

**GRAND ANOINTMENT OF
LORD GOMMATESHWARA BAHUBALI
88th Anniversary Celebration**



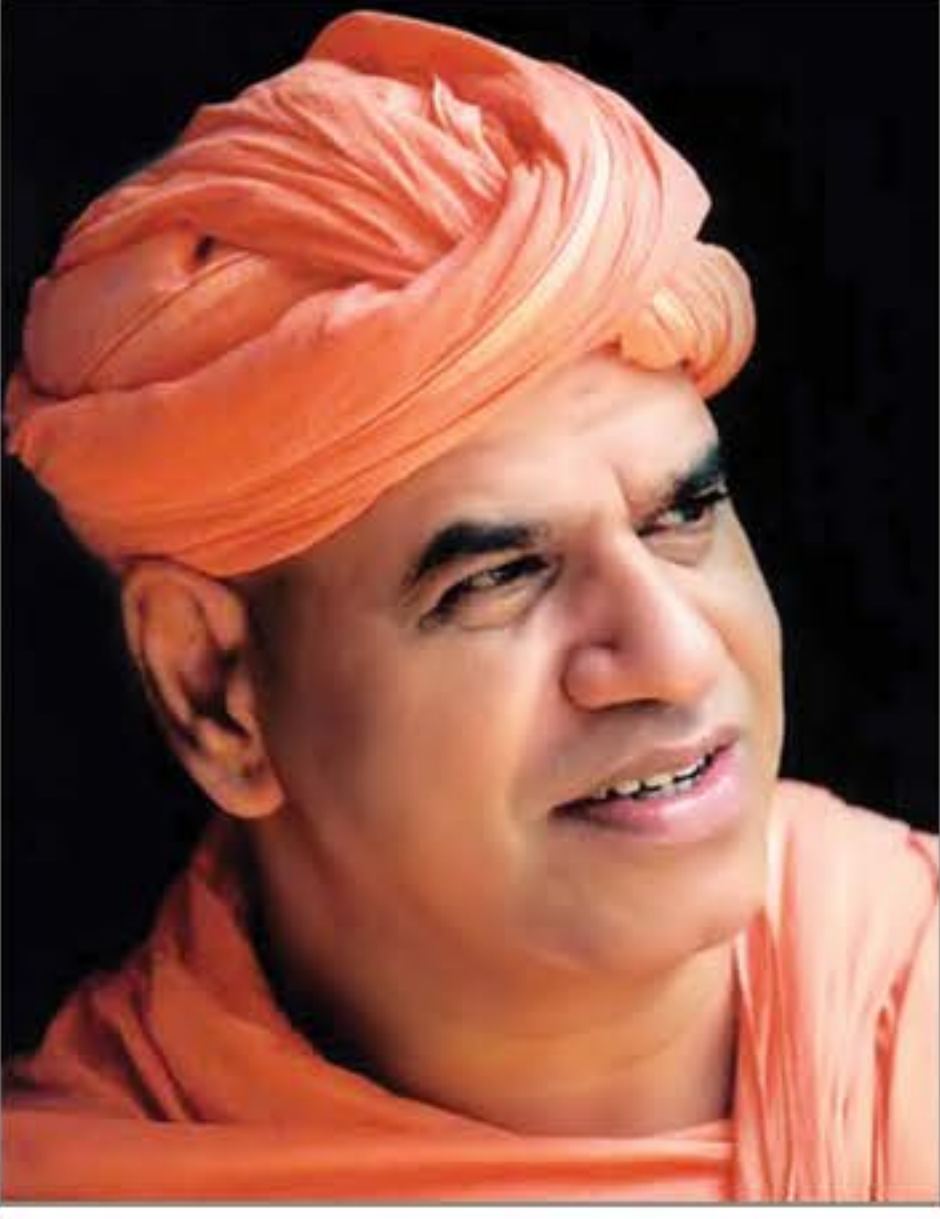
**Lord Bahubali Mahamastakabhisheka Mahotsava
Shravanabelagola (Karnataka) India**

February 17th to 25th, 2018 | NRI Day: February 21st, 2018

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🌐 www.bahubalinri2018.org

Message from Swasthishri Charukeerthi Bhattaraka Swamiji



Dear Dharmabandhu,

Shravanabelagola, nestled by the Vindhyagiri and Chandragiri Hills, protected by the monolith Bhagwan Bahubali, and home to over 2,300 years of Jain heritage, is a veritable picture postcard of our history and heritage spanning the centuries.

The verdant natural beauty of Shravanabelagola, with its swaying coconut trees and natural bodies of water, bears testimony to the legendary mental strength of Tyaga (renunciation) and the tender message of Ahimsa (Non-Violence) that embodies the Jain Way of Life.

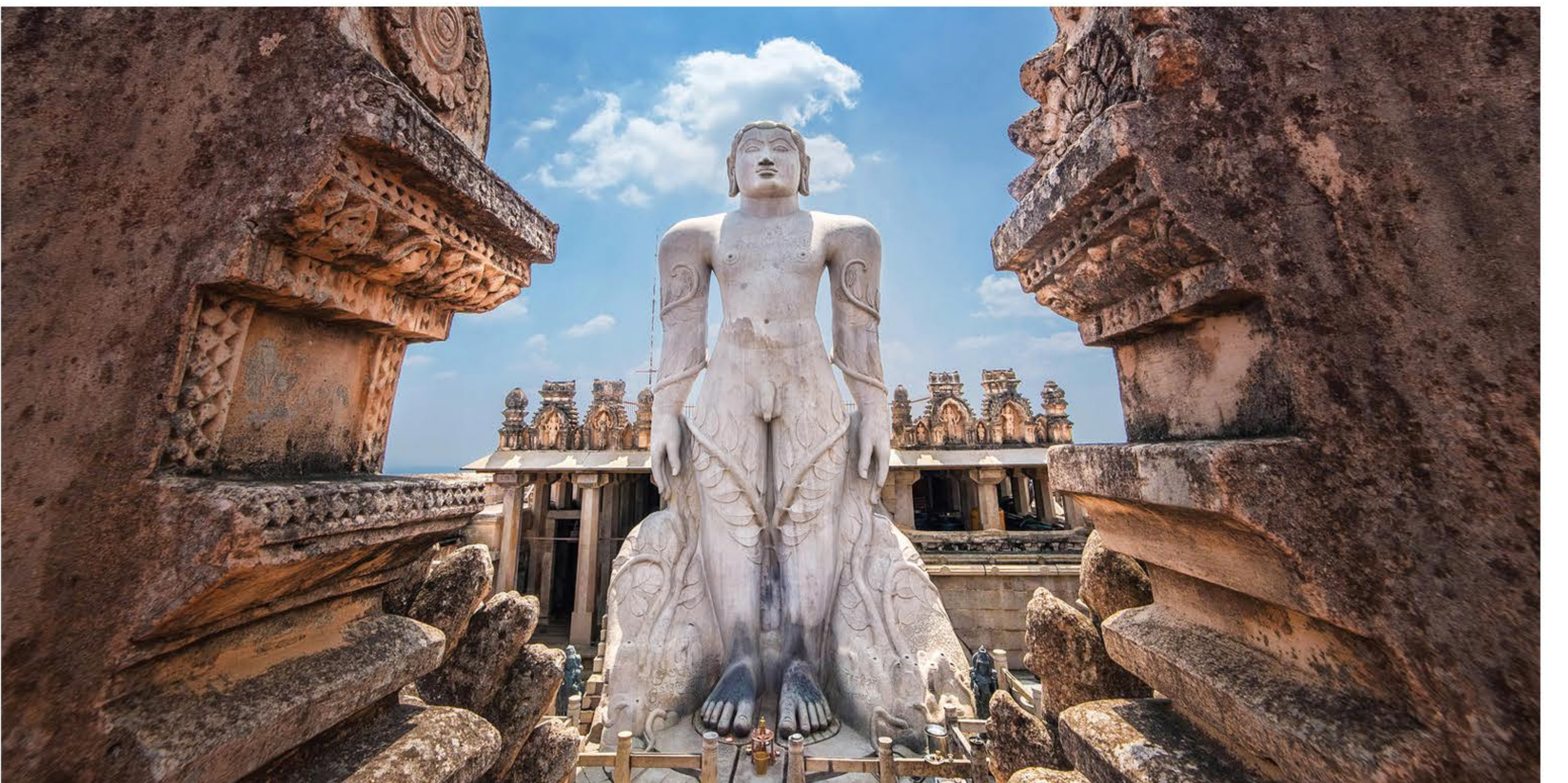
Bhagwan Bahubali, the son of the first of our twenty four Jain Tirthankaras, is worshipped for living with exceptional qualities that he displayed during all stages of his life from conception, birth, renunciation, enlightenment and salvation. Beautiful and serene is his external appearance.

Mahamastakabhisheka, the head anointing ceremony of the Lord Gommateshwara Bahubali, which is observed once every 12 years in the Jain Dharmic cycle, is an integral part of the ancient and composite Jain tradition. The ceremony in 2018 will be the 88th in the series that commenced in the year 981 A.D. Hundreds of devotees and tourists from different parts of the world will be participating.

I invite you all to participate in this very unique and holy event.

With Blessings,

Swasthishri Charukeerthi Bhattaraka Swamiji, Shravanabelagola





Mahamastakabhisheka of Bhagwan Bahubali



Shravanabelagola is a small township located 51 km (32 miles) southeast of Hassan District in the state of Karnataka, which sits at an altitude of about 3,350 feet above sea level. There are excellent roads to Shravanabelagola from both Bangalore and Mysore. The nearest airport is in Bangalore, at a distance of 157 km (98 miles) and the nearest railway station is in Shravanabelagola.



In the town of Shravanabelagola, stands a colossal rock-cut statue of Lord Gommateshwara Shri Bahubali. This 57 feet tall statue is the most magnificent among all Jain works of art. It was built in circa 982. Mahamastakabhisheka, the head anointing ceremony of the Bhagwan Bahubali, is observed once every 12 years in the Digamber Jain tradition. The next Mahamastakabhisheka will be performed in 2018 during the period of February 17th to February 25th. The day of February 21st, 2018 has been set aside as a special day for the NRI's to perform Abhishek of Bhagwan Bahubali.

The Mahamastakabhisheka begins by devotees carrying 1,008 specially prepared vessels (kalashes). The statue is then bathed and anointed with libations such as water, milk, sugarcane juice, and saffron paste, and sprinkled with powders of sandalwood, turmeric, and vermilion.

The Mahamastakabhisheka is the largest gathering of Jains in the world. Over 1 million devotees are expected to attend the consecration ceremonies in 2018.

Participate in the Mahamastakabhisheka 2018 On NRI Day February 21st, 2018

- An Overseas NRI Sub-Committee has been established to facilitate your participation. To participate in the Abhishek, please register online at the website specifically for NRI's at www.bahubalinri2018.org
- A single registration allows a group or family of up to 5 members to perform Abhishek. Each member will be issued a VIP pass that will allow them access to the Abhishek venue. Upon successful registration, each group will be provided one Rajat (Silver) Kalash to keep as a memento of their participation in this once in a lifetime event.

The Following Facilities are Provided with each Registration

Accommodation

Accommodation for three nights at Shravanabelagola or nearby hotels located at Channarayapatna, Hassan, Mysore, etc., for February 20th, 21st and 22nd, 2018 will be provided.

Meals

Three meals a day and morning tea/coffee for each member of the group will be provided. There are provisions for vegan (non-dairy) meals.

Transportation

Transportation from Bangalore to Shravanabelagola on the afternoon of February 20th, 2018 and returning on the morning of February 23rd, 2018 will be provided. Local transportation between the hotel and the Abhishek site will also be provided.

Facilities for the Physically Challenged

Dolis will be available to carry the participants up the Vindhyagiri Hill. Each individual shall bear the cost of this facility.

NRI Reception Point in Bangalore

A mid-afternoon NRI Reception in Bangalore will be held on February 20th 2018, prior to departing for Shravanabelagola by bus. Guests are required to make their own arrangements to reach the Reception point in Bangalore. Details of the Reception point will be emailed as finalized.

Religious Clothing for use during Abhishek

Complimentary clothing that are appropriate for use during Abhishek will be provided for all participating gents, ladies and children.



Registration and Amount of Contribution



- Each group of five or fewer members, need to complete one application. Children under 2 years will not be counted.
- Each group will be allotted one Kalash. Additional Kalashes can be purchased at cost of \$100 each.
- The amount of contribution that a group would make depends on the number of persons in the group and is outlined in the table.
- Groups that have either 4 or 5 members will be provided two rooms in the hotel, for three nights. Groups with 3, or fewer members, will be allotted one room.
- Last day of registration is **December 31st, 2017**.

Amount of Contribution

# of People	Kalash Donation	Other Expenses	Total Contribution
5	\$1,200	\$600	\$1,800
4	\$1,200	\$550	\$1,750
3	\$1,200	\$350	\$1,550
2	\$1,200	\$275	\$1,475
1	\$1,200	\$225	\$1,425

For more detailed information on application and registration, please visit our website - www.bahubalinri2018.org.

If you wish to perform Abhishek on a day other than the NRI day - February 21st , 2018, please directly contact the NRI office in India.

If anyone would like to take the Labh of being Indra-Indrani and participate in the Panchkalyanak Mahotsava, please contact Mr. Kamal Kumar Jain +91-984-107-0589 | kamal.mlauto@gmail.com

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Gommateshwara Bahubali Statue



The Bahubali statue is described as one of the mightiest achievements of ancient Karnataka in the realm of sculptural art. The statue stands upright in the posture of meditation known as kayotsarga, reaching a height of nearly 57 feet atop the Vindhyagiri Hills - accessible through a flight of 500 steps.

The image of Gommateshwara has curly hair ringlets and large ears. The eyes are open as if he is viewing the world with detachment. His facial features are perfectly chiselled with a faint touch of a smile at the corner of the lips that embody a calm inner peace and vitality. His shoulders are broad, the arms stretch straight down and the figure has no support from the thigh upwards.

There is an anthill in the background which signifies his incessant penance. From this anthill, emerge a snake and a creeper which twine around both the legs and arms culminating as a cluster of flowers and berries at the upper portion of the arms. The entire figure stands on an open lotus signifying the totality attained in installing this unique statue.

On either side of Gommateshwara stands two tall and majestic chauri bearers in the service of the Lord. One of them is a yaksh and the other one is a yakshi. These richly ornamented and beautifully carved figures complement the main figure. Carved on the rear side of the anthill is also a trough for collecting water and other ritual ingredients used for the sacred bath of the image.



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