

Astronomical Observational Techniques in Ancient India

B. S. SHYLAJA¹

¹Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium, Bangalore Association for Science Education
High Grounds Bangalore, 560001 India
taralaya@vsnl.com

It is a very well known fact that several stone structures have been the result of keen observations of the movement of the celestial bodies, especially the sun and the moon. Almost every civilization of the past have some ruined structures as testimony to this.

In India, too, several prehistoric sites have been identified. A summary of such investigations carried out over the last century in different contexts is presented here. In the process it was also found that some temples as places of worship have astronomical ideas incorporated into their architectural design. However, the astronomical significance need to be reestablished. Here is a report of such an attempt extended to a small number of temples, which are relatively undisturbed over the centuries.