



**JAI HO BHARAT...**

## **THE MARVEL OF STRAIGHT LINE TEMPLES**

**S**outh India is famous for gigantic temples. Researchers wonder about the engineering technology that went behind the construction of some of these magnificent structures that have stood the vagaries of time.

Five leading Siva temples are especially a matter of great interest and serious study. Siva as the creator and destroyer controls the five natural elements Pancha Bhootas--Earth, Water, Fire, Air and Space.

The temple for water is in Tiruvanaikaval near Trichy; the huge *sivalinga* dedicated to the fire element is in Tiruvannamalai; the temple at Kalahasti celebrates the air element; the temple at Kanchipuram the earth, while the famous Nataraja temple at Chidambaram is for space/sky.

Geographic information and Google maps reveal that three of them dedicated to space, air and earth stand on a straight line exactly at 79 degree 41 minutes East longitude. No satellite technology was available when they were constructed, but these three temples that stand more than hundred miles apart from each other show very accurate placements. This is truly an engineering, astrological and geographical marvel.

The other two temples, the one at Tiruvanaikkaval in glory of water, and at Tiruvannamalai for fire are not far apart from this divine axis.

The former is located at around three degrees to the south and exactly one degree to the west of this axis, while the latter is around 1.5 degree to the south and 0.5 degree to the west.

A flickering lamp in the Kalahasti temple shows the play of wind; the eternal water spring in the innermost sanctum of the Tiruvanaikaval temple shows the temple's relationship to the element, water; the annual light festival at Tiruvannamalai where a giant lamp is lighted atop the hill shows Siva's manifestation as fire, and the *svayambhulinga* of sand at Kanchipuram signifies the association with earth. We see a formless space at the *garbhagriha* at Chidambaram that signifies the association of the Supreme with formlessness or nothingness 🕯