions](#) has been discovered at the **Perdoor Anantapadmanabha Temple** in **Udupi district, Karnataka**.

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**.



Read More: [Nataraja Artistry of Lord Shiva](#)

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