

## Panamalai Paintings

By IASToppers | 2023-10-31 15:35:00



## Panamalai Paintings

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





© Centamil Celvan  
24 September 2023 11:01



[Ref - TH]

### **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.