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INSTITUT FRANÇAIS



DE PONDICHÉRY

ÉCOLE FRANÇAISE



D'EXTRÊME-ORIENT

CENTRE DE



SCIENCES HUMAINES

The first meeting of the reconstituted Monitoring Committee for French Research Institutes in India was held in New Delhi on 4th April, 2005. Both M. François Goldblatt, Minister Counsellor, and Dr. Pascal Chossat, who chaired the meeting, stressed the unique contribution of the IFP and the CSH, represented by their Directors Dr. Jean-Pierre Muller and Dr. Veronique Dupont, respectively. Mr. Jean-Pierre Tufin of the Archaeology and Social Sciences Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, explained the broader context of the reform of the overall monitoring system, which encompasses world-wide 28 research centres, and recalled that the experiment began in India in 1998 as a pioneering initiative. Among the persons associated with the Indian initiative from the outset was Ms. Francine d'Orgeval, who has recently retired; her contribution was recalled with warmth and we hope she will continue to associate herself with our activities.

The three-tier structure that was unveiled comprises a Strategic Orientation Committee at the apex, a 25-member Scientific Council, represented at the meeting by Prof. Nalini Balbir, and the country-specific Monitoring Committee. A significant dimension which emerged was the importance attached to Asia in general and South Asia in particular, currently represented by four experts on the Council. The 'Asia Pole' comprises also centres in Thailand, Hongkong and Japan. The hope was expressed that there would be greater interaction and synergy between the Indian Institutes and the other Asian Centres, located as they are in countries with which India has close ties and therefore could provide a wider perspective to our research thrust.

A significant recent event was the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the IFP, at which H.E. Ambassador Dominique Girard recalled the uniqueness of the institution bequeathed at the time of decolonisation: an Institute destined to serve as a bridge between two vibrant civilizations. The IFP-EFEO partnership had proved particularly fruitful, and the recent seminar on 'Traditions of Commentary' was cited as a notable success in this context. It is clear that the Indology tradition has lost nothing of its utility and relevance, as the future of India continues to have strong roots in its scholarly traditions and civilisational values.

Among the new initiatives aimed at stimulating an increased flow of young researchers in humanities and the social sciences, the new 'Hermès' programme of post doctoral fellowships in France is noteworthy. Other proposals under consideration are a Franco-Indian Doctoral School, which would enable joint-supervision of Ph.D. theses. This concept, which was first discussed at a meeting between the French Conference of University Presidents (CPU) and an Association of Indian Universities (AIU) delegation last December, if carried forward, would give a tremendous boost to the sharing of knowledge. A recent workshop of the French Association of Young Indian Studies at New Delhi gave impressive evidence of the wide-ranging scholarly interests of a new generation of French researchers. This energy must be harnessed for scientific cooperation.

Looking back at the impressive track record of the two institutes, both in terms of their scholarly visibility as well as their networking with Indian academic institutions, new directions for future development suggest themselves. In the dissemination of research output, the 'Occasional Papers' series could be revamped to give it more weight and substance.

Finally, while the meeting threw up many ideas on directions for further research, the need for sustained interaction on a continuing basis between the Indian experts on various advisory committees and panels with their French counterparts was repeatedly underscored. The spirit of partnership which marked the gathering bore ample testimony to the vitality of the bonds between the two scientific communities. May this partnership grow and prosper.

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FOCUS

➤ Golden Jubilee Celebrations

A series of events spread between the 21st of February and the 4th of March marked the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the French Institute of Pondicherry (IFP). By choosing its slogan "from tradition to modernity" as the theme of its Golden Jubilee, the IFP meant to show that it wished to remain a privileged instrument of a cooperation network that unites France to India and more globally, Europe with Asia.

An international conference on "Forms and Uses of the Commentary in the Indian World" was held from 21st to 25th February. Jointly organised by IFP, EFEO, University of Paris 3, the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, Delhi and the Indian Council of Philosophical Research, the seminar brought together around 50 well-known international specialists (from India, France, Europe, USA, Australia et al.) in Sanskrit and Tamil Literature.

The main celebration actually took place on 26th February. Messages highlighting the role of IFP in Indo-French scientific cooperation were delivered by the Governor of the State of Pondicherry (Chief Guest), the Ambassador of France in India (President of the Ceremony), the Director of the Social Sciences and Archaeological Division of the French Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Education of Pondicherry and the Director of IFP. Two publications dedicated to the Golden Jubilee have been released: *L'intermède français en Inde. Secousses politiques et mutations juridiques* by David Annoussamy and *Le vieux Pondichéry (1673-1824) revisité d'après les plans anciens* by Jean Deloche.

Two commemorative plates « Jawaharlal Nehru Conference Hall » and « Jean Filliozat Manuscript Room » were placed in honour of Jawaharlal Nehru, the Prime Minister of India who desired the institute to be "an open window to France" and Jean Filliozat, first director of the Institute and originator of a collection of Shaiva manuscripts which is world-renowned.

Finally, three exhibitions were inaugurated:

- The first one entitled "Old Pondicherry (1673-1824) revisited "symbol of tradition in the domain of research in archaeology carried out over long years jointly between IFP and EFEO;
- The second, devoted to the "New Information Technologies applied to Environmental, Human and Social Sciences" displayed the IFP's resolute engagement to modernity.
- The third representing "Palatial Houses of Chettinad" highlighted architectural patrimony of south India in danger.

On 3rd March, IFP had jointly organised with EFEO a workshop devoted to the "Applications of new information technologies to indology". This was an occasion to present the 50-member delegation of the General Assembly of the EFEO, one of the recent applications of the "NTIC" developed by the IFP, including a prototype of the Historical Atlas of South India (see *Patrika* 17, January 2005).

A brochure recounting the history of IFP, from its gestation to its "maturing", and laying the foundations of its necessary "renaissance" has been published on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee. It is available on request.

RESEARCH

CSH

➤ Evaluating diversity and freedom

The aim of this project is to apply the diversity indicators developed by economists to the measurement of biological diversity in India. Biologists and ecologists have a long standing field experience in measuring the biological diversity of various ecosystems. Yet the numerical indices they use to perform the measurement suffer from the weakness of not attaching importance to the pairwise dissimilarities of the various species. In recent years, economists have proposed various criteria for measuring diversity on the basis of an explicit notion of dissimilarity between the objects

measured. In this research, we plan to apply these indicators to the appraisal of the intertemporal evolution of the biological diversity in the forest of Western Ghats, an ecosystem which has been defined as a "hotspot" by the international convention on biological diversity signed at the Rio summit in the mid nineties. This project is conducted in collaboration with Pierre Couteron at the IFP.

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➤ Estimating the preferences of the households for urban amenities in Delhi

The object of the research is to examine the robustness of a result, obtained in a paper written with S. Thoron, which provides a condition on households' preferences which is necessary and sufficient for a process of endogenous formation of jurisdictions to give rise to stratifications. An assumption that clearly needs some weakening is the absence of a housing, or land, market. In the Gravel and Thoron model, households can live in a jurisdiction, and participate in the collective choice of the tax rate without buying or renting housings. It appears therefore important to enlarge the decision space of the household from the public-private spending one to the public spending, housing space and private spending and to see how the conditions identified in the Gravel and Thoron paper can be reformulated in this enlarged decision space. Once housing is incorporated into the analysis, one can use data on the housing market to test, using hedonic methodology, whether or not the condition on households' preference is satisfied. Hedonic methodology consists in using cross-section data on housing prices, housing characteristics and households' characteristics to estimate the households' preferences.

The socio-spatial dynamics of Indian cities, especially in Delhi, appears quite suitable for this sort of test. The aim of this case study will be, therefore, to test whether or not households' preferences in Delhi, as they can be estimated by hedonic methods, satisfy the condition identified in Gravel and Thoron.

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➤ "Refugee" identity or the building of a globalised citizenship. The case of refugees in Delhi

The main purpose of this research on Delhi's refugees is to examine the process of identity construction in a refugee environment and especially the impact of the refugee status on the re-definition of oneself and one's belonging to a group. In this connection, the study focuses on groups which avail different status: The United Nations' refugees (Burmese and Afghans), those under the Indian administration (Tibetans) and those without any status (to be identified). The general problematic of this research is expressed as follows: on the basis of the case of refugees in Delhi, it consists of studying a specific aspect of multidimensional social and cultural interaction and to evidence the social rationale followed by these refugees as well as the strategies developed within migratory networks.

The research will tackle, on the one hand, the networks in which the refugees are circulating or which are established around them (local and international networks). On the other hand, it will be directed towards the collection of life stories.

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➤ Hindu Nationalism and Education: Constructing the Hindu Nation at School

Scholars studying nationalism are well aware of the central role that schools play in constructing national identity. Yet there have been few studies to go more deeply into this subject and specify how this nationalization takes place and which mechanisms it employs. More attention needs to be given to how a certain representation of the nation is transmitted through school education. This research project focuses on the case of India where the Hindu nationalist influence on education has been strong. The project aims at answering the following question: How do the Hindu nationalist movements transmit their representation of the nation through school education?

To answer this question three areas will be covered: the making and organisation of the curriculum, the teaching of history, and the representation of territory. They will be analysed at the federal level through the reform of school education (New Curriculum Framework for School Education 2000), at the State level with a focus on Gujarat, and in the private school system by looking at the Saraswati Shishu Mandirs.

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IFP

➤ The past and present of rain-fed irrigation reservoirs (tanks) in south India: A multidisciplinary study

This project, within the framework of the Paleoenvironment project at the IFP, aims to choose three historically well-documented irrigation reservoirs (tanks) of South India, falling in different rainfall regimes, with an approach that combines perspectives from the physical and human sciences to understand the evolution of the natural environment and climate as well as human interventions therein. It consists of:

1. identification of rain-fed irrigation tanks that contain historical inscriptions/records of age,
2. study of topographic settings and recent disturbance using remote sensing and field observations
3. pollen studies to reconstruct the vegetation and climate history
4. physical dating of the sediments from the tank
5. study of multiple proxies such as geochemical and mineral magnetic to complement and complete the reconstruction of the evolution of the physical and biological environments in the past
6. a socio-cultural study, that takes into account the historical context of the construction of the tank, to understand its present condition and possible future evolution scenarios.

We have identified and sampled sediments from a tank near Madurai in the northeast monsoon regime; its physical environment and evolution are being explored in collaboration with ISRO, Bangalore and Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad. ISRO-GBP is funding this project; the social aspects of the study are being explored in the framework of a Masters thesis to be submitted to University of Paris-I this year. Two other Masters students from the same university are documenting the watersheds of Vriddachalam region, Tamil Nadu.

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➤ Bio-diversification of pro-angiosperms during Late Triassic: Palynological Evidence

How old are the flowering plants (Angiosperms)? Or, "Angiosperm Origin: Pre-Cretaceous vs. Lower Cretaceous" is a much debated subject of palaeobotanical interest. Our contributions (Comet, 1979-*Palaeontographica* 213: 37-87 & 113 figures; Pocock & Vasanthy, 1988-*Rev. Palaeobot. Paly.* Vasanthy et al.

2004-*Geophytology* 33: 99-113) have defended the Late Triassic Origin of Angiosperms with the pollen records of distinctively columellate Triassic Angiospermid playnomorphs [Equisetosporites chinleanus Daugh., Cometipollis reticulata Pocock & Vasanthy and the Crinopolles group (sensu Cornet)]. These palynomorphs were collected mostly from the Chinle Formation, Arizona and the Richmond basin, Virginia (USA). Our study on radial through rotated symmetric pollen encountered in one of the south Indian montane shrubs *Nilgiranthus neilgherrensis* (Vasanthy & Pocock, 1986-*Can. J. Bot.* 64: 3050-3058) was instrumental for the collaborative investigation with Dr Bruce Cornet who observed a similar change of symmetry in a few of these Late Triassic palynomorphs.

Our scanning and Transmission Electron Microscopic observations of these pollen types have led to the following inferences:

1. Reticulate-columellate exines (pollen walls) in Cometipollis and Crinopolles group are assertive of their angiospermal nature.
2. Their striations-like-apertures underlined by unmodified endexine and/or nexine are indicative of pollen-wall protective strategy (desiccation minimizing) for cytoplasm during anther-stigma pollen transit in the arid climate of the Triassic.
3. Proximo-distally reticulate to foveo-reticulate exine in Crinopolles group is apparently monocotyledonous.
4. The Late Triassic presumably "fragile" angiosperm precursor plants, that produced the angiospermid pollen types, had not been fossilized, unlike their pollen walls composed of "sporopollenin" (one of the hardest organic compounds).

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EVENTS

(For more information on events, please consult our respective websites)

LECTURES/SEMINARS/ROUND TABLES/WORKSHOPS...

CSH

International Seminar *Anti-Discrimination and Affirmative Action in a Comparative Perspective*, co-organised by the Centre for Political Studies of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), the Centre for International Studies and Research (CERI-Sciences Po, Paris), and Centre de Sciences Humaines, at JNU, New Delhi, 23rd and 24th February. Based on the experiences of India, France, the United States as well as other countries, this international seminar examined several issues: the internal logic and external side effects of affirmative action; the different types of measures and policies implemented; the identification of the beneficiaries (scheduled castes and tribes, other backward classes, the Muslim minority – in the case of India); affirmative action for women.

International Workshop *Impact of Globalisation on National Firms: The Case of India and China in a Comparative Perspective*, co-organised by CSH, Observer Research Foundation (ORF), National Council of Applied Economic Research with the support of the Delegation of the European Commission in India at ORF, New Delhi, 18th-19th April.

This workshop is part of a one year project being carried out by researchers at the CSH, in collaboration with other Indian, European and Chinese institutions and funded mainly by the European Commission under its Small Projects Facility. The objective of the project is to evaluate the impact of the opening of the domestic market and the globalisation process on Indian enterprises, and then to compare it with the experience of China. The evaluation focuses on three main areas,

- 1) The impact on industrial policy and the relationship between the economic administration and Indian firms,
- 2) The impact on the corporate governance of Indian industrial groups, and
- 3) The impact on technological strategy of Indian corporate groups and their relationship (conflict-cooperation) with foreign multinationals operating in the Indian market.

These aspects concerning Indian firms are investigated in the industrial sectors, where there have been deregulation and tariff implications. These include electronics (including software and consumer electronics), automobiles, energy and textile industries.

Lecture *Discourse against the city in India. Hindu culturalism and Western perspectives*, by Dr. Odette Louiset, Associate Professor, Department of Geography, University of Rouen, co-organised by CSH and India International Centre (IIC), at IIC, New Delhi, 10th January. Many discourses from various sources converge on demonstrating that Indian identity is more rural than urban. Urbanity would be mainly an imported phenomenon either by Muslim or by the British colonization. Today, Indian cities are mostly described through the lack of housing and employment, and social crisis. The discourse of the rural life as the true identity with the preeminent pattern of Indian village is also found in the nationalist, anti-colonial movement, in the early 20th century. Gandhian thought still deeply inspires anti-urban ideology in India, which is moreover linked with western anti-modernist ideology. This lecture examined these connections and proposed an Indian pattern of city, not in a morphological way but in a cultural way: how Indians make the city.

Lecture *The Making of Global Finance*, by Prof. Marc Flandreau, Institute of Political Studies, Paris, co-organised by the Economic Mission of the Embassy of France and the CSH, at the Cultural Section, Embassy of France, New Delhi, 7th February.

Professor Flandreau argued that a historical examination of financial flows revealed that exchange rate regimes were unimportant as a factor when it came to financial crises. What was important were political variables and economic growth of the economies. Thus the Washington consensus stood questioned given these findings. The discussant for this lecture was Saumitra Chaudhuri, Member, Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council with Prof. Manmohan Agarwal, Dean of the School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University as the chairperson.

Lecture *Discourses of young people, identity construction and voting 'behaviour'*, by Prof. Lucy Baugnet, University of Picardie Jules Verne, co-organised by the CSH and India International Centre (IIC), at IIC, New Delhi, 9th February.

The lecture was focused on the interpretation of voting behaviour as a discursive and social practice of citizen, the man on the street, conceived as a social subject. Contextualized in the frame of social representation theory, this deals with the links between politically and electorally defined social representations, identity constructions and the declared voting behaviour of the citizen that enables them to understand the facts they must cope with, but also adapt to and control their environment.

This was based on the discursive material produced by young voters at the French presidential elections of 1995 and for developments in 2002. It ultimately questions the notion of democracy as a sensitive system of communication and social representations. Has democracy become a sensitive question?

Lecture *Burma's political transition: Implications for India* by Renaud Egreteau, Institute of Political Sciences – Paris

& Research Institute on Contemporary South East Asia (IRASEC-Bangkok), co-organised by the CSH and India International Centre (IIC), at IIC, New Delhi, 21st March. Since more than a decade now, the democratic transition in Burma is one of the main political issues at stake in the region. In 2003, the military regime proposed a "road map to democracy", but its initiator, General Khin Nyunt was ousted in October 2004. Since, the junta's top leaders appear to have taken control of the process: Aung San Suu Kyi, the leader of the opposition, is still under house arrest and the Army strengthened its political grip, threatening the superficial ethnic stability of the country. What could be the implications of the latest turmoil for India?

Lecture *The Village Assembly: Issues, Discourses and Participation*, by Dr. Girish Kumar, Senior Fellow & Head, Political Science Division, co-organised by the CSH and India International Centre (IIC), at IIC, New Delhi, 6th April. The institution of the Village Assembly (Gram Sabha) is essentially meant for enriching the practice of local democracy. It does so in many ways. First, it provides an opportunity to the ordinary people to operate in the public domain and practice the art of collective decision-making without resorting to violence. Second, it enables people to articulate their innate need and demand their redressal, thereby seeking political attention. Third, it enhances the prospects of elected leaders. Is this institution alive to its multiple roles and functions? Based on the experiences of the Gram Sabha selected from Maharashtra, West Bengal, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh which are indeed the states representing three generations of Panchayats in India, the underlying issues were discussed.

Book launch *Ambedkar and the Genesis of the Sociology of Hinduism*, lecture by Prof. Christophe Jaffrelot, Director, Centre for International Studies and Research, Paris, co-organised by CSH and India International Centre (IIC) at IIC, New Delhi, 23rd February.

This lecture, followed by a panel discussion featuring Prof. Dipankar Gupta (Jawaharlal Nehru University) and Prof. Rajeev Bhargava (Delhi University) with Prof. André Béteille as the chairperson, accompanied the launch of the book published by Permanent Black (Delhi): *Dr Ambedkar and Untouchability-Analysing and Fighting Caste*. Ambedkar was a scholar and a prolific author as much as a man of action and he analysed Hindu society before embarking on his struggle against the caste system. The presentation focused on the analysis that Ambedkar made of the organicist dimension of the caste system and its corollaries, the notions of "graded inequality" and sanskritisation. It then examined one of the strategies he evolved to fight these factors of oppression, the ethnicisation of the Untouchables' identity.

Book launch *The Sangh Parivar*, lecture by Prof. Christophe Jaffrelot, Director, Centre for International Studies and Research (CERI-Sciences Po, Paris), at the Alliance Française de Delhi, 1st March.

This lecture, followed by a panel discussion featuring Prof. Sumit Sarkar (Retd; Department of History, University of Delhi) and Prof. Yogendra Yadav (Centre for the Study of Developing Societies), accompanied the launch of a reader edited by Christophe Jaffrelot and published by Oxford University Press (Delhi). This volume brings together significant readings on the Sangh Parivar – the 'family' of Hindu nationalist organisations – and traces the rise of the right wing in Indian politics. It examines the most important components of the Sangh Parivar: political parties, religious organisations, the women's wing, organisations intended to reshape the mind of the Hindu youth, social welfare associations, a labour union, as well as think-tanks promoting a 'Hindu nationalist approach' of the economy. Therefore, it shows that the Sangh Parivar

is present in the major arenas of the public sphere and engages with different sectors of the Indian society.

Launch of CSH Occasional Paper *China-India Economic Engagement. Building Mutual Confidence*, presentation by Dr. Swaran Singh, Associate Professor, JNU & Academic Consultant, CSH, co-organised by the CSH and India International Centre (IIC) at IIC, New Delhi, 8th April.

On the eve of Chinese Premier, Wen Jiabao's visit to India, this CSH Occasional Paper was released by Prof. Balveer Arora, Rector, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Prof. Arora also chaired the discussion that included a presentation by the author. This was followed by comments by three expert discussants (i) Amb Vijai K. Nambiar, Dy National Security Advisor, Govt of India as also the former Ambassador to China, Pakistan, and United Nations (ii) Dr. Arvind Virmani, Director and Chief Executive, Indian Council for International Economic Relations (ICRIER), New Delhi and (iii) Prof. Patricia Oberoi, Director, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi.

(For more information on the Occasional Paper, see Publications section)

IFP

International Workshop in connection with the IFP project *Biodiversity Information and Co-operation in Taxonomy for Interactive shared knowledge* (BIOTIK) was held from 28th-31st March at the National University of Lao PDR, Vientiane followed by field trips. The objective of the BIOTIK is to initiate cooperation between European and South Asian institutions with the view to apply IT&C for biodiversity conservation. This is envisaged with the development of a comprehensive knowledge base for tree species of Western Ghats of India and the Nothem Annamite Mountains of Lao PDR, which will be made available online and also in the local languages in a PDA version. The partners include CIRAD, France, National University of Lao PDR, French Institute of Pondicherry, India and the National Herbarium Nederland, Leiden, The Netherlands.

International Workshop in connection with the IFP project *Open Source Simple Computer for Agriculture in Rural Areas* (OSCAR) was held at Wageningen University, The Netherlands, 14th-18th March.

Seminar on *Microfinance Debt bondage, seasonal migration and labour relations in agriculture: a case study in Tamil Nadu* by Dr. Kamala Marius-Gnanou, University of Bordeaux and Mr Vankatasubramaniam, IFP was held at the Jawaharlal Nehru Conference Hall, French Institute of Pondicherry, 11th March.

Seminar on *Diversity Quantification: how to overcome limitations of usual indices?* by the Department of Ecology. This seminar stemmed from a joint initiative of the department of economical sciences of the CSH and of the Ecology department of IFP and was also attended by scientists of Pondicherry University. Diversity indices, which are popular in the field of ecological studies, do not take into account any kind of diversity of economical choices and are now considering dissimilarity between objects as base of new indices. The seminar, which aimed at presenting and debating these new theoretical perspectives with particular emphasis on their applicability to ecological data, was held at the Conference Hall, French Institute of Pondicherry, 2nd February.

Lectures on *HIV/AIDS treatments accessibility. Social Sciences and preconceived claims of causality* by Frédéric Bourdier, research fellow, IRD scientific coordinator, IRD-Cambodia and on *The Circulation of the ARV drugs in the private and informal sectors in Cambodia* by Taing Youk lin, research associate, IRD-Cambodia, at the Conference Hall, French Institute of Pondicherry, 8th February.

Lecture on *Waterfalls and rapids: What river knickpoints say about erosion of South Asian landscape*

by Prof. David Harbor, Geology Department, Washington & Lee University, Lexington, Virginia (USA) affiliated to IFP, at the Conference Hall, French Institute of Pondicherry, 20th January.

EFEO

Classical Tamil Winter School

The Pondicherry EFEO's Third Classical Tamil Winter School began on 31st January 2005. Two parallel sessions of classes, one for beginners and the other advanced students were held throughout the four-week workshop. Thomas Anzenhofer (Halle-Wittenberg), Dr. Thomas Lehmann (Heidelberg) and Dr. Eva Wilden taught grammar classes for both levels. T.V. Gopal Iyer conducted advanced reading sessions (selections from the Akananuru and the Tirukovaiyar). There were also parallel reading sessions with the Centre's scholars organised every afternoon as follows:

- Varada Desikan: Vaishnava poetry for beginners (Tiruvaymoli and the Tiruvarangkalampakam).
- G. Vijayavenugopal: Introduction to epigraphy and Tamil inscriptions.
- T. Rajeswary: Introduction to reading manuscripts.
- T.S. Gangadharan: Cilappatikaram.

The guest lectures were as follows:

"Tamil Epigraphy", Professor Leslie Orr, Concordia University, Canada; "On the origins of Lyric poetry in India", Dr. Alexander Dubianski, Moscow; "The genres of Akam poetry" and "Classical Tamil Commentaries", Dr. Thomas Lehmann; Heidelberg; "Tamil Dialects", Dr. Arokianathan, Professor, Department of Tamil, Pondicherry University; Dr. Venkatachalapathy, Madras Institute of Developmental Studies, Chennai; Two early women saints of Tamil Nadu – Karaikkalammaiyar and Antal", Dr. Vijayalakshmi, Indian Institute of Technology, Chennai; "Courtship among the Mutuvan, Adivasis of the Southern Ghats", Martine Gestin from Université de Paris X – Nanterre and "scholar" of the EFEO. Two concerts – Carnatic Music by Padmashree Mrs. Sudha Raghunathan and her group, and Music of the Divyaprabandham by Padmabhushan Madurai T.N. Seshagopal and his group – took place on 5th and 11th January. Participants this year came from France, United Kingdom, Russia, USA, New Zealand, Hungary, Croatia, Germany, and Singapore.

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International Conference *Forms and Uses of Commentary in the Indian World*, Pondicherry, jointly organised by the *Ecole Française d'Extrême-Orient* and the French Institute of Pondicherry with the collaboration of the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan (Delhi), University Paris III & the Indian Council of Philosophical Research, in Pondicherry, 22nd-25th February 2005.

The object of this gathering was to celebrate 50 years of French Indology in this town, and to highlight its relationships with Indian scholars and its scientific orientations and achievements as well as its extended influence.

To this end, a fundamental theme was selected, that of commentaries which, despite their crucial importance in all fields of discipline, have been very little studied for themselves. These texts make up, in fact, a very large part of literature in Indian languages, especially Sanskrit. The topics were grouped under the following headings: Commentary as a genre: Why commentaries? The history of commentaries; The adaptation of Indian commentaries; Editing commentaries: theoretical and practical problems. The conference was unanimously judged a great scientific success from which many good things would come.

The organizing committee was composed of François Grimal (EFEO), Nicolas Dejenne (IFP), V. Kutumba

Sastri (Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan) and Nalini Balbir (University Paris-III). François Gros and M. Kannan organised the Tamil session. The French Ministry of Foreign Affairs (*Bureau des congrès*) and the French National Centre for Scientific Research gave their financial support to the event. The Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan ensured that the entire conference was recorded on video for the broadcasting by Doordarshan of extracts from it.

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General Meeting of EFEO Members

A General Meeting of all the members of the *Ecole Française d'Extrême-Orient* (from France and from the 17 centres across Asia) was convened in Pondicherry from 28th February till 3rd March 2005. Representatives from the French Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Education also attended. The affairs of the EFEO were discussed, but there were also sessions devoted to the application of new technologies to the preservation of and study of manuscripts and inscriptions. Reports on digitising projects were presented by François Lagirarde (Thai manuscripts), Michel Lorillard (Inscriptions in Laos), Bruno Bruguiere (Corpus of Khmer Inscriptions), Dominic Goodall (cataloguing and digitisation of Saiva manuscripts in Pondicherry), Po Dharma (digitization of Cam manuscripts), Daniel Perret (inventory of inscriptions in Indonesia), Philippe Papin (inscriptions in Vietnam), Marianne Bujard (inscriptions in Peking). A Round Table discussion was chaired by François Bizot on the theme of "Indianisation in Asia". The speakers were Pierre-Yves Manguin, "L'Asie du Sud-Est 'indianisée' avant 'l'indianisation'"; Kuo Li-Ying, « L'Asie bouddhiste »; Christophe Pottier, « Art et archéologie angkorien »; Dominic Goodall, "L'Asie indianisée vue de l'Inde".

Kasikavrtti Meeting

A workshop was held in the Pondicherry Centre of the EFEO from 7th-12th March for the project on the critical edition of the Kasikavrtti. Participants from the Centre were Hari Narayan Bhat, V. Lalitha and Anjaneya Sarma. From Pune came François Patte, Professor Venugopalan, Prasad Joshi, Gayatri Tillu, Praci Sohani, Bharati Balte, Mukta Keskar, Ruca Mulya, and Sarita Kulkarni. Also present were Pascale Haag (EHESS – co-director of the project with Saroja Bhate), Vincenzo Vergiani (University of Rome "La Sapienza" and EFEO scholar recently arrived in Pondicherry), and Marc Csernel (INRIA).

WELCOME

...at the CSH

Ingrid THERWATH, a PhD student in International Relations from *Institut d'Etudes Politiques*, Paris pursued research at the CSH in January-March 2005.

...at the IFP

Administration

Ms. Dévassena RABINDRA joined the Administration as the new Executive Assistant to the Director from 1st April.

Laboratory of Geomatics & Applied Informatics

D.R. Vishnu KUMAR, MCA student from Pondicherry Engineering College joined the Dept on 10th January to work on his project. *Developing an open-source based graphical user interface for computer aided species identification system* under the IFP project "OSCAR" till 30th June.

Dept of Ecology

N. SRIVALLI, MCA student from Pondicherry

Engineering College joined the Dept on 1st January to work on her project *Computer aided application for calculation of foliar surface area* under the IFP project *Palaeo Environments of South India* till 30th June.

M. TAMILSELVI, MSC student from Kanchi Mamunivar Centre for Postgraduate Studies, Pondicherry joined the dept on 17th January to work on her research *Pollen Morphology of a Few Eastern Ghats Species* under the IFP project *Palaeo Environments of South India* till 15th April.

Dept of Social Sciences

Olivia AUBRIOT, Agro-ethnologist and research fellow at the CNRS joined the department on deputation since 21st February for a period of three years. Her programme explores the management of irrigation in Tamil Nadu: *Access to water and social vulnerability*. This programme will be conducted in collaboration with the IFP and the University of Pondicherry.

Ashley OUVRIER, a PhD candidate joined the Dept on 19th February from University Paul Cezanne, France to work on the project *Anthropology of HIV transmission from mother to child in Tamil Nadu*.

...at the EFEO

Estella DEL BON from the "Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes" and scholar of the EFEO arrived in February 2005 to pursue her studies in linguistics and manuscripts at the Pondicherry Centre of the EFEO until mid-August 2005.

Uthaya VELUPILLAI (PhD student at University of Paris III), and scholar of the EFEO returned in April to continue her research about the temple of Cirkali.

GOODBYE

...at the IFP

Administration

Ms. Johnsirani NAGARAJAN, executive assistant to the Director, left the IFP on 7th April.

Geomatics & Applied Informatics

Laurent DUFY, research engineer and international volunteer completed his term on 30th April.

MILESTONES

CSH

François LECLERCQ (PhD student, University of Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne, recipient of a CSH scholarship in 2001-2002) was attributed the 2005 Commonwealth Institute award for outstanding scholarship in educational research, which aims to distinguish recent English-language publications pertaining to education in commonwealth countries, for his study *The Impact of Education Policy Reforms on the School System: A Field Study of Education Guarantee Scheme and Other Primary Schools in Madhya Pradesh* (CSH Occasional Paper No.5, November 2002). He received the award in London on 14th March as part of the Commonwealth Day events.

EFEO

His Holiness the Abbot of the Tiruvatturai has presented T.V. GOPAL IYER with an award in memory of "Mahadevan Sriman Menatchisundaram Pillai" for the year 2005. The award consisted of a gold ring, por-kili (gold coins to the value of Rs 3000 tied up in a piece of cloth), a silk chawl, and a certificate of merit.

PUBLICATIONS (May 2004 - May 2005)

Contact CSH: Attreyee Roy Chowdhury – attreyee@csh-delhi.com, Contact IFP: Saikat Bhattacharya – saikat@ifpindia.org, efeopdy@vsnl.com

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VARADA DESIKAN, contributed Tamil articles on *Tiruviruttam* poems every month to the Sri Ranganathapaduka, a monthly magazine published by the Srmat Antavan Asram, Srirangal, Trichy District (from November 2004).

PUBLICATIONS

CSH

Electoral Reservations, Political Representation and Social Change in India: A Comparative Perspective

Stéphanie Tawa Lama-Rewal

Manohar-CSH, New Delhi, 210p, Rs.525



This book relates to the Indian debate on reservations – a legal provision that guarantees a minimum presence in various institutions to social categories considered as victims of a historical prejudice. It focuses on the implementation of electoral reservations for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes and women.

Reservations aim at reconciling the individual, egalitarian premises of democracy with the traditionally major role of communities and hierarchies in the Indian society. Through reservations, the law tackles frontally the contrast between the political system and the social structure of India – and one can wonder which of the two comes out more transformed in the process. This series of empirical case studies – dealing with different levels of political life, different regions and different timeframes – brings elements of answer to that question: indeed the very heterogeneity of the collection allows us to go beyond the specific problematic usually associated with each beneficiary category.

The chapters analyse the working of reservations in reference to two closely connected yet distinct issues: the effectiveness of reservations as a means towards political representation; and their relevance as instruments of social change.

The book thus offers a collective, though partial, stock-taking exercise, and adds to our understanding of reservations as a policy, their limitations; and their principal and secondary effects.

Urbanization and Governance in India

Evelin Hust & Michael Mann (eds.)

Manohar-CSH, Manohar-CSH, 341p, Rs.995



India is rather notorious for its urban problems: Kolkata and the plight of her urban poor has become the epitome for the urban nightmare; Dharavi-slum of Mumbai has the distinction of being the largest in Asia; Delhi has the infamous reputation of being one of the most polluted cities of the world; and much lesser known Surat has entered the public consciousness as the city where a supposedly extinct disease of the middle ages - the plague – had reappeared in 1994.

To govern Indian cities seems to be one of the biggest challenges in the twenty-first century. However, governance occurs at various levels and is employed for a limited economic sector as well as for the whole globe. Since this volume deals with urban India, the definition of UN HABITAT will serve as a point of departure stating that power exists inside and outside the formal authority and institutions of government. In this way, governance emphasizes 'process' recognizing that all decisions are based on complex relationships between many actors with different priorities.

All chapters are informed by the authors' specific views on urban problems and urban governance. Yet all chapters contribute to our understanding of urban governance in various ways and read together serve to widen our horizon on this extremely complex issue of urban problems and urban governance in India.

China-India Economic Engagement: Building Mutual Confidence

Swaran Singh

CSH Occasional Paper 10, 205p



With their annual GDP growth rates hitting respectively at 9.1 and 8.5 per cent for 2003 and at 9.5 and 6.9 per cent for 2004, China and India have since come to be recognized as two of the largest as also the fastest growing economies of the 21st century. Thanks, however, to their colonial and cold war legacies, this economic boom had, for long, remained a mutually exclusive exercise. It is only rather recent that their political initiatives at confidence building have begun to develop areas of mutual engagement which remains premised on their new *mantra* of mutual accommodation and mutual benefit. Their economic engagement as a result has since come to be the most reliable as also the most agreeable instrument of China-India *rapprochement*s assiduously evolved during the last three decades or more.

Especially in the last few years, China-India economic engagement has picked up its own momentum with a streak-of-autonomy to say the least. From being once driven by their bold political initiatives, their economic engagements today symbolizes as the most decisive force that promises to potentially circumscribe (and direct) their mutual policy initiatives. It is in this context, that the two sides have come to appreciate how to use their economic engagement to deal with their long-standing political concerns and difficulties. Border Trade, for one, has clearly earned the epithet of being an ideal approach to building atmospherics that can help resolve their boundary dispute, though this will take its own time. Also, given

several powerful domestic, bilateral and regional dynamics, their new-found bonhomie remains as yet fragile and this calls for caution and serious planning on the part of both Beijing and New Delhi.

IFP

Gender discriminations among young children in Asia.

Edited by Isabelle Attané & Jacques Véron, IFP/CEPED,

2005, 314 p. (CSS n°9)

Language: English. 400 Rs (15 €)



Subsequent to the demographic transition, Asian countries have been experiencing deep-rooted changes in family structures. In this context, the question of gender relations within the family, and more generally within society, is crucial, in view of the increase in discriminatory practices towards women.

Asia is the "black continent" for women. This book focuses on the intensity of female discrimination, from a demographic perspective, in the earliest stages of life, and more specifically around birth, in China, India, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea and Taiwan. These societies share cultural characteristics that are not favourable to women; a son is needed to perpetuate the family line and ensure social and biological reproduction of the family. Son preference may also be related to economic constraints.

Keywords: gender relations, female discrimination, son preference, selective abortion.

Microfinance challenges: empowerment or disempowerment of the poor?

Edited by Isabelle Guérin & Jane Palier, 2005, 384 p.

(CSS n°10)

Language: English. 450 Rs (16 €)



The causal relation between microfinance and empowerment is neither linear, nor unequivocal, and it is even less systematic. This book is an attempt to nourish the debate, on the one hand, by combining theoretical reflections and case studies, and on the other hand, by engaging practitioners and researchers from various backgrounds. The first part is an attempt to define the concept of empowerment. The second part highlights the central role of the environment: the link between

microfinance and empowerment is all the more subtle, and sometimes unforeseeable, as microfinance projects take place within an economic, sociocultural and political context that is itself complex, evolutionary and which partially conditions the results obtained. The third part relates to the crucial question of evaluation.

Keywords: microfinance, empowerment, poverty.

L'intermède français en Inde. Secours politiques et mutations juridiques.

David Anoussamy, IFP-L'Harmattan, 2005, 412 p. (IFP – CSS n°11;

L'Harmattan – Collection Droits et Cultures)

Language: French. 500 Rs (18 €)



The memory of the French venture in India is still lingering in the minds, but it is not an entirely closed chapter as one would be tempted to think. This book while portraying the main features of this venture unveils its interesting continuations. Pondicherry witnessed constant movements of population in both the directions. Thus we find among Pondicherrians, wherever they are, a plurality of laws whose conflicts and comparison provide a fascinating history. The author hailing from

Pondicherry, who served as a judge of higher courts, under the French government as well as under the Indian government, gives in this book a first hand account of his double experience.

Keywords: comparative law, Indian law, French law, colonisation, Pondicherry.

Traité, temples et images du monde indien : études d'histoire et d'archéologie.

Bruno Dagens. Articles rassemblés par M.-L. Barazer- Billoret et V. Lefèvre, IFP/ Presses Sorbonne Nouvelle,

2005, xiv, 330 p. incl. 42 pages of photos.

Language: French, English. 400 Rs (14 €)



This book is a reprint of several papers by Prof. Bruno Dagens who from the end of the fifties has carried out research on temple architecture and iconography in Afghanistan, Southeast Asia and India, and in doing so dealt with several aspects of the history of the Indianised world, its art, its religious practice, its ideology ...

The first part of the book comprises two general contributions dealing, one, with the history and the spreading of Indian art and, the other, with results of several joint field and theoretical researches. The second part contains several papers (in French and in English) relating to Indian treatises while the third

deals with sites and monuments of Southeast Asia. The book comprises a bibliography and several indexes.

Keywords: India, South-East Asia, architecture, history, treatises.

Sabdabodhamimamsa. An inquiry into Indian theories of verbal cognition. Part 1. Vakyavyarthavacaratamakah prathamah bhagah. The sentence and its significance.

N.S. Ramanuja Tatacharya. IFP/Rashtriya Sanskrit

Sansthan, 2005, lviii, 546 p. (C1 n° 100.1)

Language: Sanskrit, English. [Distributed by the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, New Delhi / Diffusé par le Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, New Delhi]



In this first volume of *An Inquiry into Indian Theories of Verbal Cognition*, the author, assembling the view of different sastra-s (Nyaya, Mimamsa, Vyakarana, Vedanta...) examines the following theories and subjects: the theory according to which word is a means of valid cognition, the definition of word as a means of valid cognition, the nature of the sentence, its sense, and what makes it intelligible, the theories of anvitabhidhana and abhitanvaya, the notions of syntactic unity and plurality, syntactic expectancy, logical consistency, phonetic contiguity and

the general purport of the sentence, the sphota theory: all views and notions the knowledge of which constitutes the first step in the analysis of verbal cognition.

Keywords: Indian philosophy, sastra-s, verbal cognition.

IFP-EFEO

Paniniyavyakaranodaharanakosah. The Paninian grammar through its examples. Vol. 1. Udaharanasamaharah. The book of examples: 40,000 entries for a text.

F. Grimal, V. Venkataraja Sarma, V. Srivatsankacharya, S. Lakshminarasimham, IFP/EFEO-Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetha Tirupati, 2005, [CD-ROM], (C1 n° 93)

Language: Sanskrit, English. 300 Rs (11 •)



The *Dictionary of examples of Panini's grammar* is intended to facilitate access to the fundamental treatise on Sanskrit grammar, the *Astadyayi* of Panini. To this end, 40 000 examples contained in four important commentaries of the *Astadyayi*, written between the 2nd and 16th centuries A.D., have been collected and analysed. These examples help in understanding the field of application of Panini's *sutra*-s and the functioning as a whole of this complex system. The first volume, entitled *The Book of Examples*, is intended to give a simple and clear overview of the basic data embodied in all the examples. This CD-ROM enables one firstly to locate the references to a given example, and secondly, to know which examples are attached to a given rule. It thus offers two modes of research.

Keywords: Sanskrit, Paninian grammar, examples, commentaries.

Bhairavasahasrapratimavalih. Iconographie de la forme terrible de Siva en Inde du Sud / Iconography of the terrible form of Siva in South India.

Edition par K. Ladrech, avec la collaboration de N. Dejenne, K. Ramesh Kumar. IFP/EFEO, 2005, [CD-ROM] (C1 n° 95)

Language: French, English. 300 Rs (11 •)



This bilingual French/English database assembles one thousand images of Bhairava (principally sculptures) in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, thereby presenting a vast panorama of representations of the deity in South India. The photographic documentation, derived mainly from the photographic collection of the French Institute of Pondicherry, is accompanied by descriptive fiches (location of images, iconographic description and other miscellaneous information). A searchengine enables the user to bring together all the various data and to select images based on specific search criteria. The CD-ROM also contains an essay that presents the deity and maps indicating the location of the images.

Keywords: database, iconography, sculpture, South India, Siva-Bhairava.

Le vieux Pondichéry (1673-1824) revisité d'après les plans anciens.

Jean Deloche, IFP/EFEO, 2005, viii, 160 p. (C1 n° 99).

Language: French. 400 Rs (14 •)



The discovery of new cartographic material relating to the origins of the urban development and social structure of Pondicherry at crucial moments of its history considerably modifies our representation of the town. On the basis of all the documentation that is currently available in Archives in France and in the Netherlands, the author shows us how, from a simple town of craftsmen, this settlement became a metropolis structured according to a rigorous urban plan. He also shows us how the defense system of the place developed from a modest rectangular fort built by François Martin to the Fort Louis and the large outer fortification at the time of Duplex, until its final decay at the end of the 18th century. We are thus able to see, beneath the surface, the many layers of Pondicherry's past.

Keywords: India, Pondicherry, urbanisation, fortification.

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