

Pattrika

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Gradually all over the world, the French research institutes based abroad are getting concerned with a reform in their functioning. As far as India is concerned, the annual scientific committee of CSH AND IFP, held on 19th and 20th May in Paris, has been the occasion to tune up and recall the main consequences and advantages of an unending reform. The latter tends to increase and deepen the support, links and exchanges with large French (and European) research agencies.

The main change is that the five Asia-based French research institute (CEFC in Hong Kong, MFJ in Tokyo, IRASEC in Bangkok, and of course the CSH and IFP) now share the same scientific committee. With its 18 newly nominated members, the disciplinary focus has been strengthened, through a 'critical mass' effect, while scientific exchanges are increased across cultural areas. If one of the key objectives of the Institutes remains the collaboration with local research units, the common scientific committee is also a tool for sharing views in different but often complementary contexts.

But of course, research is also about means and evaluation, as well as with preparing the future through training of young researchers. In that respect, the reform of the centres includes in the near future a doubling of fellowships offered to young Ph.D students, as well as the support by large research agencies for a better dissemination and critical assessment of the publications of our centres.

Ultimately, and as far as our Institutes in India are concerned, the objective at stake for the years to come, will be to attract more French and European researchers to work on India, while favouring reciprocal exchanges. The reform gives a tool for the former, through possibilities of association with the CNRS (French National Centre for Scientific Research), either under joint units, joint laboratories, joint temporary programmes or financing of projects. As far as the reciprocity is concerned, we have to be imaginative with our direct research partners. Among others, the CNRS regular call for projects favour now mixed international pluridisciplinary teams, or the EU-sponsored 'Asia Links' programme offers similar facilities.

The reform of the centres, that way, is not a mere institutional change, but does offer a scope for deepening Indo-French research collaboration, at the condition that we imaginatively use it under a diversified and rich set of opportunities.

The scientific committee of May, followed by a meeting of the 30 French Centre's directors around the world in July has confirmed it: the international network around French institutes in general, and our geographical/cultural zone in particular offer a vast space for questioning the world and its evolutions, for mutual benefit. Within this, the effort of 'indianisation' of our two institutes has been well recognised and appreciated. That way, and with the appropriate tools, there are no reasons to be shy in the research we collectively propose and conduct.

Dr Joël RUET
Director a.i. CSH

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FOCUS

SAIVA STUDIES IN PONDICHERRY

Certainly in the world of Sanskrit studies, it is the initiative that led to the publishing of the *agamas* and Sanskrit exegetical works of the Saiva Siddhanta that, so to speak, put the French institutions of research in Pondicherry on the map. Thanks to the enthusiastic efforts of a research team under the now renowned N.R. BHATT, a very considerable collection of manuscripts was gathered together in the IFP (8600 on palm-leaf alone), and many publications that drew upon or were very largely based upon the Saiddhantika manu-

scripts of this collection have resulted. It was thus the French and Indian scholars of Pondicherry who for the first time attempted a thorough and broad-based study of the ideas and rituals of the pan-Indian Sanskrit Saiva Siddhanta and made many of its texts available to the scholarly community. Two works stand out perhaps as intellectual monuments among the Saiva publications: N.R. BHATT's edition of the formative 10th century exegete Ramakantha II's magisterial commentary on the *Matangaparamesvaraagama* (PIFI 56 and 65) and Hélène BRUNNER-LACHAUX's richly annotated translation of the 11th-century *Somasambhupaddhati* (PIFI 25. 1-4).

Saiva studies are still being actively pursued in

Pondicherry. A first edition of an unpublished pre-10th century Siddhantatantra, the *Parakhyatantra*, is now ready for press (prepared by Dominic GOODALL (EFEO), together with an annotated translation – the first complete English translation of an *agama*). A study group meets daily in the Pondicherry centre of the EFEO, focussing at the moment particularly on a dialectical work, the 10th-century commentary of Ramakantha on the *Paramoksansarikarika* ('Verses that refute the conceptions of liberation of rival schools'), of which a critical edition and annotated translation is being prepared by Dominic GOODALL, Anjaneya SARMA (EFEO) and Alex WATSON (Oxford). But other, unpublished Saiddhantika texts are also being studied together, notably the 12th-century *Prayascittasamuccaya* of Trilocanasiva (edition under preparation by R. SATHYANARAYANAN (EFEO)).

The group's number is regularly swelled by long-term or short-term visitors with interests in Saivism. At the moment these include: Whitney COX (Chicago), Mei YANG (Hamburg), Dr. Alex WATSON (Oxford), Dr Timothy LUBIN (Washington and Lee), Dr. Harunaga ISAACSON (Pennsylvania), Dr. Godabarisha MISHRA (Madras).

Contact: Dominic Goodall, Director, EFEO, ddsg@satyam.net.in, efeopdy@vsnl.com

RESEARCH

CARBON DYNAMICS IN TROPICAL FORESTS

There is a global concern that carbon dioxide is being released in large quantities and enhancing the global temperature. Tropical forests are considered as sinks of carbon dioxide and therefore there is large interest in developing and conserving forests in the tropics that helps in carbon sequestration. However, the data on carbon assimilation is largely lacking in the tropical forests. Results of carbon stock dynamics monitored in Western Ghats, Karnataka, for 10 years with different management systems and forest types indicates that in general the carbon stock has enhanced during the study period with an average growth of 1.008 t/ha/year. However, there were differences in carbon stocks in different management regimes. The minor forests that are subjected to intense human pressures had a negative growth rate i.e., 0.237 t/ha/year, while the reserve forests have carbon assimilation rate of 1.31 t/ha/year. This indicates that the human pressure has certainly decreased the carbon accumulation in the forests of Western Ghats. Despite the anthropogenic pressure, the minor forests have higher carbon accumulation through recruits as compared to the reserve forests. Thus it is suggested that a management strategy is needed to look into enhancing recruitment patterns in minor forest that would become future carbon stocks.

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INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY IN THE INDIAN CONTEXT

The project dealing with *intellectual property* looks at the legal point of view as well as that of the anthropology of law, as compared to the other systems, particularly European. These themes will help tackle issues like those of industrial property, biodiversity, interventions on living beings, ethic problems etc. India is an ideal place, legally as well as in actual practices in these matters, showing an alternative and always representing an example to other developing nations.

Researchers in social sciences are aware that questions pertaining to Intellectual Property get more importance. Courts and professional institutions deal with demands in order to ensure acknowledgement of new collective and individual rights on traditional cultural goods and values collectively shared. This tendency shows a need for protection of biological as well as cultural resources. The concerned groups are asked to use procedures and laws to enforce their rights and to form chartered associations. The lawyers are thus concerned in their capacity as experts and anthropologists because of their knowledge about traditional cultures.

In this scientific perspective, the Institute occupies a central place, not only due to its evident position, but also due to its programmes, its setup, its teams and its experience in the field of publications. The project will help in a documentation, which will be useful for specialists and the informed public, to develop a professional network and to publish the works carried out.

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INDIA IN THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION'S DISPUTE SETTLEMENT BODY

The question is whether India has a general strategy (that transforms dispute settlement into a trade policy tool) or, on the contrary, an opportunist approach, reacting on a case to case basis. This issue cannot be dissociated from the internal Indian dispute settlement system and is suggestive of two questions: Which administrative authority decided on lodging a complaint and what are the procedures followed? What is the degree of involvement of Indian exporting companies in the initiation of a claim (a comparative approach with European and American regulations on obstacles to trade could be undertaken), on eve of certain non-governmental organizations? Based on these analyses, we will endeavour to identify the major fields of interest for India, fully aware of the fact that a large share of these is based on three sectors, respectively covered by the Agreement on Trade-related Aspects in Intellectual Property Rights, the Agreement on Agriculture and the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing.

Contact: Julien Chaisse, Ph.D student in Law julien.chaisse@csh-delhi.com

THE SUCCESS OF JOINT FOREST MANAGEMENT: A VIEW FROM THE VILLAGE

When Joint Forest Management (JFM) was launched in 1991 to ensure a sustainable future for Indian forests, it emphasized that management should primarily aim at meeting the basic needs of women and poor people and should develop their capacities. Participatory users groups were to be constituted.

Nowadays, if forest cover is broadly increasing all over the JFM zones, the second aspect of JFM, i.e. putting forest-dependent people in an active role and as first beneficiaries, is not so much focused. The aim of this M.Phil is to study how the policy has been understood and translated at the local level. The main hypothesis is that in allowing equal rights of participation to every community member, the local elite will be able to take

control of the user groups and thus could neutralize the improvement of the more dependent people's situation. Field study is conducted in two tribal forest communities from Southern Madhya Pradesh.

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EVENTS

ORGANISATION OF SEMINARS / CONFERENCES / EXHIBITIONS / WORKSHOPS

Seminar "The European Union in World Politics" was co-organised by the CSH, Delegation of the European Commission, Indhira Gandhi National Open University, Fundacio Oriente and JNU EUSP at IIC, 22nd – 23rd May.

D. SENGUPTA organised a **two-day seminar (29th – 30th June) "The NDA's Foreign Policy"** (along with SPANDAN) in School of International Studies, JNU, New Delhi. He also presented a paper "The Limits of Economic Diplomacy". Shri Digvijay Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs, inaugurated the seminar. Dr Ved Pratap Vaidik, noted journalist and commentator delivered the keynote address.

Second International Intensive Sanskrit Summer Retreat: Last year in July, the Department of Indo-European Studies of Eötvös Lorand University, Budapest organised the first International Intensive Sanskrit Summer Retreat in Romania. 20 students and scholars from Europe and Japan met together in the small Transylvanian market town of Csikszereda (Miercurea Ciuc) for two rewarding weeks of intensive reading of Classical Sanskrit texts from three genres: *kāvya*, *tantra*, and *sāstra*.

Following the popular success of last year's venture, the Pondicherry Centre of the EFEO decided to host the sequel: the second International Intensive Sanskrit Summer Retreat (21st July – 4th August). Just under 30 participants, from India, France, Hungary (supported by the ICCR), Romania, England, China, Japan, Korea, Poland and the USA, attended.

Three reading sessions took place each day, devoted to *kāvya*, *tantra*, and *sāstra*. Each of the texts chosen were one of which manuscripts had been gathered and collated by a participant of the Retreat: *Raghuvamsa* 8 with Vallabha's commentary, the *Siddhāntasamuccaya* of Trilocanasiwa, the section of the *Nyāyamanjarī* of Jayanta that deals with the authority of scriptures other than the Veda, the *Kuttanīmata* of Dāmodara, the *Brahmaharasadhana* of Ratnakarasanti, and the *Paramoksanirāsakārikāvṛtti* of Rāmakantha. The texts were proposed by Dr. Kei KATAOKA (University of Tokyo), Dr. Dominic GOODALL (EFEO), Dr. Harunaga ISAACSON (University of Pennsylvania) and Csaba DESZŐ (University of Budapest).

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A Round Table on HIV/AIDS was jointly organised by the French Institute of Pondicherry in collaboration with the South India Aids Action Programme (SIAAP) on 3rd June at Chennai; under the Sidaction programme conducted by Dr. Florence Pittolo and S. Virammalle.

A three day conference "**Les enjeux d'une formation pratique auprès d'un partenaire du Sud pour le futur agent de développement** : autoévaluation des méthodologies et connaissances acquises en forma-

tion", organized by INDP (Intercultural Network for Development and Peace), Pondicherry and the French Institute of Pondicherry was held from 26th-28th June.

The sixth session of the **Tamil Summer School** was held from 21st July - 30th August. This year 14 students from various countries like Poland, USA, Germany, Sweden, France, Japan and London participated.

A seminar "**Microfinance and empowerment**", was held on 22nd and 23rd July at the Institute in collaboration with INAFI INDIA network and with the technical support of the International Labour Organisation, Chennai. This workshop was part of the micro finance programme conducted by Dr. Isabelle Guérin, researcher in IRD/IFP.

PARTICIPATION IN SEMINARS / CONFERENCES / WORKSHOP

S.L.P. ANJANEYA SARMA (EFEO): "Neranau sutravayakhyanasamiksa", paper presented in the Vyakarana section of the 12th World Sanskrit Conference, Helsinki, 13th 18th July.

K. ANUPAMA (IFP), **S. ARAVAJY** (IFP), **C.B.S. DUTT** (ISRO), **S. PRASAD** (IFP), **G. PUJAR**, **S. Ch REDDY**, and **S. SUDHAKAR** (NRSA): "Modern and fossil pollen data synthesis from the Indian subcontinent: an overview of the current status and future perspectives", poster presentation at the XVI INQUA congress, 23rd - 30th July.

G. BOQUERAT (CSH) presented a paper on "French Interests and India's Attitude in the Indian Ocean", conference "India and Emerging Geopolitics of the Indian Ocean Region", Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies, Honolulu, 19th – 21st August.

J. CHAISSE (CSH): "Legal Implications of the European Union Enlargement", seminar of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) on "India and the enlarged European Union: emerging implications for India", India Habitat Center, New Delhi, 9th July.

R. EGRETEAU (CSH) presented a paper on "India-Burma Relations since the Phnom Penh Summit (November 2002): Courting the Junta?", International Seminar on India and ASEAN: Post Summit Perspectives", organised by the Centre for Indian Ocean Studies, Osmania University, Hyderabad, 3rd – 5th July.

R. EGRETEAU (CSH) prepared a paper on "The NDA's Burmese Policy: towards a strategic relationship with Myanmar" for the International Conference on "India's Foreign Policy", JNU, New Delhi, 29th – 30th July.

T. GANESAN (IFP) delivered five lectures on "Sataratnasangraha", a text on Saivasiddhanta Philosophy at Veda-Agama Patashala, Thirupparankunram, Madurai, 16th 20th May.

D. GOODALL (EFEO) attended the working group for the preparation of the second volume of the *Tantrikabhidhanakosa* (dictionary of tantric terminology) being produced by the Oesterreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Vienna, 23rd – 24th June.

T.V. GOPALAIYER (EFEO): "Fruits hidden by leaves", anniversary talk at the Tamil Sangam, Villupuram, 8th May.

T.V. GOPALA IYER (EFEO): "Impact of Jeevakantamani on Periya Puranam", anniversary talk at the Tamil Sangam, Neyveli, 15th June.

T. V GOPALA IYER (EFEO): "Illustrations from the Nalayira Divya Prapantam in the Old Commentaries of Tamil Books", paper given at the Annual Conference of Sri Vaishnavism, Pondicherry, 19th July.

T. V. GOPALA IYER (EFEO): "Saivism during previous days and today", paper given at the Annual Conference of Saiva Siddhanta, Pondicherry, 20th July.

P. GRARD (IFP): Presentation aimed at "Implementing a regional approach to taxonomic capacity building" at

the 3rd Regional session of the global biodiversity forum –South Asia”, Dhaka, Bangladesh, 16th – 18th June.

I. GUÉRIN (IRD/IFP): Paper presented “Innovation or Instrumentalization?” at the “VIIIe Journée scientifiques” in Agence Universitaires de la francophonie, University of Rouen, 21st – 24th May.

G. KUMAR (CSH): Guest Lecture on Decentralisation and State Politics: A comparative account of Maharashtra and West Bengal” at the Centre for Law and Governance in JNU, New Delhi, 22nd August.

J.-P. MULLER (IFP) Presentations: “Présentation de l’IFP au Conseil Scientifique des Instituts du Pôle Asie du MAE”, 19th May, Paris; “Insertion des Centres de Recherche du MAE dans le dispositif extérieur français” at the Day of International Co-operation and Development, 17th July, Paris.

K.S. MURALI (IFP): Invited to Chair a session on Hunting and Harvesting” at the International conference on “Biotic interactions in the tropics: their role in the maintenance species diversity” organized by British Ecological Society and Association of Tropical Biology and Conservation, 9th July 2003.

J. RUET (CSH): Presentation “The Political meaning of a river: intellectuals and networks of knowledge around the Narmada”, Indo-French Conference on culture, identities and politics, MSH, Paris, 20th May.

J. RUET (CSH): Presentation of “Optimal timing for privatization of a utility: the Indian case”, London School of Economics (laboratory Destin laboratory), 21st May & Cambridge University, UK, 26th May.

J. RUET (CSH): Meeting of the Contributors to the India Infrastructure Report 2004, Mumbai, 14th 15th June.

R. SATHYANARAYANAN (EFEO): “An interesting Velaikkara Inscription from Punjai”, paper presented at the XXIXth Annual Congress of the Epigraphical Society of India, K.J. Somaiya Centre of Buddhist Studies,

Mumbai, 17th – 19th May.

SENTHILBABU (IFP): “Tamil mathematical manuscripts and the teaching of mathematics in the eighteenth century”, paper presentation at the Department of Humanities, IIT, Chennai, 22nd July.

J.-M. SERVET (IRD/IFP): Paper presented “Indian Innovations regarding Microfinance” at the VIIIe Journée scientifiques” in Agence Universitaires de la francophonie, University of Rouen, 21st – 24th May.

S. SINGH (CSH) delivered a lecture on “China’s Strategic Objectives, Foreign Policy and China-India Ties” at the Defence Services Staff College (DSCC), Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu, 26th June.

S. SINGH (CSH) presented a paper on “China Factor in India’s Look East Policy” at an International Seminar on “India-ASEAN: Post-Summit Perspectives” organised by Center for Indian Ocean Studies, Osmania University, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, 3rd – 5th July.

S. SINGH (CSH) chaired a session on “India and China’s Emerging Role in the Indian Ocean” at an International Conference (19th – 21st August) on “India and the Emerging Geopolitics of the Indian Ocean Region” organised by Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies at Honolulu, Hawaii (USA), 20th August.

S. SINGH (CSH) presented a paper on “Deterrence Theory and South Asia” at an International Workshop on “International Relations Theory and South Asia” organised by University of Pennsylvania Institute for the Advanced Study of India (UPIASI), New Delhi, 26th – 27th August.

V. SRIVATSANKACHARYA (IFP) presided over: “Visistadvata sadas” organised on the occasion of ‘Ramanuja jayanti’ at New Delhi, 7th – 16th May; “Padukavihara sabha” organised by Srirangam Sri Andavan Math, Chennai, 28th May – 1st June.

V. VENKATATAJA SARMA (EFEO): “Panini’s Sutrās:

‘Prak kadarat Samasah’ and ‘Saha supa’, Vakayarthā Sadas, Kanchi Kamakoti Mutt, Kalady, Kerala, 1st – 7th May (Sri Sri Swamiji of Kamakoti Mutt blessed him by presenting a gold chain on this occasion).

G. VIJAYAVENUGOPAL (EFEO): “Alexander Dubianski’s interpretation of Cankam presented Literature”, paper at the Seminar on Tamil literature from the point of view of Western Pondicherry, 13th April.

G. VIJAYAVENUGOPAL (EFEO): “Two New Rajanarayana Inscriptions from Omantur, Tamil Nadu, paper presented at the XXIXth Annual Congress of the Epigraphical Society of India, K.J. Somaiya Centre of Buddhist Studies, Mumbai, 17th – 19th May.

G. VIJAYAVENUGOPAL (EFEO): “Place Names from Tamil Inscriptions: 600 – 1300 A.D.: A Study”, Ku. Si. Haridas Bhat Endowment lecture delivered at the XXIX Annual Congress of the Epigraphical Society of India, K.J. Somaiya Centre of Buddhist Studies, Mumbai, 17th – 19th May.

G. VIJAYAVENUGOPAL (EFEO): “Tamil-Brahmi Inscriptions – A Practical Course”, conducted at the Workshop on Tamil epigraphy organised by the Villupuram Historical Society, Villupuram, 23rd – 24th May.

G. VIJAYAVENUGOPAL (EFEO): “A Review of Iravatam Mahadevan’s Ancient Tamil Epigraphy”, paper presented at the 14th Annual conference of the Tamilnadu Archaeological Society, Vellore, 19th July.

G. VIJAYAVENUGOPAL (EFEO): “Marriage as Metaphor”, in the exposition of Sri Vaisnava Philosophy’, lecture delivered at the Annual Conference of Sri Vaisnavism, Pondicherry, 20th July.

G. VIJAYAVENUGOPAL (EFEO): “A Report on the Recent Discoveries of Tamil Inscriptions in Villupuram district”, paper presented at the 4th Annual Congress

PUBLICATIONS...

DELAGE R., HEADLEY Z.E., *Ateliers Jeunes Chercheurs en Sciences Sociales*, “Identités et territoires en Inde,” proceedings of the Young Researchers Workshop in Social Sciences, Kolkata, 17th–21st February 2003, 137 p., booklet includes amongst other things, list of participants, programme, abstracts of the papers, a repertory of French students working on India.

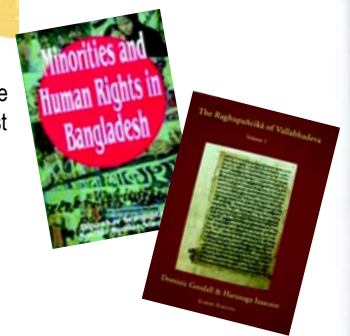
SENGUPTA D., SINGH S.K. (eds), *Minorities and Human Rights in Bangladesh*, Authorspress, New Delhi 2003, 318p.

AARON S., *Straddling Faultlines: India’s Foreign Policy Toward the Greater Middle East*, CSH Occasional Paper No. 7, 111p.

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WELCOME ...

...at the EFEO

We welcome back **Dr. Eva WILDEN**, who has just received her habilitation from the University of Hamburg and has returned, this time as a fellow of the EFEO, to continue her study of the classical Tamil anthology the *Narrinai* with T.V. Gopala Iyer (EFEO). The EFEO welcomes also **Mei YANG**, doctoral student of the University of Hamburg, who has joined the EFEO’s Saiva reading group for a year and who is studying the unpublished recensions of the *Kalottaratantra*. We are happy to benefit from the continued presence of **Dr. Alex WATSON** (who has just obtained his doctorate from Oxford University) in our Saiva reading group, which has been further swelled by the arrival of **Whitney COX**, a doctoral student of the University of Chicago,

who is studying 12th – and 13th – century Tamil and Sanskrit Saiva texts from Chidambaram, in particular the *Maharthamanjari* of Mahesvarananda.

... at the IFP

Dept. of Social Sciences

Ms. Isabelle GUÉRIN, Researcher in Economics from IRD, is presently affiliated to the Department as in-charge of the micro-finance research programme for a period of one year starting 1st July.

Ms. Jane PALIER, Ph.D. Student in Lumière University Lyon 2, is at the Department from 1st July - 5th January 2004. She is working under the guidance of Prof. Jean-Michel Servet on Microfinance and Empowerment.

Ms. Karin FROUIN, Agronomic Engineer Student and Post-Graduate in Economics, France, is affiliated to the Department under the guidance of Dr. Isabelle Guérin. She is working on “Microfinance and Governance”

with Dhan Foundation, Madurai, for three months from July - September.

Mr. Shailash Ranjan MAHAPATRA, Ph.D. Student at Sambalpur University under the guidance of Prof. S.S. Rath, is presently affiliated as a research scholar from 10th July - 9th July 2004. He is working on the “Micro-finance and Migration” programme conducted at the Department of Social Sciences.

Dr. Giorgi PKHAKADZE, M.D. (Medical Doctor), M.P.H. (Master in Public Health), from the Department of Anthropology, Madras University, joined as a Ph.D scholar at IFP in mid-August and will be working on “Micro-finance and Health”.

Dept. of Indology

Ms. Emilie AUSSANT, doctoral student from the University of Paris III was at the Institute from 29th June - 28th July and was working on the project “Indian Grammatical Tradition”.

Ms. Corinne LAGARDE-CHAPDELAINE, professor and doctoral student at University of Paris III, will be at the Institute for 3 weeks from 31st July and will be working on her thesis "Poetry and Grammar – Kavya-Vyakarana-Bhattikavya-Panini".

Lab. of Geomatics

Mr. Laurent DUFY, an international civil volunteer joined the Institute on 10th June as a research assistant.

Mr. Adrien GRIMAL, student from the Ecole Centrale Paris, will be working at the Institute for 6 weeks from 15th July on "Datum and map projection used in India" as part of his engineering degree project work.

Mr. Y. SRIKANTH, student from the Pondicherry Engineering College, joined the Institute on 15th July for 1 year. He is working on "Software development for web mapping" as part of his M.Tech project work.

Ms. Ruchi VORA, joined as a software developer on 15th July and will be working on the "Historical Atlas of South India" project.

GOODBYE...

...at the CSH

Dr. Sushil AARON, Researcher in International Relations, left the CSH in June.

at the IFP

Mr. Michel PERRAUDIN, Secretary General working at the Institute since 4th September 2000 left on 31st August 2003. He will be going back to France and will join the direction of the International Relations and Cooperation in the Ministry of Education.

Dept. of Social Sciences

Ms. S. VIRAMALLE, Research Assistant, has worked on the programme "Health and Society/ Socio-Anthropology of AIDS" conducted by Florence Pittolo at the Department. She left the French Institute on 31st July after completing her report.

Prof. Jean-Michel SERVET, Research Director in IRD/IFP, was affiliated to the Department under the micro-finance programme. He left the Institute on 30th August and will be joining the "Institut universitaire d'études du développement de Genève", Geneva, Switzerland as professor.

VISITS...

...at the EFEO

Archana VENKATESEAN, doctoral student at the University of Berkeley (USA), continued her study of Manipravalam texts with Mr. V. Varada Desikan (EFEO).

Mr Layne Ross LITTLE, doctoral student at the University of Berkeley (USA), studied with Dr. G. Vijayavenugopal (EFEO) in the course of his research about "Site, Secrecy & Exegesis: the contemporary commodification of a Saint".

Dr. Tim LUBIN, associate professor in Washington and Lee University (USA), arrived at the EFEO in July and will be passing a sabbatical year in Pondicherry to work on his current project: Brahmin Authority and Patronage in Ancient India – Creation of a Trans-Regional Cultural Elite.

... at the IFP

50 ex-mayors from France, who were on a tour to India visited the Institute on 20th May. A brief presentation of the Institute's activities was made to them followed by a quick tour of the premises.

Shri. I.K. GUJRAL, former Prime Minister of India accompanied by his wife **Smt. Shiels GUJRAL** visited the Institute on 19th July. He was given a brief presentation of the various projects and shown around the departments and laboratories of the Institute; he took a keen interest in knowing all the research activities carried out.

His Excellency the French Ambassador to India **Mr. Dominique GIRARD**, accompanied by **Mr. Jean-François CHENIN**, Deputy Cultural Counsellor visited the Institute on 23rd July. The Director gave a presentation of the Institute's activities and research projects before taking him around all the departments and laboratories.

Mr. K.K. JASWAL, IAS, Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, New Delhi, visited the Institute on 25th July. He was interested in knowing about the research activities and works carried out by the Institute.

Dept. of Ecology

Drs. S. SUDHAKAR and **Girish PUJAR** from the National Remote Sensing Agency, Hyderabad visited the IFP for discussions on the newly started collaborative project "Modern pollen analysis in eastern Ghats for reconstruction of paleo-vegetation and climate" with K. Anupama in June 2003

Dept. of Social Sciences

Mr. Patrice COHEN, Lecturer at the University of Rouen was at the department of Social Sciences from 28th May - 17th June, in connection with the AIDS and Health programmes.

Dept. of Indology

Dr. Animesh ROY Ph D Scholar from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York (CUNY) and a student of the well known French writer, **Prof. Edouard GLISSANT**, working on a thesis titled: "Creolisation or not? Cross-cultural phenomena in the former French territories of India, 1742-1954" visited the Institute for discussions with M. Kannan.

MILESTONES...

Dr. K.S. MURALI invited to become an Editor of the Asian region for "Monitoring Environmental Quality", an international journal published by Emerald Publishers, UK with Support from UNEP.

AWARDS: V SRIVATSANKACHARYA was felicitated by Srirangam andavan Svamiji with the title of 'Abhinava Nagesha' on 2nd June.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The multidisciplinary project titled: "Modern pollen analysis in eastern Ghats for reconstruction of paleovegetation and climate", in collaboration with the National Remote Sensing Agency, Hyderabad officially started in June 2003. The 3-year project is funded by a grant from ISRO-GBP (Indian Space research organization's Geosphere Biosphere Programme), Government of India.

OBITUARY

Sri. R. SUBRAMANYAM, an eminent Sanskrit scholar who worked at the Department of Indology, IFP from 1967 to 2000 passed away at the age of 65 on 6th August. He was working on the critical editions of the Saiva Agamas.

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