

# Pattrika

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## The last witnesses of Tamil Cankam poetry

As well as being engaged in the cataloguing of UNESCO's *Memory of the World* collection "The Shaiva Manuscripts of Pondicherry", the EFEO has in recent years been attempting to digitize manuscripts of the earliest works of classical Tamil. Copying of these works by hand has ceased, and so the last surviving manuscript witnesses are succumbing to the ineluctable ravages of time. Heat, humidity and insect larvae reduce the shelf life of most South Indian manuscripts to about 200 years. The oldest texts of Cankam Tamil are anthologies of poems of love and war – allusive and often hauntingly evocative poems that richly reward the careful study they demand. A few have become celebrated through the radiant prose translations of the late A.K. Ramanujan of the University of Chicago.

### What She Said

*Bigger than earth, certainly,  
Higher than the sky,  
more unfathomable than the waters  
is this love for this man*

*of the mountain slopes  
where bees make rich honey  
from the flowers of the kurinci  
that has such black stalks*

(A.K. Ramanujan's translation of *Kuruntokai* 3)

Although published in learned editions, this literature has never been critically edited: in other words, many variant readings have not been published, and such variants which appear in footnotes have generally not been ascribed to the sources that transmit them. What this means is that even the recent transmission history has not been recorded, a history which can provide vital clues for constituting and interpreting these remarkable texts.

The most significant collection of manuscripts of this corpus is in Chennai, in the library of the great U. Ve. Saminatha Iyer, the man widely credited with the resurrection of Classical Tamil in the last century. After signing an MOU with the U.Ve. Saminatha Iyer Library (UVSL) last year, the EFEO has been digitizing their palm-leaf and paper manuscripts. On 11<sup>th</sup> March 2006, the UVSL organised a function in the presence of the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Madras, Dr. S.P. Thyagarajan, in order to celebrate the successful completion of the first phase of this collaboration. Digital photographs of manuscripts of the eight Cankam anthologies, the 10 songs and various smaller works were presented by Dr. Eva Wilden from the Tamil section of the EFEO to Prof. V.C. Kulandaiswamy, Head of the Board of the Library.

The EFEO will now digitize further parts of the manuscript collection, focusing first on early texts on rhetoric, but also on the literary epics and the so-called "minor" classics. Meanwhile, the specialists of Tamil in the EFEO continue to work towards a critical edition of the Cankam corpus.

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## FOCUS

### ➤ Indo-French Workshop on Prevention of Biomedical risks

An International Workshop on *Prevention of Biomedical risks* was jointly organised by the Indo-French Centre for the Promotion of Advanced Research (IFCPAR), the IFP and the *Maison des Sciences de l'Homme*, France from 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> March at the IFP. The seminar was aimed at bringing together an Indo-French perspective on the various aspects of biomedical risks ranging from issues related to communicable diseases, post disaster health mitigation and a deep introspection of risk perception and their socio-cultural determinants.

The seminar had around 20 participants, with an equal number from India and France from the biomedical and social sciences field as invited lecturers. The structure was so designed to allow the addressing of various aspects related to discrete level of risk prevention, risk identification, modeling, and present and post disaster management. A large number of examples were chosen mainly in the field related to infectious and parasite born diseases, air and water borne microbiological pollution and water quality control. Special attention was also given to the bird flu pandemic which is presently affecting many countries worldwide.

The architects of the seminar were Prof. M.R.S. Rao, President of Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bangalore and Prof. Claude Kordon of Institut Necker, Paris, and the coordinators were Dr. S. Mehendale, Deputy Director, National Aids Research (NARI), Pune from India and Prof. Wolf-Hervé Fridman, Chef de Service Immunologie Biologique, *Hôpital Européen Georges Pompidou*, Paris from France.

Many high-ranked personalities were among the invitees: Dr N.K. Ganguly, Director-General, Indian Council of Medical Research; Prof. M.S. Valiathan, President of the Academy of Sciences, India; Dr. M. Kazatchkine, Ambassador in charge of the fight against HIV/AIDS and transmittable diseases, France. *For more details, see IFP website: <http://www.ifpindia.org/Prevention-of-biomedical-risks,221.html>*

## RESEARCH

### CSH

### ➤ India's democratic renewal in question

The main objective of this project is to build a collective reflection on the thesis of India's democratic renewal, with a focus on the cumulated impact of two of its dimensions: the renewal of political elites (through reservations and identity-based political parties), and the renewal of mobilizing structures (through new participatory practices: ward committees, neighbourhood associations...). The project will proceed through the regular confrontation of ongoing individual research programmes, mainly in the form of a monthly seminar on "the forms, objects and stakes of political mobilizations in contemporary India".

The inception workshop of this collective research project was organised in the CSH on 17<sup>th</sup> January and the monthly seminar will start in June this year. The research team includes Stéphanie Tawa Lama-Rewal (project coordinator) and other members from the CSH "Political dynamics" department – Lionel Baixas, Samuel Berthet, Sanjay Kumar Pandey and Cyril Robin; Marie-Hélène Zerah (from the CSH "Urban dynamics" department); Gilles Verniers (Institute of Political Studies of Paris); Ilina Sen (Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya, Wardha) and Pradeep Sharma (Centre for Political Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University of New Delhi).

This project is part of the international programme on *Democratic transformations in emerging countries: Latin America, Africa, Asia – 1990-2005*, that is coordinated by the French Institute of South Africa and has received special funding from the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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### ➤ Contemporary Islam and Economic Development in India

As part of the international programme on *Restructuring of contemporary Islam and economic dynamics in Asia* (see Patrika 20), this study proposes to explore in the Indian context the relation between economic developments at the national and local levels and emerging Islamic perspectives.

In order to explore the impact of religious ideologies on the understanding and interpretation of current economic developments, the study proposes to examine the status of Muslims and their perspectives on development issues in two vastly different social and economic milieus viz. in the states of Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. The study will focus on three areas of health, education and employment; it will first look at the policies and programmes adopted by the two different states, and examine their outcomes for the state as a whole and for the Muslim community in particular. The study will then attempt to recapture the perspectives of different sections of the Muslim community in each of the two states to development issues in the three sectors mentioned above. Primary data will be collected through grass roots consultations from areas in districts with a large Muslim population and where there is a presence of an important religious seminary or madrasa. The study proposes to include if possible Shias as well as Sunni communities. To understand how Muslims interpret and react to the opportunities and react to the opportunities or lack of them, in the field of health, education and employment and how these responses are influenced by their faith beliefs, the study envisages two levels of interactions viz. with grass roots communities and with local Muslim community leaders and religious heads.

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### ➤ Challenges to Indian Federalism: Politics of Identity and Self Determination

This is a comparative study of separatist movements in Nagaland and Mizoram. Both the states of North-East India have predominantly tribal and Christian (though of different denominations) populations, have a long history of organised separatist movement and are peaceful at present. But whereas in Nagaland there exists political groups which are still demanding 'sovereignty' and are engaged in protracted negotiations with the Government of India for the same, there are no such groups or demands in Mizoram as of now. Therefore, it would be useful to compare the two cases to ascertain the nature and role of identity politics and elites in separatist movements in these states.

This is a contemporary study with some references to the historical context. We intend to use both qualitative and quantitative methods. A historical survey of the evolution of Indian federalism with special reference to these two states, based on content analysis of important documents- both government and non-government – will be supplemented with a sample survey in those states. The survey will seek to gather the opinion of the people in the two states. It will attempt to measure, establish and prioritise the various factors/variables responsible for separatist demands in those regions. Though mainly theoretical and empirical in nature, the study intends to prescribe, at the end, some solutions to the problem, which may have policy implications.

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### ➤ Poverty, Inequality and Growth: Exploring the Inter-linkages in Rural India

Growth of the Indian economy in the last two decades has attracted attention from both academicians as well as policymakers, not only in India but also internationally. However, behind the high growth rate of the economy at levels not seen in the first three decades following Independence is also the reality that the distribution of this growth of aggregate output has led to increasing inequalities. This highly unequal nature of income distribution in the last decade has been omnipresent in all spheres of the economy, be it, across rural and urban areas, across formal and informal sectors, across employment categories, across income groups, across household types, across states and even within states across regions. In this context, this research is an attempt to explore the relationship between output growth and its distribution (poverty and inequality), and the various channels through which the growth of output is distributed across the various constituents of population for the rural areas in the context of the ongoing economic reforms. While the primary focus will be on exploring the inter-linkages in terms of economic relationship (employment, workforce structure, wages and factor productivity) the issue of poverty and inequality will also be explored in greater detail by including other dimensions of human welfare such as nutrition, education, health and access to public goods. The analysis is proposed to be carried by primarily using the available secondary data sources, Unit level data from National Sample Survey Organisation, Ministry of Agriculture data sources, Census, National Family and Health Survey as well as other data sources. Given the large heterogeneity across states, an attempt will be made to take the analysis to the highest level of disaggregation possible from the secondary sources.

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### IFP

#### ➤ Collaboration of IFP with Japan and Sri Lanka in the field of ecology

The IFP has signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Scientific Cooperation with the Research Institute of Evolutionary Biology (RIE), Japan and Ruhuna University (RU), Sri Lanka on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2005.

The focus of the collaborative study would be on 'Dipterocarp' forests and its species, which are predominantly found throughout Southeast Asia and South Asia. Indeed Sri Lanka and the Western Ghats of India are together known as one of the biodiversity hotspots in the world and form the western most domain of 'Dipterocarp' distribution in Asia. Most of the 'Dipterocarp' species are endemic to these regions. Due to the over-exploitation of 'Dipterocarps' for timber, and conversion of lowland forests into other land uses, currently, most of the 'Dipterocarp' forests are degraded and fragmented in both the regions. Considering the mutual interest of RIE and UR and IFP for developing basic scientific knowledge in fields related to evolution, conservation and sustainable use of ecologically and economically important 'Dipterocarp' tree species, it has been decided to strengthen the collaborative efforts between the three institutions with the following objectives:

1. To assess the distribution patterns of low laying 'Dipterocarps' in Sri Lanka & the Western Ghats.
2. To study the spatial & floristic structure of the 'Dipterocarp' forest along the climatic gradient from Sri Lanka extending to Western Ghats.
3. Phylogenetic studies in relation to morphology & genetics of the three common genera (*Dipterocarpus*, *Hopea* and *Vateria*) to Western Ghats & Sri Lanka shall be carried out in order to trace the evolution of the Dipterocarps in the region.

4. Understanding the genetic variability at population level of the selected 'Dipterocarp' species.

Dr B.R. Ramesh, Ecology Department (IFP), Prof. T. Yamazaki (RIE) and Dr. Morley de Silva from Botany Department of RU will be the coordinators.

To initiate the collaboration between the three institutions, a common mission and fieldwork in the Western Ghats was conducted in December 2005.

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### Sustainable development and biodiversity conservation in India

The departments of Social Sciences and Ecology of the IFP are associated to the research project *From localised productions to geographical indications: which instruments to promote biodiversity in Southern countries* (BIODIVALLOC), which has just obtained a substantial funding from the National Research Agency (ANR).

This project, which satisfies a twin demand for conservation (biologic and cultural) of biodiversity and sustainable development, aims notably, to: (1) evaluate different instruments for the management of many reference ecosystems (mangroves, coffee zones et al...) by means of promoting local know-how; (2) elaborate indicators likely to, on the one hand, pave the way for national or local decisions as far as certification tools are concerned, and on the other hand, to provide frameworks of reference for international negotiations. Comparative studies will be led simultaneously in fields situated in Africa, South America and India. The CIRAD plans to appoint one of its researchers to the IFP in order to develop the Indian part of the project.

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### Collaboration with Morocco on the theme of social management of water

The project submitted by Olivia Aubriot (Social Management of Water Team) to the *Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie* (AUF), in order to finance collaboration with the CNEARC (French tropical agronomy school, in Montpellier) and the University of Marrakech (Morocco), has been selected. This project named "Crossed-views (India-Morocco) on question of participative management in irrigation and management of the underground resource", aims to give the opportunity to a young Moroccan and a young Indian researcher, to participate (i) in transfers of knowledge on the impact of policies of participative management in irrigation, with similar policies instilled by the World Bank in the two countries (ii) in a scientific cooperation with methodological exchanges through the hosting of a collective traineeship by the CNEARC. The project is of a 15-month duration, starting from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2006, and the geographical zones concerned are the rural zones of the states of Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry in India and the Haouz of Marrakech, in Morocco. This work will lead to a joint publication, emphasizing the methodological exchanges and the theoretical questions arising from these crossed views.

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### IFPEFEO

#### Cataloguing of "The Shaiva Manuscripts of Pondicherry" (A UNESCO Memory of the World Collection)

Following the signature last year of a Memorandum of Understanding between the EFEO, the IFP, and the Muktabodha Indological Research Institute for the digitization of the paper manuscripts of the IFP, a photographic team from Benares headed by Harry Spier came to Pondicherry on 4<sup>th</sup> March for a one-month stay to resume this work. We now have digital images of the nearly 200,000 leaves of the IFP's 1000 paper manuscripts. Digitization is, on the one hand, a

measure of conservation (even if it preserves only the message and not the support) and, on the other, it can be used to make the manuscripts more widely accessible. We plan to publish the images online for consultation by scholars worldwide. The next stage will be to take in hand the nearly 10,000 palm-leaf manuscripts housed in the French research institutions in Pondicherry. The cataloguing and digitization of the collection require human and financial resources that our institutions do not possess. We will, therefore, be appealing to the generosity of sponsors to help us in this ambitious two-fold undertaking.

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

## LECTURES/SEMINARS/ROUND TABLES/WORKSHOPS

### CSH

**International Seminar on *Liberalization experiences in Asia: A Normative Appraisal***, co-organised by CSH, Indian Statistical Institute (ISI, Kolkata), The French Centre for Research on Contemporary China (CEFC, Hong Kong), Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR, Delhi), with the support of the French Embassy in India and the World Bank, at ICSSR, Delhi on 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> February. The object of this conference was to provide the best normative evaluation of the liberalization experience engaged in several Asian economies in the last 20 years that was possible, given the existing data and methodologies. Scholars from major academic institutions all over the world came to present their work on this occasion. Examples of the topics covered at the conference and the speakers include the measurement of welfare in India (N.Gravel, CSH Delhi and J. Krishnakumar, University of Geneva) and in Sri Lanka (R. Gunitakala, University of Colombo), child labour (J.M. Baland, University of Namur), the evolution of income distribution in China (Yang Yao, Peking University and M. Fournier, CEFC, Hong Kong), the impact of minimum wage on poverty (G. Fields, Cornell University), the role of formal and informal institutions in development (A. Dhillon, Warwick University and I. Dasgupta, University of Nottingham) and the measurement of inequality, poverty and mobility (J.A. Weymark, Vanderbilt University; Jacques Silber, University of Bar-Ilan; K.Y. Tsui, Chinese University of Hong Kong and S. Chakravarty, ISI, Kolkata). A keynote lecture on the topic of 'Democracy and Equality' was also given by Prof. John Roemer (Yale University). François Bourguignon, Chief economist of the World Bank was also scheduled to give a presentation on this occasion, but he had to cancel for serious health reasons.

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**Lecture on *New States for a New India? Critical Appraisal of the Creation of Chhattisgarh*** by Dr. Samuel Berthet, Research Affiliate, CSH, co-organised by CSH and India International Centre, at IIC, New Delhi on 17<sup>th</sup> February. The creation of the state of Chhattisgarh represents a significant step in the history of Indian federalism. Though the hopes of a new Chhattisgarh in a new India emerged from the social movement led by Shankar Guha Neogi from the late 1970s to the early 1990s, the concept of a new state in a new India gained momentum in a geo-economical vision belonging to India as an economic power in the global scene. This vision was situated within the governance as the key concept

for policy making, with the private sectors and the information technology being conferred a driving role in order to overcome the obstacles to development present in a heavy and remote administration. The creation of a state where the tribal population would be the highest in peninsular India, could also be looked as a complement to the Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act, passed in 1996, in reinforcing the institutional tools for a grassroots decentralization in some of the poorest regions of the country. More than five years after the creation of Chhattisgarh, it seems necessary to look at the achievement of a new state as well as the new difficulties encountered earlier in order to reconsider the reasons behind this new federal step, in a region where regional movements never caused any substantial challenge to the central institutions.

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**Lecture on *The Privatisation of Diplomacy: Indian and Pakistani Experiences*** by Dr. Laurent Gayer, Head, International Relations Division, CSH, given at the IFP on 28<sup>th</sup> March. In Western Europe and later on in the rest of the world, the formation of the modern state relied on a new doctrine of sovereignty. But, however absolute sovereignty claimed to be, it always remained a fiction: whether inside or outside, no state has ever been able to exert an undisputed authority over its society. Taking examples from India and Pakistan, this lecture focussed on these breaches of sovereignty, particularly in the international realm, by emphasizing the failure of the modern state in enforcing a monopoly over the international representation of its citizens. Transnational cultural, religious, economic or political linkages offer individuals a wide range of options to project themselves and their communities in the international sphere. But if private diplomats tend to corrode the doctrine of sovereignty, the state can also undermine it by privatizing its international relations, for the personal sake of the political elites or for "public welfare" (as understood by these political elites or by certain sections of the diplomatic/strategic apparatus).

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### IFP

**International Seminar on *Labour in South Asia: Labour Relationships, Identities and Bondage***. In the framework of its "Microfinance and socially sustainable development" programme, the IFP organised from 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> February, in partnership with the Population and Development Laboratory (UMR IRD – University of Provence), the Institute for Human Development and the International Labour Office, an international seminar addressing the present forms of labour in South Asia. The acceleration of the politics of globalisation and neo-liberal programmes in India has led to many debates on a macro perspective. The effects on the politics of labour, as the processes of "casualisation" of the economy, recalls the urgency to tackle the task of studying labour on a broad perspective. The workshop intended to give space to a dialogue between anthropologists, economists, sociologists, historians, political scientists and geographers on labour in general and forms of bondage in particular. The workshop focused on the distinction of two perspectives:

1) at a micro-level: how people perceive, understand and experience labour relations. Many academic debates have taken place over the last decades concerning the contrast between free and unfree labour. The workshop was an attempt to go beyond this difference and suggested that bondage should be understood within a global analysis of *labour*. Understanding individual perceptions of labour relations requires an in-depth analysis of labour identities and solidarities, and how indebtedness shapes those identities and solidarities.

2) at a meso and macro-level: what are the consequences of the macro-economic and political trends: liberalization and privatization, and, to some extent, depending on the regions and the sectors, the various pressures to respect labour laws, and the various actions against debt bondage. Structural effects and the inertia of institutions should not hide the dynamic character or heterogeneity of practices and behaviour. Attention was paid to 1) sector-based analysis and employer behaviour 2) labour "markets" and labourers' behaviour within those "markets" 3) the role of the state and "civil society" in such trends.

A roundtable focused on debt bondage prevention, closed the seminar. Which policies to adopt? How to develop an economical, social and political environment capable enough of preventing vulnerable people from falling into the trap of bondage? Academics, national and international experts debated and confronted their experience and analysis.

Among the 28 speakers selected (from France, Great Britain, India, Pakistan, Holland, Switzerland) were some of the best specialists in this field. Two joint publications are to be edited following this seminar.

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<http://www.ifpindia.org/Labour-in-South-Asia.html>

**International Conference on *Land Law and Natural Resources Management: Challenges and Perspectives***. The IFP and the Dr. Ambedkar Government Law College, in cooperation with the French Association of Legal Anthropology (AFAD) and the University Saint Louis (Belgium) jointly organised from 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> March at the IFP, an international conference on the contemporary issues of land law and natural resources management in the context of globalisation.

The conference gathered 40 researchers and academics from Africa, North America, Europe and India, who shared interdisciplinary and comparative perspectives on current challenges related to land law and natural resources management. Seven panels highlighted the different facets of the central theme, especially on vibrant issues such as access to water, land law reforms, the protection of land law rights of "indigenous" people, as well as the problem of the resettlement of persons affected by Tsunami.

The conference also aimed at introducing the anthropological dimension of these questions by relating institutional reforms to the grassroot realities in order to enrich the contemporary debates on globalisation, governance, and sustainable development in a perspective of intercultural dialogue.

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**Lecture on *Geoinformatics based Management of Biodiversity from Landscape to Species Scale***, by Dr. A. Giriraj at the IFP on 24<sup>th</sup> January. Trans-scale information on biodiversity is fast becoming the critical information for policy decision and action. Thus, holistic understanding of the complex mechanisms that control biodiversity, their spatial and temporal dynamics, requires synergetic adoption of measurement approaches, sampling designs, and technologies.

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**Lecture on *Regional Distribution and Abundance of Plant Species*** by François Munoz, a Ph.D candidate from *Ecole Centrale*, ENGREF, France, at the IFP on 24<sup>th</sup> January. The spatial distribution of species may result both from the availability of suitable habitats and from the species' intrinsic spatial dynamics. Given such a context, the issue was basically to attempt to infer underlying processes from such spatial distributions. An approach known as a theoretical and technical challenge. The first investigation was on a metapopulation model, which described the colonization-

extinction dynamics of populations, in a static and spatially structured habitat. Important emergent properties of the model were highlighted. Thanks to this knowledge, a robust way to infer habitat and spatial dynamics from a given species' distribution was proposed. A study was conducted on the spatial dynamics of plant species in the Drôme French district, by using a recent floristic occupancy survey. A link was shown between the reproductive strategies at the level of individuals, and the global features of species' spatial dynamics.

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Lecture on *The Spiritual Causes of Disease in the Discourse of Modern Folk Healers* by Dr. Olivier Schmitz, from the University of Louvain, Belgium, at the IFP, on 27<sup>th</sup> January. Anthropologists interested in the therapeutic practices of individuals who claim to have some special and secret knowledge, always record in the discourse of their interlocutors some surprising interpretations of disease, well different than the biomedical ones. Four etiological models were identified. There are, first, ailments conceived like autonomous beings as if they exist independently of the sufferer's body, like "things" in itself, things that are growing, moving, hanging on... Secondly, there are ailments that are interpreted as the consequence of the prolonged exposure to "negative vibrations" which disturb the body's equilibrium. Thirdly, there are health problems that are considered to be caused by a spirit, a dead man's soul, who became a spiritual entity, who "sucks up" energy from living beings, like a vampire. There are, finally, some symptoms that are identified like the sign of a spell, caused by the evil thinking of a sorcerer.

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Lecture on *Labelling Traditional Ecological Knowledge to Valorise and Conserve Biological and Cultural Diversity: An insight into the ANR Biodivalloc research project* by Dr Marie-Christine Cormier-Salem, from IRD-MNHN, France and Dr Claude Garcia from CIRAD-fôret, France, at the IFP, on 13<sup>th</sup> February. The aim of this project is to examine the connection and consistency between the devices and norms that shape the most frequently tested labelling schemes in developing countries (geographical indications, eco-certification, park trademarks and fair trade labels) and the biodiversity management practices and local representations, and to determine the conditions of use of those tools for ensuring the valorization and conservation of biological and cultural diversity. This question will be addressed through an interdisciplinary (anthropology, geography, economics, ethnobiology, ecology and law studies) and a comparative approach, building upon differentiated study sites and objects spread over three continents, Africa, South Africa and South Asia, especially India.

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Lecture on *From Medical Geography to the Geography of Health* by Prof. Gerard Salem, from University Paris X, at the IFP, on 14<sup>th</sup> February. The historical relationship between epidemiology and geography is the result of the interaction of several disciplines. But for this pluridisciplinarity to be of help to public health, it matters to go beyond the biomedical paradigms. Health (and not only the disease), the system of health (and not only the healthcare system) must be considered in their spatial and territorial dimensions. The lecture developed this point of view while being based on precise examples drawn from research in the developed and developing countries.

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Training on *Critical Analysis of a Video Documentary: « Eaux Douces, Eaux Amères »* organised by the "Water Management" team of the IFP, at the IFP, on 2<sup>nd</sup> February. This video constitutes the Masters' Research Project in Geography of the authors, filmed during the months of December 2004-May 2005. The documentary dealt with the problem of water in the nearby semi-arid zone (Aladi and Manakollai, Virdachhalam district) and consisted of interviews with farmers, engineers and researchers in English and Tamil with a commentary and subtitles in French. This presentation was followed by a discussion focussed on the advantages and limits of using this medium for research, a criticism of the film in itself, and how to improve it for the English version. The idea was to send this discussion to the students, as feedback of their work and for the final English version they want to make for the people here.

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Training on *Tank and Groundwater Irrigation Management* for CNEARC students. A collective training course for CNEARC students from 18<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> March was organised by the team of "Water Management" of IFP as part of a joint programme between IFP, the CNREAC (French tropical agronomy school in Montpellier), the University of Marrakech (Morocco) and the University of Pondicherry.

The training was partly funded by the *Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie*. There were 11 French students and two teachers from CNEARC, as well as five students from the Masters programme of Sustainable Development at Pondicherry University. The training dealt with tank and groundwater irrigation management. The main focus was on: (i) understanding how the local bodies perceive projects and governmental policies on participatory management in irrigation, how they react and how they interpret the concept of groundwater recharge; (ii) the study of the impact of these policies on the effective participation of local bodies on their collective resource's management. The hypothesis was that the formalization of water users' associations, though well-accepted by farmers, is for them only a means to obtain finance from the government, but is neither an encouragement to focus on water management nor to improve their participation and decision-making.

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#### CSH-IFP Important Meetings

Monitoring Committee Meeting of the French Research Institutes in India, CSH and IFP, on 31<sup>st</sup> March, at the French Institute of Pondicherry.

Meeting of the Scientific Council of the French Research Institutes of the Asia Zone (including CSH and IFP) on 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> April at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Paris.



#### CSH

Cedric BUISSART, webmaster, joined the Centre in March. Charles-Noël EBANG, a student in Master 2 of Geography from the University of Rouen, joined the CSH from 20<sup>th</sup> February to 14<sup>th</sup> May to work on *The Diffusion of Medical Electronic Equipment in the System Healthcare: An example on Diagnostic Centres in Delhi*. Dr. Laurent GAYER, head of the International Relations division, joined the CSH in February. He will coordinate the international programme on *Restructuring of contemporary Islam and economic development in Asia* (see *Patrika* no. 20 – 'Focus': <http://www.csh-delhi.com/publications/downloads/patrika/patrika20.pdf>)

Jean-Luc GOURMELEN, secretary general/ financial officer joined the CSH in March.

Dr. HIMANSHU, a research fellow in Economics, joined the CSH in January (see *research section*).

Dr. Sanjay Kumar PANDEY, an expert in Political Science, joined the Centre in January (see *research section*).

Dr Vineeta SHANKER, a research fellow in International Relations, joined the CSH in February (see *research section*).

#### IFP

Karine BELNA, General Agronomist from *Institut National d'Agronomie*, Paris Grignon, France, joined the Institute from 15<sup>th</sup> February to 20<sup>th</sup> July to work on her project *Analysis of Ecological Data from Karnataka* in association with the *Ordybio* project of the IFP.

Marion DELPEU, PhD candidate in Anthropology, joined the Institute from February 2006-January 2007, to work on *AIDS Orphan Care*.

Agathe GARANDEAU, Masters in SILAT from ENGREF, France, joined the IFP as an international Civil Volunteer from 5<sup>th</sup> December 2005-6<sup>th</sup> December 2006, to work on *GIS and Remote Sensing*.

Dr A. GIRIRAJ, from the NRSA, joined the Institute from 6<sup>th</sup> January 2006 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2006 to work on his project *Biodiversity and Landscape Ecology*.

Celina JAUZELON, a PhD student in Anthropology, from the EHESS, France, joined the Institute from 20<sup>th</sup> November 2005 for one year to work on her project *The Actors of the Social Sector in India*.

François MUNOZ, post-doctoral scholar and engineer from CENTRALE, ENGREF, joined the Institute from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2006 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2006 to work on his project *Metapopulation Dynamics and Diversity Patterns*.

R. Yamuna RANI, PhD in Archeology from University of Madras, joined the Institute from 1<sup>st</sup> February-31<sup>st</sup> December 2006 to work on the *Historical Atlas of South India* project.

Rajaji SOMASSOUNDIROM, PhD student in Geoeconomics from University of Paris VII, joined the IFP from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2005 for three years to work on his project *Territories of Information Technologies – Regional Integration of Indian Meridional Metropolises*.

#### EFE0

Dr. Thomas LEHMANN from the South Asia Institute in Heidelberg and an external member of the EFE0's Cankam Project team, came to resume his reading of the *Ainkurunuru*, an anthology of Tamil love poetry, with T.V. Gopal Iyer.

Karine LADRECH, doctoral student at University of Paris IV, returned to Pondicherry for six months on a scholarship jointly funded by the EFE0 and IFP. She is preparing a CD-ROM on the iconography of the Darasuram temple.

Dr. Vincenzo VERGIANI of "La Sapienza" University, Rome, returned in February on an EFE0 scholarship to continue his work on the projected critical edition of the "Benares Gloss" (*Kasikavritti*), a fundamental work of the Sanskrit grammatical tradition.

Others on EFE0 scholarships who arrived in March: Dr Grégoire SCHLEMMER, studying the rewriting of their history by the Kirant of Eastern Nepal, Sikkim, and West Bengal; Amandine LEPOUTRE (EPHE), who will be studying Sanskrit here for six months; and Julie HUMEAU (Montpellier 3), who is examining "gifts" in the Buddhist Tibetan diaspora.

CSH

**Peri-Urban Dynamics: Population, Habitat and Environment on the Peripheries of Large Indian Metropolises. A review of concepts and general issues**

Véronique Dupont (ed.)

CSH Occasional Paper 14, CSH, New Delhi, 2005, 144p



Specific forms of urbanisation are evolving on the peripheries of the large developing metropolises. These processes of peri-urbanisation result in the formation of "mixed spaces", midway between urban centres and rural spaces – transitional spaces subject to rapid and multiple transformations: physical, morphological, socio-demographic, cultural and functional.

Our initial hypothesis in order to understand these processes is that within the metropolitan areas 'location' is never neutral. The urban peripheries do not constitute a simple framework of analysis, but a specific space in which settlement patterns, and land use correspond to diverse and often conflicting stakes, indicative of processes signifying a political and societal vision of the city and access to it. Mixed spaces, apportioned between populations with contrasting lifestyles and varied land-use, peri-urban spaces are also disputed spaces, bringing into play divergent and even conflicting interests. The need for housing, especially by the poor, the development and maintenance of greenbelts and new industrial zones, enter into competition.

The papers included in this first volume of the series of three Occasional Papers on peri-urban dynamics highlight the forces that govern peri-urbanisation and reflect upon the main issues at stake, as presented in the introduction (Véronique Dupont). They also attempt, more specifically, to refine the concepts related to the 'peri-urban' spatial category, and to better define and delimit this research 'object'. The authors examine not only the literature related to the Indian and Asian metropolises (Hans Schenk), as well as other developing countries (Suresh Rohilla), but also explore the concepts and models elaborated to analyse the evolution of the western metropolis, drawing in particular on the North American case (Paul Jargowsky, Pushpa Arabinoo) and the French case (Philippe Cadène).

**Periurbanisation in Tamil Nadu: a quantitative approach**

Sébastien Oliveau

CSH Occasional Paper 15, CSH-IFP, New Delhi, 2005, 90p



In a context of fast socio-economic transition, the primary role of towns on rural change is to question. By endeavouring to free ourselves of ideological baggage (rural or urban bias), this paper is an attempt to measure the extent of periurbanisation that has taken place in Tamil Nadu.

This work is based on geographical data, based on the 1991 census for Tamil Nadu and Pondichery. The author undertook a systematic

exploration of the relation between the 225 urban areas and the 16,085 villages of Tamil Nadu in order to estimate the influence of the urban areas on the surrounding villages. After re-examining the definition of urban areas, this paper underlines the diversity of periurbanisation, not only according to the type of town, but also on the basis of accessibility to these towns.

**Instability at the Gate: India's Troubled Northeast and its External Connections**

Renaud Egreteau

CSH Occasional Paper 16, CSH, New Delhi, 2006, 158p



India's Northeast has long been described as a remote and sensitive area, racially and culturally disconnected to mainland India but strategically attached to it. Expressions of ethnic identities since India's independence have been very blunt in the whole region and many sub-nationalists developed a strong separatist stream from the late 1940s. Rapidly, the ethnic struggle became a well-organised and multidimensional militancy

which took up arms and launched various enduring insurgencies against India's central government. Facing a stronger military response by New Delhi, the few separatist groups that had burgeoned in the region turned rapidly radical. Moreover, most of them had found in the local population their main back-up: the "Robin-Hood" syndrome they had created enabled them to benefit from a wide popular support.

This paper intends first to give a brief overview of the rise and growth of some of those separatist groups, with a special focus on the Nagas, the Mizos and the Assam movement. Insurgency took different forms in the Northeast as ethnic leaders chose different paths, means and patrons to pursue their struggle for recognition and/or separatism. Indeed, most of the armed ultras soon criminalised their activities in order to sustain their struggle. An analysis of the degeneration of these sub-nationalist movements into mere criminal groups have been proposed in this paper. With the Indian Armed Forces having more and more capacities and discretionary power of action, insurgency has radicalized its forms and activities. The criminalisation process will be broached by focusing the study on few separatist groups that have dropped their original revolutionary and lofty ideals to concentrate their struggle on easy money and underground activities, in spite of the fact that individualised interests, internecine rivalries and indiscriminate violence have often turned the population against those outfits.

Finally, how has the externality of the insurgency influenced this phenomenon?

The third part of the paper will propose an overview of the rapid externalisation of all the insurgent groups. The linkages they have established across borders enabled them to obtain friendly support (Pakistan), funding (China, LTTE) and strategic shelter (Burma, Bangladesh). We will attempt to demonstrate how these external connections fuelled the instability in the Northeast and conceptualised their struggle and survival. However, in the meantime, the external factor could also be the solution to the problem: by opening up the Northeast and developing it as a result of a more globalised local economy, the stalemate could also be overcome.

IFP

**Maram. Multipurpose tree database for agroecosystem research and appropriate management**

Santoshagouda V. Patil, Pondicherry-Montpellier,

IFP/CIRAD, 2005 (CD-ROM), (CE no. 43)

Language: English. Rs 300 (11•)



MARAM, whose title means 'tree' in more than one South Indian language, is a computer-aided database product endowed with considerable information on farm tree multiple uses – indeed the first of its kind in an electronic format in the peninsular Indian context. It covers a total of 269 woody species comprising 19 endemics from 544 small, medium and large farms spread over 61 districts

in three states, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

It is a useful and user-friendly product for all stakeholders of agroforestry such as researchers, fieldworkers and the farming community at large, on choice of species, their management and potential uses. The CD-ROM graphically illustrates the morphology, management practices, products and ecological services offered by such trees with the help of over 1500 vivid illustrations.

**Keywords:** agro-ecological zones, agroforestry, farmland, homegarden, multipurpose tree database, South India, tree-based systems.

**Mangroves v1.0. A multimedia identification system of mangroves species of South-East India and Sri Lanka**

J. Proserpi (et al.), Pondicherry-Montpellier,

IFP/CIRAD, 2005, (CD-ROM), (CE no. 44)

Language: English. Rs 300 (11•)



*Mangroves* is a graphical identification system of plant species, the only tool of its kind available on South-Asian Mangroves at present. The system, entirely graphic, enables non-specialists to make determinations with the help of just a small number of characters, chosen according to their availability for the particular plant to be identified. It meets the needs of amateur botanists, agronomists, forest officers and nature lovers with a keen sense of observation. The use of frequently observable vegetative characters has been favoured, as well as an extensive illustration of species.

The major part of the work presented in this CD-ROM was carried out in the framework of the European Commission funded project entitled "Assessment of mangroves degradation and resilience in the Indian subcontinent: The cases of Godavari Estuary and southwest Sri Lanka".

**Keywords:** botany, computer-aided identification, mangroves, vegetative characters.

**Microfinance en Asie. Entre traditions et innovations**

Isabelle Guerin, Kamala Marius-Gnanou, Thierry Pairault & Jean-Michel Servet (eds.), IFP-IRD-Karthala, 2005, 2229p

Language: French. 18 • (Distributed by Editions Karthala)



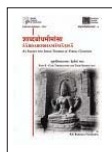
The objective of this book is to show, beyond particular political and social contexts, the main challenges microfinance organisations have to deal with today. The book is divided in three parts: the institutionalization of informal finance practices, the linkage of microfinance and public policies and the ability of microfinance to combat inequalities or to promote democratic practices and empowerment. Microfinance appears to be the fruit of a permanent co-production based on crossbreeding and hybridization where "tradition" and "innovation" interact and enrich themselves mutually. The authors conclude by inquiring as to its future. Without lapsing into pessimism, they are wary of any optimism that would blind them to the known weaknesses of microfinance institutions and their practices.

**Keywords:** microfinance, inequality, public policy, informal finance.

**Sabdabodhamimsa. An inquiry into Indian theories of verbal cognition. Part II Subarthavicaratamakah. Case terminations and their significance**

N.S. Ramanuja Tatacharya, IFP/Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, 2006, xi, 69, 940p (C1 no. 100.2)

Language: Sanskrit. (Distributed by the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, New Delhi)



Under the project entitled "An Inquiry into Indian Theories of Verbal Cognition" consisting of four volumes, the present one is the second in the series. It deals with the significance of the nominal case terminations. In this volume, Professor Ramanuja Tatacharya offers a profound and well-organised account of the views of the Naiyayikas, Vaiyakaranas and the Mimamsa in regard to this subject. Clearness of thought, soundness of reasoning, and freedom from bias underlie the presentation of the viewpoints of the authors of these schools of thought.

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

