

Pattrika

BULLETIN OF THE FRENCH RESEARCH INSTITUTES IN INDIA
January 2005, No. 17



We wish all our readers
a very
Happy New Year

The French Institute of Pondicherry celebrates its Golden Jubilee

The French Institute of Pondicherry (IFP), the largest of the research institutes dependent on the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was founded in 1955 subsequent to the "de facto transfer agreement" of the French establishments in India that was signed in October 1954. In the 50 years of its history, the IFP has become an immense reservoir of knowledge on the cultures, societies and environments of India and has gathered within its walls valuable documents and research materials.

Far from resting on its laurels, the IFP has adapted its objectives and its methods of functioning to the exigencies of the modern world and to the profound and rapid changes that India, its host country, is undergoing (<http://ifpindia.org/focus.html>). At its inception an "open window to France" (Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru), the Institute, through its integration into national and international networks, has become for France, and indeed for Europe, a privileged observatory of the continuing development of all the countries of the South, to which India, experiencing political, social, scientific and cultural innovations that could serve as references, lends a very particular relief.

In choosing the slogan "From Tradition to Modernity" as the theme of its fiftieth anniversary (which will be celebrated in February 2005), the IFP intends to show that it wishes to remain a privileged instrument in the network of cooperation that brings together France and India and, more broadly, Europe and Asia.

To learn more about the IFP, consult the web site: www.ifpindia.org

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TRIBUTE

Born French in 1934, Guy Poitevin left us on 29th August 2004 in Pune, where he had settled down in 1972, and later married Hema Rairkar, who has been part of all his serious endeavours. He finally chose Indian citizenship, which was granted to him in 1978.

As a socio-anthropologist, Guy Poitevin has always combined his research work with a commitment towards empowerment of the underprivileged and marginalized sections of Indian society, especially the Dalits. His main areas of research thus focused on poverty, grass-root processes of development, popular oral tradition and indigenous knowledge. He has also experimented with alternative forms of cooperative methodologies in social sciences. Following this two-fold line of action, Guy Poitevin created in 1978 the Village Community Development Association for Socio-cultural action in remote rural areas (in 1978), and set up in 1980 the Centre for Cooperative Research in Social Sciences (CCRSS) in Pune (<http://ccrss.ws>). Guy Poitevin has a long list of

academic publications to his credit, which is further complemented by several translations into French of Marathi and Dalit literature.

An account of these activities was published in 1996 by Jean Pacquemet and Pierre Lachaier under the title "A propos et autour du séminaire 'Communication Processes and Social Transformations' (Pune, 8th -17th January 1996)", in the Bulletin de l'École Française d'Extrême Orient (Volume 83, pp. 336-346).

The CSH had an enriching association with Guy Poitevin, through seminars on communication, culture and power as well as publications: *The voice and the Will, Subaltern Agency, Forms and Motives* (Manohar-CSH, New Delhi, 2002); *Communication Processes* (co-edited with Bernard Bel, Jan Brouwer, Biswajit Das and Vibodh Parthasarathi, forthcoming with Sage India).

In March 2004, Guy Poitevin played an active role in the organisation of a workshop in Pune of young French researchers in the social sciences working on subjects related to the Indian continent (Association des Jeunes Etudes Indiennes - AJEI). As I also participated in this workshop that was largely devoted to field work practices and the researcher's personal commitment, I could appreciate for the last time what his friends have already praised him for: his profoundness, his courage and commitment, as well as his humility.

As Michel Sauquet and Bernard Bel beautifully summed up, Guy Poitevin will remain "a lasting reference for all of us, a model of humanity, perseverance and intelligence of the intercultural dialogue." For more information on Guy Poitevin's biography and list of publications, see: <http://ccrss.ws/poitebio.htm>
Véronique Dupont, Director, CSH

FOCUS

➤ In the last few years in Europe there has been a marked decline in the academic study of Dravidian languages in general and of Tamil in particular, a trend more and more alarming to scholars working in the field. At the end of the 1980s the Tamil Chair in Utrecht was closed down with Professor Zvelebil's departure; in 1998, with the retirement of Professor S.A.S. Srinivasan, the Tamil Chair in Hamburg was transformed into one for Hindi. This was followed in 2000 by the closure of the Chair at the Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes in Paris upon the retirement of Professor François Gros. In 2003, the lectureship in Tamil at the London School of Oriental and African Studies was not readvertised after the departure of Dr. Stuart Blackburn. And this year the University of Cologne has announced that it will close its institute for Indology and Tamil studies with the departure of Professor Kapp in 2006. There will then remain only two chairs in Europe, neither of them explicitly devoted to Tamil studies, one in Pisa and the other in Prague, and rather less than a handful of lectureships. The status of Tamil Studies is a topical issue, for 2004 is the year in which Tamil has been officially declared to be second classical language of India, along with Sanskrit. And there is one European academic institution that is bucking the trend: the Ecole Française d'Extrême Orient. The Tamil publications of the Series published by the IFP and EFEO attest to the sustained interest that this area of studies has long enjoyed in Pondicherry. But there is now a new sense of initiative in the Pondicherry Centre of the EFEO, where five experts of pre-modern Tamil are currently engaged and a range of ambitious projects concerning classical Tamil have been launched. Foremost among these is assembling and recording (notably with digital photography) the fast disintegrating source material of Classical Tamil literature, the manuscripts. An international team of scholars is already working on a critical re-edition and translation of the oldest classical corpus. Their efforts will also be directed to producing a new dictionary and a grammar book, one that, for the first time, will be endowed with an extensive section on old Tamil syntax.

Another important initiative of the EFEO has been the classical Tamil Winter School (<http://www.efeo.fr/ctws>), a month-long intensive workshop of reading and discussion that was hosted in the Pondicherry Centre in February 2002 and 2003 and that we now hope will be an annual event that brings together traditional scholars and foreign students, researchers and enthusiasts of classical Tamil.

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CSH

➤ **Comparing decisions with radically uncertain Consequences**

Decision theory is the branch of social sciences that studies the various criteria by individual agents (firms, heads of organisations, individuals, groups etc) to make decisions in various environments. Most, if not all, decisions involve uncertainty: When choosing a particular course of action, the decision-maker does not know exactly which consequences this course of action will entail. In conventional decision theory, which develops along the lines set forth in the seminal contribution of J.L. Savage, this uncertainty is accounted for by assuming the existence of a set of mutually exclusive "states of nature" (for instance the various possible results of the toss of a pair of dice) and by describing decisions as rules (acts) that associate to every state of nature a unique consequence. A more demanding theory, that is nonetheless widely used by researchers, go even further by assuming that the uncertainty faced by the decision-maker is described by a complete list of probabilities assigned to the consequences. Yet, for many complex decisions (regulating the environment, mating, investing in a foreign country), these assumptions seem uniquely demanding. In this research, made in collaboration with Arunava Sen from the Indian Statistical Institute, we are working on an axiomatic characterisation of a criterion in situations of radical uncertainty when this standard approach does not apply. In the framework we are considering, the only elements that serve as describing the various actions that the decision-maker can take are the consequences (assumed to be in finite number) that these actions can have. No knowledge of the mechanism by which these consequences can come about, nor of their probabilities of occurrence is assumed. The criterion we are trying to axiomatize can (but need not) be thought of as resulting from the assignment of the same probability of occurrence to every possible consequence and from the comparisons of the various decisions on the basis of the average utility of their consequences.

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➤ **The measurement of multidimensional inequalities: An application to India**

The aim of this project is to provide a comprehensive evaluation of the impact of the liberalisation of the Indian economy on multidimensional inequalities and poverty using dominance criteria. As recalled for instance in Deaton and Dreze, the poverty and inequalities trend in India in the 1990s have been a matter of intense controversy. While most studies have concluded that poverty, as measured by the poverty gap and headcount ratio, has been reduced in all regions of India in the 1990s, there is a significant disagreement between researchers in terms of the evolution of income inequalities during the same period. While Deaton and Dreze for instance, by using very specific indices, conclude in an increase in income inequality in many Indian states as well as in overall India during the 1990s, other researchers (for instance Bhalla) have concluded in a reduction of income inequality on the basis of the Gini coefficient. Yet, since all these conclusions are based on the use of very specific indexes, they are not robust. These conclusions also suffer from the fact that they are limited to a uni-dimensional appraisal of the inequalities based on the sole monetary income. The aim of the research will be to re-examine the recent "poverty and inequality of the nineties" controversy by using a multidimensional

dominance approach that Patrick Moyes and myself are developing, along the lines suggested by a literature initiated in the 1980s. Using, as in most studies, the National Sample Survey as the main data source for consumption expenditure (interpreted in all studies as a proxy for disposable income), the research will complete these data with information, collected at the state and district levels, about the access to various public goods (especially infant mortality, literacy rate and, if available, criminality and teacher/pupil ratio).

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➤ **The informal economy of water and sustainable development, a study of the territories of Mumbai**

The aim of this project is to study the informal cycle of water supply in the peri-urban territories of Mumbai. In order to do so, it is necessary to identify the role of the actors and the informal market in meeting the water needs of suburban populations, and verify how this system operates in the context of lasting development. Two central questions will be investigated: What does the informality of water mean? How is the informal economy of water duplicated in time and space?

The objective of this research is twofold: first to value the water needs of populations that are excluded and/or do not have access to a reliable distribution network; and second to examine the alternative techniques and organisational systems to complete and/or to substitute provision of tap water. This implies an analysis of the structure of the informal sector service, as well as a good knowledge of behaviours, means and needs of households.

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➤ **The emergence of corporate hospitals in India: Geographic perspectives**

Indian healthcare is undergoing major transformations. The economic liberalisation, the continuous decrease of public investment in healthcare has created a new frame in the supply of healthcare. In this renewed context, the corporate hospitals attempt to tap the middle class market by offering high quality treatment and first class amenities to their patients. The main focus of this research (PhD) is to describe and analyse the spatial consequences of the emergence of this new class of actors. Using a multiscale approach (national, regional, metropolitan scale) we will emphasise the development and integration of these hospitals in the existing healthcare market. By confronting spatial strategies of patients and healthcare corporate firms, we aim at revealing territories as well as the spatial transformation that they produce. This project will also examine these new five-star hospitals as "health place" (W.Gesler) in the Indian social and cultural context.

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➤ **The Representation of the OBCs in North Indian Politics: Meaning and Significance of Democracy in Bihar and Rajasthan**

The main objective of this research is to go beyond the simple observation of the increasing representation of OBC MLAs in Bihar and the strengthening of the conservative pattern in Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha. In order to do that, we will have to focus on the qualitative angle of this process by analysing the meaning and significance of democracy in terms of the greater representation of OBCs in Bihar. Indeed, has the nature of democracy been improved by the transition from high caste politics to an OBC based politics?

What enabled the OBC MLAs to be represented in a larger number than the upper caste MLAs in the Bihar Vidhan Sabha in 1990 (34.9% against 34.6%) is not the

assertion of an individual status but the fact that you belong to a social category, to a caste. As a consequence, there is no reason to think that a greater political representation of OBCs could improve the quality of the democracy. Indeed, this process just corresponds to the strengthening of the differences between the caste categories.

Therefore, how can the representation of Other Backward Classes (OBCs), the Members of Legislative Assembly (MLA) and the democratization of the political class in Northern India be interpreted?

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➤ **Integration of slums into the global networks: the case of Delhi**

The purpose of this research work is to demonstrate that the specific form of urban segregation of slums does not keep these territories away from participating in the global dynamic. In fact, slums are spaces of poverty and exclusion where vitality, opportunities and activities do exist.

The fundamental hypothesis is that slums, as segregate places of urban poverty, provide evidence of dynamism and are not cut out of localities, regions and the world. The segregation does not imply the breaking off of all links but, perhaps, strengthen and solicit them even more.

In the case of Delhi, we will attempt to put in value the slums' economic and social activities and demonstrate the connections that slums have with the globalisation process. In this connection, we are required to grasp and analyse the role of the slums' actors (the inhabitants, communities, local organisations, NGOs et al.) and to see in which measure they contribute to the process of integration of these territories, in multi scales.

Thereafter we will examine how slums become a part of the metropolis, how the connection between local and global is made. And finally we wish to discern the links, flows and the networks between slum-dwellers and their territories, the metropolis space and even worldwide.

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IFP

➤ **Peri-urban dynamics: mobility and development in Chennai fringes**

The aim of the project is to study the extension of mixed spaces between urban and rural areas in Chennai metropolis fringes. The study will first focus on the mobilities of the various activities. The work will also take into account social and economic development in these intermediary spaces. Social forces will be identified for understanding modalities of changes in the context of this rapid urbanisation phenomena. Social conflicts will be analysed as the main factors of local dynamics in the rural villages surrounding the urban agglomeration.

This project is part of the working group directed by Véronique Dupont on Peri-urban dynamics: population, housing and environment in the peripheries of large Indian metropolises. The ultimate objective of this group is to improve knowledge about urban dynamics in the peripheries of large Indian metropolises. The aim will be to put together a series of studies and reflections in relation to this common problematic, to confront various disciplinary approaches and compare case studies of different Indian metropolises, and draw broad-based conclusions in order:

- ❖ to analyse the conflicting processes at work,
- ❖ to undertake a reflection on an appropriate socio-spatial classification of the populations and human settlements,
- ❖ and to promote reflection on the complex equation between development indicators (housing health, environment et al.) in these peri-urban spaces and the political challenges involved.

Two methods will be followed. On the one hand, an

understanding of the area concerned by the urbanisation around Chennai metropolis is necessary. It will be accomplished through an analysis of census data at the micro level and remote sensing analysis in way to build a GIS focalsing on this topic. On the other hand, deep social and economic studies through enquiries are the core of the study. They will be conducted by interviews of local actors such as Panchayat presidents, entrepreneurs, white and blue collar farmers as well as inhabitants in the villages.

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➤ Monitoring Urban and Economic Dynamics in India

ATLAS OF INDIA

The aim of this research project is to produce a geographical analysis of the Indian territory. This project will deal with the problematic of integration of Indian cities, towns and rural areas in the globalisation process which extends in the whole country from the 1990s onwards. This integration process is developing through numerous networks which concern the various sectors of the Indian social system, i.e. cultural, societal and economic. Cities and towns are the nodes of these networks as well as the factors of their dynamics. The project means to map and to analyse the distribution of the urban agglomerations, the organisation of the networks they constitute and of the regions they control. We must take into consideration the drastic territorial changes which occurs together with the economic liberalisation process initiated since the last 20 years. The hypothesis funding this approach is the following: the integration process of Indian territory is linked with the redistribution of the spatial patterns inherited from the colonial period and the interconnection of the different economical regions constitutive of the country. Big cities, but also medium and small towns, play the main role in these dynamics.

Data bases are built at the national level, for the period 1991-2004. The study will use the analysis frame constituted by the urban agglomerations of more than 20,000 inhabitants, the districts, the states and union territories. The data are collected from the Census of India, from different Indian Ministries and from various sources, such as public and private publications as well as web sites. Considering Indian companies, the work will concern the 8000 biggest ones, which account for about 90% of the industrial national production.

The project gives great importance to automatic mapping and modeling. The maps are made at the Geomatics and Applied Informatics Laboratory in the F.I.P., using the Arcinfo software. Spatial models will be realised for a systematic analysis of the Indian territory.

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➤ Organisation and dynamics of plant biodiversity in the Western Ghats

The Western Ghats range stretching along 900 km of the West Coast of Indian peninsula has been recognised as one of the eight major biodiversity "hot-spots" in the world, thanks to a very high proportion of endemic species in its flora. Our new research project aims to provide insights on both natural and human-induced determinants of plant species' geographical distribution for both theoretical ecology and operational conservation. For instance, preserving biodiversity raises, among others, the practical question of choosing appropriate locations, sizes and spatial distributions of protected areas, a choice that is all but self-evident as illustrated by the "single-large vs. several small reserves" (SLOSS) controversy.

In partnership with the joint research unit (UMR) "Botany and bioinformatics of plant architecture" (AMAP) we

intend to foster an innovative alliance between geostatistics, remote-sensing and modeling of plant populations in order to define relevant methods for large-scale spatialised biodiversity assessments in the Indian context. Such methods will be used to revisit the extensive botanical and ecological information gathered by the IFP during nearly 30 years of investigations that have made the Western Ghats one of the best documented tropical regions in the world and the IFP a key partner for Indian institutions in charge of managing and conserving natural resources.

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➤ Historical Atlas of South India Prototype accessible online

Researchers from the IFP and the Tamil University, Thanjavur, have worked together for the past two years to explore the possibility of developing a comprehensive Historical Atlas of South India in Digital format. The latter was intended to be accessible on the Internet through a combination of maps, photographs, illustrations, texts and Geographical Information System (GIS) functionalities. The original idea was that the Digital Atlas could, on one hand, create interest among the general public on the rich historical heritage of the region, and on the other hand, stimulate collaboration among scholars working in History and Archaeology, by providing a novel and more dynamic way of presenting historical knowledge related to a geographical region. The first phase was completed earlier this year during which a prototype, which works both from a CD-Rom and on the Internet, has been developed for the Pudukkottai (Central Tamil Nadu) region. This work has provided us the opportunity to explore the multidisciplinary approaches in research using IT&C, with History and Archaeology on one hand and GIS and Informatics on the other hand. The prototype is now accessible online at http://www.ifpindia.org/geo/h_atlas/Atlas.html. Preparation is under way to extend the work to a larger geographical area.

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(for more information on events, please consult our respective website)

SEMINARS/WORKSHOPS/LECTURES

CSH

International Conference Towards a New Global Order? Neo-Conservative Thinking, Imperial Design and Multilateral Perspectives jointly organised by Centre for Political Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India International Centre, Goethe-Institut/Max Mueller Bhavan, Centre de Sciences Humaines & British Council at India International Centre, New Delhi, 23rd & 24th September.

In the context of the post-war Iraq and the various reactions of the international community to the US military intervention, this international conference focused on three areas of investigation: the roots and credo of neo-conservatism in the US and security concerns; the challenge of neo-imperialism; multilateral responses and regional perspectives.

Round-table Segregation & fragmentation in large metropolises: An inevitable trend?, co-organised by French Information Resource Centre (FIRC), New Delhi, 7th October. If socio-spatial differentiation and functional specialisation of the urban space are intrinsically linked to the process of population growth and spatial expansion in large metropolises, does this

process necessarily generate social segregation and lead to the relation of some vulnerable and original forces of spatial segmentation or perpetuate and strengthen the traditional forms of socio-spatial divisions based on caste? Does urban spread necessarily produce a fragmentation of the metropolitan area? What are the explanatory forces behind? These were the questions addressed by a panel of four experts in urban studies.

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Seminar Federalism and Decentralised Governance in the Union of India: A Comparative Study of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh, co-organised by CSH and India International Centre, New Delhi, 15th & 16th October.

IAS officers from Chattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh, professors from JNU and Delhi University, social workers and Scheduled Tribe representatives from Chhattisgarh and two scholars from France were invited along with CSH specialists. Detailed analysis were given regarding the issues related to tribal integration, relation between central government and states, and decentralisation at the local level. Following these presentations, the very philosophy of governance as well as the relevance of associating the creation of new states with decentralisation were questioned.

International workshop Periurban dynamics: population, habitat and environment on the peripheries of large metropolises, organised by the Centre Population et Développement (CePeD) with the support of the CSH, at CePeD, Nogent sur Marne, 15th November.

This workshop was a follow-up of an international workshop organised in Delhi by the CSH with the India International Centre (26th-27th August). Whereas the Delhi workshop focused on Indian metropolises, the objective of the second workshop was to discuss the findings in a comparative perspective, on the basis of invited contributions on metropolises in other regions of the world (France, West Africa, South East Asia, Brazil).

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Lectures

✧ *Urban vulnerability and risk management: theoretical and practical issues in a comparative perspective*, by Isabelle Milibert (Graduate Institute of Development Studies, Geneva), co-organised by CSH and Nehru Memorial Museum Library (NMML), New Delhi, 29th September.

✧ *Dalits, Ambedkar statues and the taming of the state in Uttar Pradesh: A Case of symbolic efficiency*, by Nicolas Jaoul (Ph.D from Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris), co-organised by CSH and India International Centre, at India International Centre, New Delhi, 19th November.

✧ *Segregation by Race and Class in US Cities*, by Dr. Paul A. Jargowsky (Visiting Scholar, CSH and Associate Professor, University of Texas at Dallas), co-organised by CSH and India International Centre at IIC, 29th November.

Book Release

Fertility transition in South Asia by Christophe Guilamoto (Institute of Research for Development) and S. Irudaya Rajan (Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram) co-organised by CSH and India International Centre, New Delhi at India International Centre, 18th December.

This presentation accompanies the release of a book published by Sage in December 2004. "Fertility Transition in South India" (CZ Guilamoto and S. Irudaya Rajan, editors) is a collection of studies on fertility decline in India, with special reference to the demographic trajectory of South Indian states. The work brought together in this publication derives predominantly from research conducted under the aegis of the South India Fertility Project, a research programme coordinated by the French Institute of Pondicherry with support from the Wellcome Trust, London.

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INSTITUT FRANÇAIS



DE PONDICHÉRY

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D'EXTRÊME-ORIENT

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SCIENCES HUMAINES

PUBLICATIONS...

CSH

Agricultural Incentives in India: Past Trends and Prospective Paths towards Sustainable Development

Bruno Dorin and Thomas Jullien (eds.)
Manohar-CSH, New Delhi, 2004, 334p



This book gathers twelve papers which sustained the discussions and conclusions of an Indo-French seminar organised by the Centre de Sciences Humaines.

The objective of this meeting was rather ambitious and sensitive: to debate the relevance and sustainability of a nearly 40-year old system of public incentives to Indian agriculture, mainly subsidies to water, electricity and fertilizers. The sensitivity of the subject, as also its pertinence, is rooted in the difficult challenge that India had to take up since the early 1990s: to liberalise and open to the world its domestic market in order to bypass some inefficiencies or failures of its mixed economy, without selling of in the process its decision-making independence, as well as some social and environmental objectives peculiar to the sub-continent or to the world community.

Who is a Brahmin? The Politics of Identity in India

Gilles Chuyen
Manohar-CSH, New Delhi, 2004, 296p



Brahmins, originally in charge of the sacred sphere, followed different paths, creating therefore, within the community, many subcultures and ways of apprehending the world. From textual definitions, to socio-economic adjustments, political influences and

historical evolution, they went through multiple processes of identity building. The Brahmin identity is indeed not an absolute notion. The various manifestations of Brahmanical identities have to be taken in contexts defined in connection with specific expressions of otherness. This book aims at understanding this dialogue between identity and otherness, creating phenomena of differentiation. The relations to a Brahmin model, the strategies to remain part of the elite as well as the discourses on secularism and casteism and identity repercussions of reservation policies in favour of backward populations are some of the factors which can elucidate the construction of such separate identities. So who is a Brahmin? This study questions the notion of Brahmanical identity in India today, through the contextualisation of discourses coming from contemporary urban middle class Brahmins settled in Delhi, Agra and Chennai. It falls within the framework of an analysis of the cultural context of politics.

Education and Democracy in India

Anne Vaugier Chatterjee (ed.)
Manohar-CSH, New Delhi, 2004, 277p



This volume is the outcome of two international conferences organised by the CSH on the theme of education in India. While the first concentrated on education and democracy, the second revolved more specifically around decentralisation processes in education. Cutting across research fields, the seminars gathered on a common platform historians, political scientists and educationists from India and Europe.

Privatising Power Cuts? Ownership and Reform of State Electricity Boards in India

Joël Ruet (ed.)
Academic Foundation, New Delhi, 2004, 340p



Beyond ideologies, beyond hiccups and cycles of reforms, privatisation of State Electricity Boards of India (SEBs), just alike their public reform, are structurally stalled. The book argues, the emphasis on ownership is misleading, and needs being articulated more subtly to a look at the organisational structure of SEBs.

An in-depth enquiry in SEBs shows how privatisation is a one-sided game that has no real takers as long as SEBs remain organisations in which all technical, accounting, financial parameters are at the least hazy, often unknown. No investor will come without guarantees, thus the public has the impression that SEBs are 'privatised for a song', while the economist feels they are virtually valueless... while in practice awaited investors do not even turn up.

The book pinpoints, as the core of the stalemate, to the misconception in the very concepts generally used to analyse the internal organisation, the functioning, and the nature of SEBs. SEBs have now to undergo a specific and structural series of organisational changes, that the author calls 'enterprisation'. Privatisation is far from being the only tool for achieving this, among a wide set of public-private partnerships. The matter is of importance, for not all states can afford, the way Delhi did, paying for endlessly re-negotiable guarantees.

Femmes et politique en Inde et au Népal.

Image et présence
Stéphanie Tawa Lama-Rewal, Paris,
Karthala, 2004, 337p



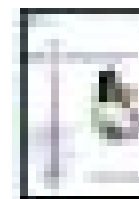
South Asia is the only region in the world where women have regularly occupied the top posts in government since the 1950s. But what is the place of women as a group in the political life of the subcontinent? Firstly, who represents women in the political arena of these two countries? And secondly, what do

women stand for in their country's politics? In the world's largest democracy as well as in the small Himalayan kingdom women first entered national politics as symbols: women represented the home, the family and the nation before they demanded electoral representation and political rights. Their chronic under-representation in elected assemblies and councils since the 1950s does not, however, mean that women have been absent from public life. The author identifies four types of actors who can claim to represent women as a group. The study of the resources available to these actors as well as of the obstacles they have to overcome brings out the competition between two definitions of representation – "representation as a mandate" and "mirror representation". It also shows how difficult it is to bring together women as a group, above differences of class, caste, religion, region et al. Lastly, the recent introduction of reserved seats for women in local bodies in both countries, and the demand for reservation of seats in the Indian national parliament, reveal the advances made by women in the political field as well as the limitations of gender as a political category.

IFP

Mapping out social change in South India: a geographic information system and its applications.

Christophe Z. Guilmoto, Sébastien Oliveau, Virginie Chasles, Rémy Delage, and Stéphanie Vella, *Pondy Papers in Social Sciences* 31, Pondicherry, IFP, 2004, 117 p
Language: English. Rs. 200 (15)



This paper summarizes the stages of a GIS project applied to the 75.000 localities of South India. The emergence of GIS technology in a country like India comes up against many scientific, technical or institutional problems. The georeferencing of villages, for instance, required considerable effort because of the unavailability of reliable printed maps. Similarly, systematic examination of the census data has underlined their shortcomings and called for corrections of all kinds. This article chronicles some of these concrete and theoretical difficulties. The second part of the paper is devoted to cartographic and geostatistical applications to various fields of interest: geography of Sabarimala pilgrimage, health care in Andhra Pradesh, impact of urbanization on Tamil villages, sexual discrimination in Tamil Nadu, irrigation in South India or spatial autocorrelation measurements.

Industrialisation and socio-cultural change in the Tannery belt of the Palar valley (Tamil nadu).

Edited by Loraine Kennedy, *Pondy Papers in Social Sciences* 32, Pondicherry, IFP, 2004, 111 p
Language: English. Rs. 200 (15)



Industrialisation as an important catalyst of change is the point of departure for the various disciplinary explorations presented here. The studies were conducted in the middle Palar Valley, situated in Vellore District in northern Tamil Nadu, a region specialised for over a century in leather production. Here, tanneries and

footwear factories provide direct and indirect employment to thousands of men and women. The main objective of the "Palar Valley" research programme was to analyse the conditions that have favoured industrialisation in this essentially rural area and the local social and economic impacts of this development. The studies presented here focus on industrial and entrepreneurial dynamics, social and professional mobility, evolving ethnic and gender identities, and new modes of socialisation.

Diptagama. Tome 1. Chapitres 1 à 21.

Edition critique Marie-Luce Barazer-Billoret, Bruno Dagens et Vincent Lefèvre avec la collaboration de S. Sambandha Sivacarya, Publications du département d'indologie 81.1, Pondicherry, IFP, 2004, vi, 449 p
Languages: Sanskrit, French. Rs. 600

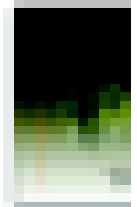


The Diptagama is a Sanskrit shaiva treatise pertaining to the southern school (Saivasiddhanta). It deals mainly with the installation of images of gods in Siva temples: installation rituals (pratistha), iconography, iconometry and architecture. It was hitherto unpublished and the present critical edition (to be published in 3 volumes) is based upon several manuscripts kept in the Library of the French Institute, Pondicherry. This first volume deals especially with mantras and

temple architecture as well as with numerous iconographical descriptions and with Lingapratistha. The Sanskrit text is printed in Nagari script with copious critical apparatus. There is an introduction and a detailed chapterwise summary (in French).

Dalit Ilakkiyam: Enatu Anupavam. Dalit Literature: My Experience.

Edited by Kannan M. Pondicherry-Coimbatore, IFP-Vitiyal Patipakkam, 2004, 200 p
Language: Tamil. Rs. 100



Dalit literature in India can be traced back to a corpus of writings from Maharashtra in the 1960's. Dalit literature in Tamil can be said to have begun during the 1990's after the centenary celebrations of Dr. Ambedkar's birth. Since then Tamil society has been witness to a rich and heterogeneous production of Dalit literature comprising several genres – novels, short stories, poetry and performing arts.

This volume, *Dalit Ilakkiyam: Enatu Anupavam (Dalit Literature: My Experience)*, contains a collection of essays in Tamil (with abstracts

in English) by Dalit writers, presented during the seminar 'Tamil Dalit Literature – The Challenge and the Response' held in Jan. 2004 in Pondicherry. The writers' essays are complemented by an example of their hitherto unpublished creative writing, in the form of short stories and poems.

IFP-EFEO

South Indian horizons: felicitation volume for François Gros on the occasion of his 70th birthday.

Edited by Jean-Luc Chevillard (editor) and Eva Wilden (associate editor) with the collaboration of A. Murugaiyan, Publications du département d'indologie 94, Pondicherry, IFP-EFEO, 2004, xlv, 651 p
Languages: French, English, Tamil. Rs. 1000



This volume, a tribute to François Gros and a celebration of the field of Tamil studies, demonstrates the international nature of this area and its wide range of topics. The contributors stem from sixteen different countries. They are literary historians and critics, philologists, linguists, cultural anthropologists, political and social historians, archaeologists, epigraphists, numismatists, art and architecture historians, some of them assuming two of these guises, and some having an interest in

related languages: Irula, Kannada, Malayalam and Telugu. However there is much linkage and this "connexité dans la diversité" binds the different contributions together. François Gros has been the principal standard-bearer for Tamil studies in France. He has also devoted himself to the reestablishment of the École Française d'Extrême-Orient in countries of Southeast Asia. Among his other responsibilities has been the directorship for Tamil studies at the Institut Français in Pondichery.

The Parakhyatantra. A Scripture of the Saiva Siddhanta.

A critical edition and annotated translation by Dominic Goodall, Collection Indologie 98, Pondicherry, IFP-EFEO, 2004, cxxvi, 669 p
Languages: Sanskrit, English. Rs. 1000

This volume furnishes one more previously unpublished document of the pre-tenth-

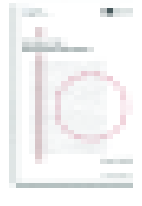


century thought-world of the Saiva Siddhanta, a religion that was spread across and beyond the Indian subcontinent at the probable time of this work's composition. For the *Parakhyatantra* dates from the period before the appearance of the most significant body of theological exegesis in the history of the school, namely the writings of the tenth-century Kashmirian lineage of Bhatta Ramakantha II. The addition of the *Parakhya* to the still small corpus of published early

Saiddhantika writings should be a welcome event to the student of classical Indian religions. What is presented here, however, is not the whole text but only those chapters of it that deal with doctrine and yoga. Those on ritual and other aspects of religious practice have not been transmitted in the unique codex - a beautiful palm-leaf manuscript in minute Nandinagari script - and are therefore lost. Many quotations from the text have been located in later literature, and a fully positive apparatus reports the readings of all sources. A complete English translation - the first to appear of an early Siddhantatantra - accompanies the Sanskrit text. Copious notes discuss textual difficulties and problems of interpretation. In doing so, they draw on parallels with other Saiddhantika writings, both published and unpublished. The introduction places the *Parakhya* in its context, gives a résumé of the work, characterises its language and concludes with a detailed discussion of the sources and of how they have been used.

The Yoga of the Malinivijayottarantra, Chapters 1-4, 7, 11-17.

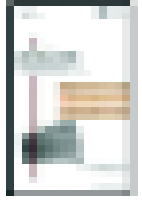
Critical edition, translation and notes by Somadeva Vasudeva, Collection Indologie 97, Pondicherry, IFP-EFEO, 2004, liv, 561 p
Languages: Sanskrit, English. Rs. 700



Herein is presented the first detailed investigation into the yogic teachings of the *Malinivijayottarantra*, a Saiva Tantra of the Trika commented on extensively by the celebrated Kashmirian philosopher Abhinavagupta (9-10th century AD). But it is also a major contribution to the as yet little studied field of Saiva yoga. The Sanskrit source text (*Malinivijayottara* 1-4, 7, and 12-17) has been critically edited from the Kashmirian manuscripts that are today accessible. The edition is prefaced by a description of the manuscripts used and the editorial policies followed. A running commentary adds further explanatory material, parallel passages from related Saiva Tantras (many unpublished) and attempts to tackle problems raised by Abhinavagupta's exegesis.

Maranakapporum Tiruppatikkovaiyum. The Maranakapporul and the Tiruppatikkovai of Tirukkurukaipperumal Kavirayar. A treatise of Tamil poetics illustrated with a narrative poem.

Edited with elaborate notes in Tamil by T.V. Gopal Iyer, Collection Indologie 96, Pondicherry, IFP-EFEO, 2005, lxxxiii, 369 p
Languages: Tamil, English. Rs. 600



This book contains the first complete edition of a sixteenth-century Tamil treatise in 364 *sutras* about Tamil love-poetry, the *Maranakapporul* of Tirukkurukaipperumal Kavirayar, and of an accompanying Vaisnava love poem of 527 stanzas, the *Tiruppatikkovai*, penned by the same author. The poem illustrates the rules of the treatise, for it contrives to string together into a single narrative the various situations envisaged in the shorter love poems of classical Tamil literature of the Cankam age. It culminates in the amorous couple living as pious devotees of Nammalvar, the poetdevotee of Visnu. Elaborate notes in Tamil by the editor elucidate the text, which is preceded by introductions in English and in Tamil.

Index des mots de l'œuvre de Bhavabhuti.

François Grimal, Collection Indologie 92, Pondicherry, IFP-EFEO, 2005, viii, 435 p
Languages: Sanskrit, French. Rs. 600



In India, the fame of Bhavabhuti has travelled down the ages. The three plays of this poet and dramatist of the VIIIth Century – the *Mahaviracarita*, the *Malatimadhava* and the *Uttaramacarita* – belonging to the noblest genres (*nataka* and *prakarana*), have marked the history of *kavya*, Sanskrit court literature, where theatre occupies the first place. This book, one of the very first indices of words for such a corpus, presents the results of an analysis of the entire work of the poet: 16600 entries, of two kinds, and 8000 cross-references, for 54800 occurrences, give an answer to the difficult question of the definition of a word in a corpus of Sanskrit *kavya*. Thus conceived, this book is an indispensable tool for a description of the language, not only of this poet, but also, more widely, of the language of Sanskrit theatre and *kavya*.

WELCOME ...

...at the CSH

Anastasia ANGUELTOU, a Ph.D student in economics, joined the Centre in November 2004 for one year (see research section).

Julie BAUJARD, a Ph.D scholar in Anthropology, joined the Centre in November for at least six months (see research section).

Linda BOUIFFROU, a Ph.D student in Urban Geography, joined the CSH last October for one year and is also affiliated to the IFP (see research section).

Prof. Nicolas GRAVEL joined the Centre in September 2004 as head of the Economics Division (see research section).

Sylvie GUICHARD, a Ph.D student in Political Science, joined the CSH in November 2004 for six months to work on her research *Hindu Nationalism and Education: Constructing the Hindu Nation at School*.

Bertrand LEFEBVRE, a Ph.D scholar in Geography, joined the CSH as the Scientific Secretary in November 2004 (see research section).

Cyril ROBIN, a Ph.D student in Political Science, joined the Centre in October 2004 for one year (see research section).

...at the IFP

Laboratory of Applied Informatics & Geomatics

David HARBOR joined the Dept from 11th September for one year to work on his research *Landscape evolution and river erosion in South India*.

N. Uma SANKARI joined the Dept from 1st August to work on Software development for OSCAR and BIOTIK projects (Asia IT&C).

Dept of Ecology

Pierre COUTERON joined as the new head of the dept from 4th October.

Lucie DEJOUHANET joined the dept from 13th October for one year to work on her research *Landscape dynamics in the western ghats of Kerala: protection of biodiversity issue and the participation of the population for resource management* for the IFP project "Medicinal Plants".

L. Arul PRAGASAN joined the department from 1st September to work on his research *Reconstruction of palaeomonsoonal changes using sedentary records from man-made tanks in southern India* under the IFP project "Palaeoenvironments in South India".

Dept of Social Sciences

David PICHERIT joined the dept from 14th October for one year to work on his research *Circulation of manual labourers in Andhra* for the IFP project "Microfinance: Debt bondage".

Cyril FOUILLET joined the dept from 7th October for one year to work on his research *New public policies and action plans in the area of aid development* (in italics) for the IFP microfinance project.

Sophie ARBORIO joined the dept from 3rd October for a year to work on her research *Social Anthropological approach of the HIV/Aids n Mother to Child transmissions: the case of breast feeding in South India* for the IFP project "Transmission of HIV/AIDS from the mother to child".

S. PONNARASU joined the dept on 4th August to work on his research *Debt Bondage* for the IFP project "Microfinance and Socially Sustainable development".

Anand PAKIAM joined the dept on 17th August for six months to work on his research *Processing and Analysis of socio-economic data for Economic Atlas of India*.

...at the EFEO

Valérie GILLET, scholar of the EFEO and doctoral student of Paris III has returned to continue her studies in Pallava narrative art.

Fabio BOCCIO, Ph.D student at La Sapienza University, Rome, has returned for four months to continue his studies of Saiva Sanskrit literature.

Dr. Alex WATSON, Junior Research Fellow of Wolfson College, University of Oxford, has returned for six weeks of intensive work on the subject to edit the 10th century Sanskrit theological treatise *Paramoksanirāsakārikāvṛtti*, a joint project with Anjaneya SARMA and Dominic GOODALL.

Michael LINDERMAN, graduate student at the University of Pennsylvania, Department of South Asia Regional Studies, has arrived for a year to study Saiva monasteries and read medieval Tamil literature with T.V. Gopal IYER.

GOODBYE ...

...at the IFP

Dr. Pierre GRARD, head of the dept of Ecology, completed his term on 31st December.

...at the EFEO

Virginie GAZON, doctoral scholar of the EFEO, left in November 2004 after a four-month stay to study sages in South Indian iconography.

MILESTONES

EFEO

V. Venkataraja SARMA was extolled for his service to the Sanskrit Language and Sastra and awarded a gold medal at the Durga at Trissur, Kerala on 20th October 2004.

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