



## JAIN RELIGIOUS CENTRE KAMATHANA: A SURVEY

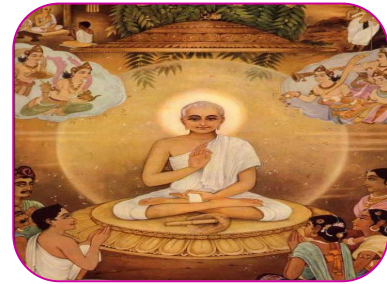
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### ABSTRACT

This research article light on the Jain religious center Parshavanth Tirthankara Jain temple at Kamthana of Bidartaluca which is an ancient religious place of Karnataka. The temple was built by Ratta dynasty Kings. We also see the same Jaina temple during the period of Rashtrakuta of Manyakheta.



**KEYWORDS:** Tirthankara, Temple and Priest etc.

### INTRODUCTION

India is a multi religious centre which gave birth to religions like Hindu, Jain, Bouddha, Parshi and Sikh. Among those the Jainism became very famous in 6<sup>th</sup> century and tried to avoid the blind belief of the Hindu religion. Spread over the country principles like, Truth, Aparigraha, Asteya, Ahimsha and Brahmacharya. Rishabhanatha was considered first Jain monk, Parshwanatha considered 23<sup>rd</sup> Jain monk and Mahaveera was a famous and noted 24<sup>th</sup> Jain monk. Later both Parshwanatha and Mahaveera had some of the followers. They spared over the principle and established the temples around the country. Like Parshavanth Tirthankara Jain temple, Kamthana is one among them.

### HISTORY OF KAMTHANA

Kamthana is a village in the southern state of Karnataka, India. It is also called as Kambithana. It is located in the Bidartaluca of Bidar district in Karnataka. Kamthana is an ancient village, Jain Tirtha (pilgrimage) which is about 10 km from Bidar. It is famous for the historical Parshavanth Tirthankara Jain temple. During 753 A.D. Rashtrakuta prince Dantidurga proclaimed himself the sovereign power and Manyakheta (Malkhed) as Capital, built Jain temple.<sup>1</sup> Nishidhis, inscriptions indicate the act of Sallekhana is found in and around Kamthana. Kamthana means 'a place of forgiveness'.

Researchers such as L.R. Kulkarni have documented the history of the temple. An inscription found on the base of the Parshwanath statue refers to kings of the Rattarasa clan of the 10th Century. Its details have been recorded in the government gazette.<sup>2</sup>

### Parshavanatha Teerthankara Jain temple

Kamthana Jainism center, by Jain munis and shravaks choose this place to seek salvation through 'sallekhana'. Srivatsa (North Indian tradition), is a diamond-shaped mark on the chest of the Parshvanath<sup>3</sup>ParshvanathTirthankara idol is about 115-cm tall and 55-cm wide, in the paryankasanastyle, sheltered under a seven-hooded serpent, it was installed about 900 years back. A small lamp burns day and night in the cave. The light of the lamp is reflected in 1,000 mirrors plastered on to the wall.



Renovated the Parshwanath Temple at Kamthana in Bidartaluk

### Discovery of Idol

The ParshavanathaTeerthankara Jain temple was a part of famous gurukul. It provided students with religious and secular education free of cost for the last centuries. But the gurukul and the temple were neglected for over a century during the rule of the Nizam's of Hyderabad. A Jain muni, Sri ShrutaSagar, rediscovered it in 1987. He began work on renovating the temple and organised an annual rathyatra, says Vijay Kumar Jain, Secretary of the Bidar Jain Milan. The temple trust is planning to revive the gurukul. The building plans are ready and donors have come forward to adopt students, said.<sup>4</sup>

"The temple was just a cave when the muni found it. It had a 1,100-year-old, life-size black stone statue of Sri Parshwanath, the 23rdTirthankara. The muni told that students and teachers of the gurukul used the cave to meditate. They shifted the statue to the first floor. They have renovated the cave and built a Shikhara. That is why the temple has three floors," it explained byShantinath, the head priest of Kamthana Jain temple.<sup>5</sup>

The management of the trust President ShriJinendra N Tikke, Minister Shri Ashok r Wankudre, Manager ShriVijayakumar Jain.<sup>6</sup>

The demography of Kamthana is according to the 2001 India census, it had a population of 9634 with 4956 males and 4678 females.<sup>7</sup>

### CONCLUSION

To sum up, the ParshavanthTirthankara Jain temple, Kamthana is a famous temple of Bidartaluka. It has historical background. It attracted by the number of the devotees of Karnataka and other states. Ruins of the ancient gurukul can be seen on the temple premises.Thegurukul and the temple both neglected for over a century during the rule of the Nizam of Hyderabad. Recently the trust was renovated the temple.

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