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COVER PHOTOGRAPH

This photograph shows the Vidyasankara Temple in Sringeri, India, which was constructed entirely of granite. This temple is architecturally unique, and was built on the banks of the Tunga River by Sri Bharati Tirtha and Sri Vidyaranya about A.D. 1350 as a memorial to their teacher, Sri Vidyasankara Tirtha. The interior of one half of the temple contains twelve elaborately-carved zodiacal stone pillars arranged in a square. In the course of the year sunlight at sunrise enters the temple through selected doorways and successively illuminates the different columns. However, the columns in question do not tally with the zodiacal constellations in which the Sun is located at the present time, but rather relate to the position the Sun occupied in the sky about 4,000 years ago. For information about this unusual temple and its remarkable astronomical associations see the paper by N. Kameswara Rao and Priya Thakur on pages 136-144 in this issue of the journal.