

Vol III Issue IX March 2014

Impact Factor : 2.2052(UIF)

ISSN No :2231-5063

International Multidisciplinary Research Journal

Golden Research Thoughts

Chief Editor
Dr.Tukaram Narayan Shinde

Publisher
Mrs.Laxmi Ashok Yakkaldevi

Associate Editor
Dr.Rajani Dalvi

Honorary
Mr.Ashok Yakkaldevi

IMPACT FACTOR : 2.2052(UIF)

Welcome to GRT

RNI MAHMUL/2011/38595

ISSN No.2231-5063

Golden Research Thoughts Journal is a multidisciplinary research journal, published monthly in English, Hindi & Marathi Language. All research papers submitted to the journal will be double - blind peer reviewed referred by members of the editorial board. Readers will include investigator in universities, research institutes government and industry with research interest in the general subjects.

International Advisory Board

Flávio de São Pedro Filho Federal University of Rondonia, Brazil	Mohammad Hailat Dept. of Mathematical Sciences, University of South Carolina Aiken	Hasan Baktir English Language and Literature Department, Kayseri
Kamani Perera Regional Center For Strategic Studies, Sri Lanka	Abdullah Sabbagh Engineering Studies, Sydney	Ghayoor Abbas Chotana Dept of Chemistry, Lahore University of Management Sciences[PK]
Janaki Sinnasamy Librarian, University of Malaya	Catalina Neculai University of Coventry, UK	Anna Maria Constantinovici AL. I. Cuza University, Romania
Romona Mihaila Spiru Haret University, Romania	Ecaterina Patrascu Spiru Haret University, Bucharest	Horia Patrascu Spiru Haret University, Bucharest, Romania
Delia Serbescu Spiru Haret University, Bucharest, Romania	Loredana Bosca Spiru Haret University, Romania	Ilie Pintea, Spiru Haret University, Romania
Anurag Misra DBS College, Kanpur	Fabricio Moraes de Almeida Federal University of Rondonia, Brazil	Xiaohua Yang PhD, USA
Titus Pop PhD, Partium Christian University, Oradea, Romania	George - Calin SERITAN Faculty of Philosophy and Socio-Political Sciences AL. I. Cuza University, IasiMore

Editorial Board

Pratap Vyamktrao Naikwade ASP College Devrukh, Ratnagiri, MS India	Iresh Swami Ex - VC. Solapur University, Solapur	Rajendra Shendge Director, B.C.U.D. Solapur University, Solapur
R. R. Patil Head Geology Department Solapur University, Solapur	N.S. Dhaygude Ex. Prin. Dayanand College, Solapur	R. R. Yaliker Director Management Institute, Solapur
Rama Bhosale Prin. and Jt. Director Higher Education, Panvel	Narendra Kadu Jt. Director Higher Education, Pune	Umesh Rajderkar Head Humanities & Social Science YCMOU, Nashik
Salve R. N. Department of Sociology, Shivaji University, Kolhapur	K. M. Bhandarkar Praful Patel College of Education, Gondia	S. R. Pandya Head Education Dept. Mumbai University, Mumbai
Govind P. Shinde Bharati Vidyapeeth School of Distance Education Center, Navi Mumbai	Sonal Singh Vikram University, Ujjain	Alka Darshan Shrivastava Shaskiya Snatkottar Mahavidyalaya, Dhar
Chakane Sanjay Dnyaneshwar Arts, Science & Commerce College, Indapur, Pune	G. P. Patankar S. D. M. Degree College, Honavar, Karnataka	Rahul Shriram Sudke Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya, Indore
Awadhesh Kumar Shirotriya Secretary, Play India Play, Meerut (U.P.)	Maj. S. Bakhtiar Choudhary Director, Hyderabad AP India.	S.KANNAN Annamalai University, TN
	S. Parvathi Devi Ph.D.-University of Allahabad	Satish Kumar Kalhotra Maulana Azad National Urdu University
	Sonal Singh, Vikram University, Ujjain	

**Address:-Ashok Yakkaldevi 258/34, Raviwar Peth, Solapur - 413 005 Maharashtra, India
Cell : 9595 359 435, Ph No: 02172372010 Email: ayisrj@yahoo.in Website: www.aygrt.isrj.net**



THIRUVALISVARAM TEMPLE – A STUDY

R. Rajappan

Ph.D. Research Scholar (Full-Time,), PG & Research Department of History, V. O. Chidambaram College,
Thoothukudi , Tamil Nadu,

Abstract:-Both the Tiruvalisvaram and the river *Katana* on the bank of which it is built have a glorious mythological significance. ¹ It is believed that the sage *Atthari* brought the Ganges here to fulfil the desire of the disciple to bath in the holy river.²

Keywords:Thiruvalisvaram Temple , glorious mythological .

INTRODUCTION:

The eternal spring caused by the Danda of the sage which he planted on the earth is the source of the river *Katana*. Tiruvalisvaram takes its name from *vali*, the king of *Kishkinda*. He was a great devotee of Lord *Shiva*.³ It is believed that the *Shiva* idol in the temple was once worshipped by *Vali*, the king and hence the temple is called after him as Tiruvalisvaram.

The Description of the Temple

The temple on the bank of the river *Katana* has two *prakarams*. Usually a tower will be found over the entrance of the *parakara* in the temples of Tamilnadu.⁴ But at *Tiruvalisvaram* there is no tower at the entrance of the outer *prakara*. On the southern side of the outer *prakara* is the temple of goddess *Soundara Nayagi*.⁵ The idol of the goddess is a beautiful image and the idol is in a standing pose over *Padma Peeda*. It is to be pointed out that there was no separate temple for the goddess before the period of the king *Rajendra Chola*. It is widely believed that this temple was built in the 13th Century. On the northern side of the outer *prakara* there is the idol of *Bhairava*. The *Nandi* (sacred bull) and the *Twajasthamba* are also seen in the outer *prakara*. On the western side there is the dancing *Ganapathy*. There is also Lord *Arumuga* next to Lord *Ganesa*. There is no holy tree for this temple (*Stala Virusha*).⁶

At the entrance of the inner *prakara* there is the idol of the holy bull (*Adikara Nandi*). There is a small tower over the entrance of the inner *prakara*. On the southern side of the inner *prakara* one can see the seven goddesses in the company of *Lork Jirahaeswarar*. The goddesses are *Sri Kameswari*, *Sri Narayani*, *Sri Gowmari*, *Sri Indirani Sri Kaali*, *Sri Abirami* and *Sri Varahi*. On the western side inner *prakara* there are the idols of Lord *Ganesa* and *Muruga*. The northern side of the inner *prakara* is an open space.⁷

Beyond the inner *prakara* the *Mahamandapam* is situated. The pillars in the big hall (*Mandapa*) carry the architectural features of *Chola* kings who ruled this region as representatives of the *Chola* emperors. These *Chola* princes were known as *Chola pandias*.⁸ It is significant to note that only the idol of Lord *Saneeswara* alone was placed for worship. Beyond this *mandapam* is the *Artha Mandapam*. The pillars in the *Artha Mandapam* are rectangular in shape. The sides of the pillars are broad and they carry many carvings.

The structures of the *Pothigas* carry the significant features of the *Pallavas*. Such *Pothigas* can be seen in the cave towers and the rock towers of the *Pandian* emperors. They are also seen in the sculptures of the early *Cholas*. Next to the *Arthamandapam* is *Antharala* and beyond the *Antharala* is the *sanctum sanctorum*. There is the main idol of the temple *Srivalinathar*, Supposed to have been worshipped by *Vali*. The *sanctum sanctorum* is square in structure. It is to be noted that the square-structured *sanctum sanctorum* are seen in the temples built by the early *Cholas* beginning from *Sri Vijayalaya Chola*, who carried 96 battle scars all over his body.

On both sides of the entrance of the *sanctum, sanctorum* there are the idols of two sentries. The sculptures carry the significant features of the *Pallava* style.⁹ Above the *sanctum sanctorum* is the beautiful *vimana*. This *vimana* has two tiers and its octagynous in shape.¹⁰ There are four bulls on the four corners of the *vimana* facing west. There are also the images (*Kabothams*) placed above and beneath them. On the lower tier are the images of *yazhi* and *kabotham* in boxes beneath them is

a row of Buthaganam. At the end of this row are the images of lions. The role of yazhis is significant because they have both upanam and Kumudam. It is significant to note that the images of yazhi in this vimana are complete in their structure. According to scholars, the images of yazhis in most of the temple vimanas are not complete in structure. The row of yazhis at the lower tier is built of stone and the row above is built of bricks.¹¹

The images of Lord Indira and Lord Nataraja are seen on the upper tier of the tower. Lord Indira's image faces east and the image of Lord Nataraja is on the southern side. The image of Lord Brahma with the Akkamalai is on the northern side. The image of Yoganara simhan on the lotus is installed on the west of the tower. The carved images of Lord Siva and of the goddesses in the sitting posture are installed on the northern side of the tower in the lower tier. Both of them are facing Lord Chandikesvara. The images of Lord Siva and his consort blessing Chandikesvara are more beautiful than similar stone idols seen in other temples. Moreover the image of Lord Siva is superior to the stone sculpture in GangaikondaCholapuram in artistic grace and texture. This image of Lord Siva fits exactly well with the description of the god in *Devaram* and *Periapuranam*.¹¹

The image of the Lord with 8 heads is carved beautifully. The image of goddess Parvathi is carved in a running posture. On the western side is the idol of Lord Lingothbhava. There are also the idols of Kalandagamurthy with many legs and of the Lord Thiruparantaya carrying a bow. On the southern side is the image of Ammaiappan in Tribanka pose.¹² It is significant to note that the image of Lord presents him as taking Ganga (The ganges) on his head. Moreover the image of Lord Nataraja in Ananda Thandava Posture is seen here.¹³ It is said that the dancing posture of Lord Nataraja was first installed here. Scholars admire these images as among the best sculptures belonging to the early Chola period.

Parantaka Chola the first was famous for his victory over the Pandya king and also for his laying golden tiles over the tower of Lord Nataraj in Chidambaram. Hence he is known as Koppavakesari ruling Madurai and Erlam.¹⁴ One can conclude that this temple was built at the end of the 9th Century. There are many stone inscriptions seen in the temple. Among them, the inscription belonging to the period of RajarajaChola seems to be the oldest. From the stone inscription of SundaraChola Pandya Deva, we understand that this area is called Rajarajavalanadu and also as Rajarajachadurvedi mangalam. We also understand from the inscription that the name of the Lord is Thiruvallisvaramudayar. Another stone inscription refers to the great army of Chola Empire known as Mundrukai Mahasena. This temple and those worked in the temple came under the protection of this army. The inscriptions also reveal that this Chola army attacked sethi king Kankeyan who ruled Tripuri and killed him. We also understand from the inscriptions of Manavarma Sundara Pandya I, who established the Pandya empire that he was born in Avitta star in the month of Purattasi. The temple tower with beautiful sculptures installed on its regarded as a wonderful construction. The sanctum sanctorum is in square form with the vimanam above and the Arthamadapam were built in the style of the early Cholas.¹⁵ The artistic excellence of the sculptures on the vimana have been a source for administration and praise by all the Cholars who visited this temple.

NOTES AND REFERENCE

1. Tiruvalinathar Koil Kumbabisheka malar, Tiruvalieswaram, 1978-1979, p.27.
2. Arnold Christopher, " Building Configuration and Seismic Design" Mac Graw Hill Inc. 1981.p. 123.
3. Ibid.,p.124.
4. Brown Percy, " Indian Architecture" D.B. Tarporwala Sons & company Pvt. Ltd., 1971.p.75.
5. Ibid.,p.76.
- 6.5. Feiden M. Bernard, " Conservation of Historic Buildings" Butterworth & Company. Ltd, U.K., 1982.p.84.
7. en.wikipedia.org/wiki/vali-(Ramayana)
- 8.6. Prabhakar Shankar, " The Vastu Vidya of Vishvakarma", Studies in Indian Architecture, Asia.p.56.
9. Ibid., p.88.
10. Publishing House, Mumbai, 1979.p.78.
11. Vatsayayan Kapila, "The Square and Circles of the Indian Art" Roli Books International., 1983.p.54.
12. en.wikipedia.org/wiki/parantaka-1
- 13.8. Volwahren Andreas, " Living Architecture: India", Macdonald & Co. Ltd., London, 1969.p.25.
14. en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List-of-tallest-Gopurams
15. en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brihadeeswarar-Temple

Publish Research Article International Level Multidisciplinary Research Journal For All Subjects

Dear Sir/Mam,

We invite unpublished Research Paper, Summary of Research Project, Theses, Books and Book Review for publication, you will be pleased to know that our journals are

Associated and Indexed, India

- * International Scientific Journal Consortium
- * OPEN J-GATE

Associated and Indexed, USA

- EBSCO
- Index Copernicus
- Publication Index
- Academic Journal Database
- Contemporary Research Index
- Academic Paper Database
- Digital Journals Database
- Current Index to Scholarly Journals
- Elite Scientific Journal Archive
- Directory Of Academic Resources
- Scholar Journal Index
- Recent Science Index
- Scientific Resources Database
- Directory Of Research Journal Indexing

Golden Research Thoughts
258/34 Raviwar Peth Solapur-413005, Maharashtra
Contact-9595359435
E-Mail-ayisrj@yahoo.in/ayisrj2011@gmail.com
Website : www.aygrt.isrj.net