

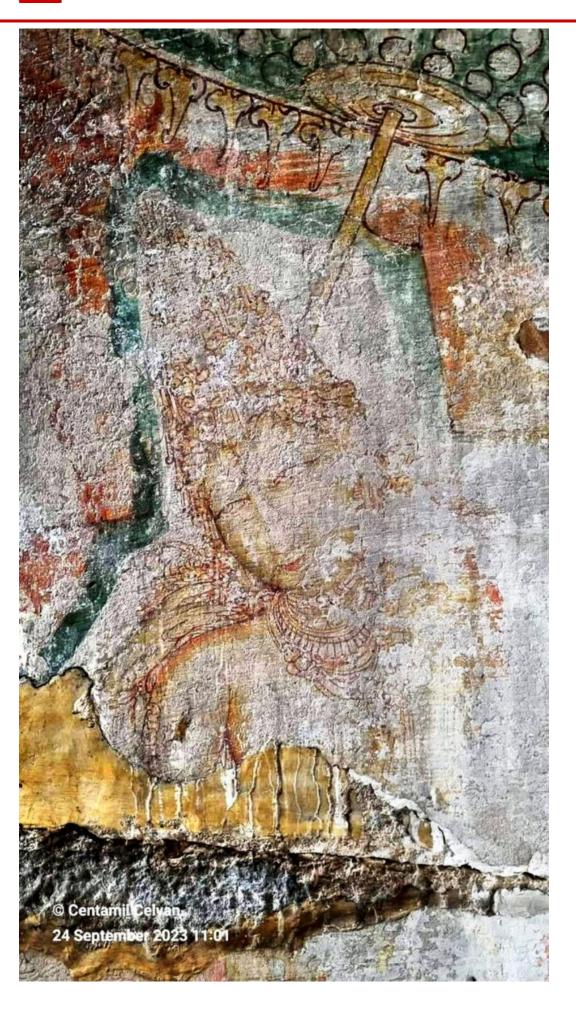
Panamalai Paintings

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Panamalai Paintings

1,300-year-old **Pallava period paintings** at Talagirishwara temple at **Panamalai** in Tamil Nadu has been damaged due to negligence.





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About Panamalai paintings:

- The Panamalai paintings are believed to be older than the **Chithannavasal paintings**.
 - Chithannavasal paintings found in Tamil Nadu date back to the 7th to 9th centuries CE and are associated with the Jain religion.
- The paintings were created using a technique where the **stonewalls** were covered with **limestone** and sand paste.
- The **outline** was drawn **using turmeric** when the plastering was still wet, creating a **red outline**.
- The paintings at the **Talagirishwara temple** hold immense historical and cultural value.
- They are comparable to the paintings at **Ajantha and Chithannavasal**.

About The Damaged Painting:

- This particular painting is located on the wall behind the **Ettupattai lingam** within the temple.
- It portrays **Lord Shiva** with **eight hands**, known as **Latathilagabhani**, in a dance, while Goddess **Parvathi**, with her crown and ornate umbrella, watches.
- The **original colors**, facial **features**, **eyebrows**, and other details were once stunningly beautiful.
- Currently, the panel depicting the dance of Lord Shiva has almost faded away and only the face of goddess Parvathi and a few patches are remaining.

About Talagirishwara temple:

- The temple was constructed by Pallava king Narasimhavarman II, popularly known as Rajasimha.
- It was a living temple and a lot of devotees were visiting it on a daily basis.
- The painting of **Shiva as Nataraja** on the walls of the cave is the **earliest Nataraja** representation of Shiva.