

LORD SHIVA AS THE FIVE ELEMENTS

THE students of Sri Kala Ranga School of dance presented a Bharatanatyam dance drama in worship of Lord Shiva at the Sivagami Petachi Auditorium on Saturday. Nature, the supreme reality, exists in the form of five basic elements. To establish oneness of nature and God, Lord Shiva manifests himself as these five elements. This manifestation of Lord Shiva in five different places of worship in South India was depicted through this Bharatanatyam presentation.

The presentation narrated the story behind the *Jambukeshwara*. The mythological history of water which flows perennially below the *lingam* symbolises the Lord at Thiruvanaikkaval. At Kalahasti, as wind depicting the story of the serpent Kalan who did not keep his promise of returning to Kailash after visiting his partner on Bhoolakam. At Chidambaram, Lord Shiva takes the form of nothingness (Aroopam). The form of Nataraja and the *Ananda Tandava* was also depicted by the stu-



Pic: A Raja Chidambaram

Depicting Lord Shiva

dents. Apart from this, the elements of fire and earth at Tiruvannamalai and Kancheepuram were also presented by many.

Many students of the school participated in the presentation. The different forms of Lord Shiva were de-

icted beautifully. The fight between Pushpadattan and Maliyavan, who were reborn as elephant and spider, was applauded by many. The act saw a true blend of the dance form with modernity.