

## Digambar Jain temples

**Prelims** - Current events of National Importance

**Mains (GS I)** - Indian History and Culture

### Why in News?

*The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) recently demolished most of the Digambar Jain temple, which Digambar Jain Mandir Trust managed in Vile Parle in the city's western suburbs, Mumbai.*

- Digambara Jain temples are significant in the religious landscape of India, particularly for the **Digambara sect within Jainism**.
- These temples, often referred to as Digambara Jain Mandir.
- These temples features elaborate carvings and sculptures of the **24-four Tirthankaras**, are integral to the faith's architecture and cultural practices.
- **Sub-sects** - Digambara temples can be found in different sub-sects, each with its own distinct rituals and practices, such as Mula Sangh, Terapantha, and Taranapantha.
- **Key features** - The presence of idols, the use of ashtadravya (eight sacred objects) for worship, and offerings of flowers and fruits, though some sub-sects may substitute these with dried versions.
- **Examples** - Ellora Caves (Maharashtra) and the Sri Digambar Jain Lal Mandir in Delhi.

### Digambara Sect

- The Digambara sect is one of the two main branches of Jainism, the other being the Shvetambara sect.
- The term "Digambara" literally translates to "**sky-clad**," referring to the Digambara monks practice of **wearing no clothes**.
- They believe that renouncing all material possessions, which is essential for achieving liberation.
- **Historical Influence** - Digambara sect has a significant presence in South-West India, particularly in Maharashtra and Karnataka.
- **Text** - They does not believe in the existence of original canonical texts.
- **Possessions** - Digambara monks are allowed only two possessions, a Jainworld states peacock feather whisk (pinchi) for cleaning the path and a water gourd (kamandalu) for drinking water.
- **Diet and Eating Practices** - Digambara monks eat only once a day in a standing posture, at a single house.

## Reference

[The Indian Express | Digambar Jain temple](#)

