

Pattrika

BULLETIN OF THE FRENCH RESEARCH INSTITUTES IN INDIA
January 2006, No. 20



**WE WISH ALL OUR READERS
A VERY
HAPPY NEW YEAR**

FOCUS

➤ An international research programme on the Restructuring of Contemporary Islam and economic development in Asia.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the French Embassy in Embassy in Delhi and the French Institute of Pondicherry, partners of the 2nd International Congress "Cultures of Knowledge", presided by Umberto Eco

The French Institute of Pondicherry (IFP), the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) of Mumbai, and the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) of Delhi, in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the French Embassy in Delhi, the Goethe Institute of New Delhi and the European Commission, hosted the Conference "Cultures of Knowledge" organised by the Transcultura association from 17th to 24th October 2005.

The Transcultura association, created by Umberto Eco and Alain le Pichon, aspires to be an "international transcultural think-tank". Founded on the principles of "reciprocal knowledge", respect and mutual enrichment, it develops methodologies of transcultural analysis applicable to different situations and intercultural contexts. The association aims to provide Europe with an instrument of observation and reflection concerning the major trends manifested in the framework of the cultural, scientific and economic relations that it maintains with its partners in other cultural areas of the world. Its initiative is backed by the European Commission.

The association organised its first conference in 2001 at the European Parliament in Brussels under the patronage of Romano Prodi. This second, itinerant conference whose theme was *the place of culture in the production of knowledge*, took place in three stages: Goa/Bombay/17th-18th October, Pondicherry (20th-22nd October) and Delhi (23rd-24th October).

The session in Goa (IIT) enabled to lay the conceptual foundations of the notion of 'reciprocal knowledge'. During the session in Pondicherry (IFP) which was the longest, named "Knowledge and scientific knowledge in an epistemological approach", different forms of knowledge in fields such as Esthetics, Ethics or still Anthropology, were examined. This session started with a conference held by Umberto Eco, on the concept of knowledge in esthetics. A report on the conference and the operational perspectives were listed during the third session (JNU, Delhi).

This conference brought together some 40 contributors from the European, Asian and African continents, as well as representatives of the European Commission. A large public was present during the first two sessions, and two roundtables were organised during the third session, one of them public, organised by the *Centre de Sciences Humaines* and the *Alliance Française de Delhi* and introduced by the Ambassador of France, and the other one, reserved for the professorial corps and students of JNU.

The second conference permitted to lay the foundations of a "Transcultural Observatory" dedicated to the transcultural analysis of key questions resulting of the encounter and confrontation of European and Asian cultures. The Indian partners of the Transcultura network pointed out at that time, their wish for the IFP to play a role of interface between Europe and India, and to initiate conjoint research projects. For more information, please visit the Transcultura and IFP websites:

<http://www.transcultura.in> ; <http://www.ifpindia.org/meetings.html>

Contact: Jean-Pierre Muller, ifpdir@ifpindia.org

An international research programme focusing on the restructuring of contemporary Islam and economic development in Asia, from the Caucasus to China, has just been launched. This project is coordinated by the CSH and associates several other research centres, located in Uzbekistan (the French Institute on Central Asia), Pakistan (Institute of Strategic Studies of Islamabad), South East Asia (the French Institute of Research on South-East Asia in Bangkok) and China (the French Centre for Research on Contemporary China in Hong Kong), as well as the Centre for Indian and South Asian Studies in Paris.

The aim of this research programme is to arrive at a better understanding of the changes taking place in Islam today and the factors responsible for these changes in Central, South and Southeast Asia, right up to China. Two complementary research directions are investigated.

The first one aims to identify the various religious currents and new practices within contemporary Islam and to analyse the restructuring under way in order to relate the spread of radical Islam to the diverse developments that are moulding the Muslim societies under study. In this context, the following evolutions will be examined: the advent of a globalised Islam, the trends of individualisation and secularisation that do not rule out radicalisation, the questioning of traditional authorities; and the failure of political Islam. Special attention will be paid to the channels for transmitting ideologies and models.

The second research direction will examine the reciprocal effects of these religious ideologies and practices and the economic development of the countries in question and/or their Muslim communities. The issue at stake is not confined to the eventual opposition between the rise of certain types of radical Islam and the options of economic development of the concerned countries. It is necessary to examine beforehand to what extent economic and social policies, and particularly their shortcomings, have encouraged some ideological currents or religious practices in the Muslim community. In a second stage, it will be important to make a distinction not only between the currents that are very different in their approach to socio-economic intervention, but also between two levels of influence, viz. what is preached in sermons and what is actually practiced in daily life by Muslim communities.

An international conference will be organised in Delhi in early 2007, to conclude this joint programme and to promote a comparative perspective.

Contact: Véronique Dupont: veronique.dupont@csd-delhi.com

CSH

➤ **Metropolisation and Social Change: An Exploratory Spatial Data Analysis of the Metropolitan Area of Delhi**

Delhi has been one of the fastest growing metropolises over the past few decades in India. With the development of a Geographical Information System (GIS) on the National Capital Region of Delhi (an area covering 33,578 sq. km and comprising 37 million inhabitants), we would like to assess and analyse the spatial and the social changes produced by metropolisation. By using data from 1991 and 2001 Census, our objective is to build specific indicators that can help us to define metropolisation and the metropolitan area of Delhi. GIS allows the systematic spatial exploration of the data that will enable us to better assess the effects of metropolisation through different angles: demography, workforce composition, social indicators et al. Can we picture different levels of integration in the metropolitan area of Delhi? How is metropolisation transforming the economic and social structure of former rural areas? Is metropolisation accelerating some social changes observed in the North Western part of India, such as the decrease of fertility or the degradation of Sex Ratio?

By involving two M.Phil scholars from the Centre for the Study of Regional Development (Jawaharlal Nehru University) and organising a series of lectures on cartography and spatial analysis at this centre, we would like to share our skills and experiences with Indian scholars. In this connection, Paramita Banerjee will focus, in particular, on the condition of women and children and Swati Sachdev will study the workforce and the education context.

Contact: Bertrand Lefebvre,
bertrand.lefebvre@cs-h-delhi.com

➤ **Democracy in South Asia. Historical and Comparative Analysis of the Democratization Process in India and Pakistan between 1947 and 1958 through the Prism of Elite and Civil Society**

The main objective of this research project is to determine the factors which could explain why there is such a divergence between India and Pakistan concerning the democratization process while they are so close to each other from a historical and cultural point of view.

In order to answer this problematic, I intend to focus on the first 10 years after Independence and Partition, as I believe that the first 10 years of the transition process are fundamental, and especially on the elite and civil society, as during that period they are in charge of the respective implementation of democratic institutions as well as their consolidation.

For that purpose I will use the data available in the National Archives of India and Pakistan, such as the Indian and Pakistani Constituent Assembly debates, the Indian Congress and Muslim League Working Committee proceedings and the contemporary press. I will also use memoirs, biographies and semi-directive interviews with officials and scholars related to my topic.

As I believe that the study of the interaction between institutional structures and sociopolitical dynamics will allow me to go beyond the mere observations of the transitology school, I intend to cross the analysis of four hypothesis (colonial legacy, institutional situation at the time of independence, the party-system and ethnic pluralism) with the study of two political processes, the constitution-making and institution-building processes.

The historical and comparative study of the constitution-making and institution-making processes in India and Pakistan between 1947 and 1958 should allow me to highlight the role of the elite and the civil society in the transition and consolidation phases respectively, to analyse the extent to which the previously identified factors have influenced these dynamics and finally to answer my problematic about the divergence between India and Pakistan with regards to the democratization process.

Contact: Lionel Baixas,
lionel.baixas@cs-h-delhi.com

➤ **India-ASEAN relations and India's Look East Policy**

The India-ASEAN relations are one of the main aspects of the Indian Look East policy, within the Asian regionalisation process, and have different concerns, i.e. economy, politics and security. Both parts have indeed realised their economic potential complementarities and their common military and non-military threats. Few framework treaties have already been signed in order to identify the objectives of cooperation, but they are supposed to be complemented by more detailed agreements. The process, however, is rather slow. On the periphery, the relations between India and some of the ASEAN member-states are either in an institutionalized framework, such as the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation or the BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Community), or by the means of bilateral Free Trade Agreements, notably with Thailand and Singapore and the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Cooperation between India and Vietnam. These different circles of cooperation comprise a complex web of agreements and institutions, especially in the field of commerce and development, which needs to be explained and compared. In addition, it also assumes legal pluralism and institutional competition. This reading screen is based on the identification of the actors concerned and their specific roles, especially of the public institutions, and perhaps private actors as well (international institutions and organizations, states and public institutions, civil society), the law-making process (hard law/soft law), its effectiveness and efficiency and, finally, the formal and informal dispute settlement mechanisms available. The final aim is to discuss the possible frames of ongoing construction of an Asian Community.

Contact: Lawrence Henry,
lrnchenry@aol.com ; lauhen@yahoo.fr

➤ **Strategy, Institutions and Policies in Coalition Politics: the Indian States**

The research project is part of a Ph.D thesis to be submitted to the University of Heidelberg, Germany. It aims at investigating the relationship between party mobilization, coalition compositions and the

provision of public goods versus club goods in the Indian states. Some of the key variables to be analyzed with regard to their explanatory power in accounting for variation in the provision of public goods (for instance in the health and education sectors) will be the fragmentation of party systems, the strength of particular parties in coalition governments and the polarization within coalition governments. Based on the analysis of macro-as well as micro-level data and an actor-oriented theoretical framework which also takes into account institutional features of India's political system and salient political cleavages, the research aims at contributing to the empirical evaluation of theoretical discourse on parties and their importance in policy analysis.

Contact: Malte Pehl,
mpehl12@yahoo.com

IFP

➤ **A reinforced partnership between the International Labour Organisation and IFP**

Considering the results of the first collaboration of two years and mainly the direct utilization of research conducted by IFP with its partners (IRD and CIRAD) on the theme bondage, the ILO has just granted an extra funding of 30,000 dollars to the "Microfinance and Sustainable Development" project at the Institute. This partnership proves the interest which the international community has shown to the works of Isabelle Guérin (head of project) and her team and indicates that research can respect the demands of academic rigour (the first step of the research has already produced publications, particularly an article yet to appear in the *Indian Journal of Labour Economics*) while being directly personal.

Contact: Dr Marc Roesch,
marc.roesch@ifpindia.org

➤ **IFP at the heart of a project in network on urban development**

A project proposed and coordinated by Philippe Cadène, professor at the University of Paris 7 (UMR SEDET / CNRS-Paris 7) and head of project "Urban Dynamics" at IFP, just received a grant for funds from ANR (*Agence Nationale de la Recherche*) for a period of three years (2006-2008).

The aim of the project ("CITADAIN: Comparing Integration of Territories and Adaptation of Law in the Arab and Indian world") is to study, in a totally comparative perspective, the judicial factors of economic and urban development of megapolises in India (the region of Bombay, Bangalore and Chennai), of the Middle East (Beirut, Damas, Alep and Aman together) and of the Persian Gulf (Kuwait and Dubai) and, at the ultimate stage, to put in place a method to measure the reproducible degree of "megapolisation". A special emphasis will be laid on the fundamental pressure and the legal problems to which the foreign societies and/or multinationals are confronted with.

Programmed already are workshops in Paris, Pondicherry and Beirut, the constructions of database which puts in place a Geographical Information System and a website (in French, English and, if possible, in Arabic), dedicated to the organisation of an international conference in Dubai and the publication of a collective work.

Contact: Prof. Philippe Cadène,
philippe.cadene@wanadoo.fr

➤ Multipurpose tree species diversity in South Indian agro-ecosystems

Agro-ecosystem trees research in India is now more than a quarter century-old and major initiatives such as 'Diagnosis and Design' were undertaken by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) under the aegis of the All India Coordinated Research Project on Agroforestry (AICRPA). In the past, information on aspects such as choice of species for differing resource levels and eco-climatic conditions was only scarcely available. This, in turn, necessitated the diagnosis of the current tree planting methods, characterization of species' diversity in managed ecosystems and appraisal of the multiplicity of products and services in different agro-ecosystems. In view of this, an attempt has been made to develop a "Multipurpose tree database for Agroforestry Research and Appropriate Management (MARAM)" under the programme on usage of biodiversity and ecosystems modified by human activity that aid in future agroforestry research, management and extension activities in South India.

The MARAM database contains 269 species falling under 193 genera and 62 families were encountered in the 544 farms sampled over 62 districts and six agro-ecological zones from three South Indian states viz., Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. The standing tree population in these farms was 6,62,861. Within these, 152 are indigenous and 19 of which are endemic to the Western Ghats. In fact, 114 (including 16 endemics) indigenous species are regenerated naturally in the farmland and the landowners exploited these species for their valuable products to the cottage-based industry, timber and plywood industry, apart from providing quickly decomposable litter, shade and act as support for twining farm crop, windbreaker, boundary marker, check the soil erosion and offer other useful services. At the same time, numerous landholders' knowledge on several indigenous species of their potential uses and appropriate management methods, may be the factor for those species' low distribution and populations in comparison with exotic planted species in the modern orchard and woodlot practicing systems of South India.

Therefore, the concerned officials of the forest department should encourage the planting of these indigenous and endemic species in the farmlands by providing the seedlings and imparting knowledge on appropriate management practices. In this context, the MARAM CD-ROM will serve as a useful tool and is available for the public domain in the beginning of the year 2006.

Contact: Dr V.P. Santosh,
santosh.vp@ifpindia.org

➤ Learning about tropical forests from the sky

Biodiversity inventory and sustainable management of extensive tropical rainforest territories are hampered by insufficient spatialized information regarding simple attributes of forest stands such as tree size or density. The recent availability of very high resolution satellite images, with pixels sizes around one meter, opens new prospects to efficiently characterize tropical forests, while calling for suitable methods for an automatic derivation of forest stand attributes from remotely sensed imagery. We addressed this challenge by characterizing the "texture" of the forest canopy, that is the way in which tree crowns of various sizes are distributed through

space, via quantitative texture indices computed from the Fourier analysis of digital images (a technique of broad application in signal engineering).

Canopy texture is an emergent feature resulting from competitive interactions between trees and also from tree fall hazards determining canopy gaps. Thus, canopy aspect can be expected to provide information about forest structure and dynamics. To verify this, we compared values of canopy texture indices with field tree measurements in a reference zone of primary forest in French Guyana. The textural indices proved strongly correlated with several forest attributes (tree density, average trunk diameter, etc.), and this allowed us to predict values for these attributes over more than 3,500 ha of primary forest. Application of the method is considered in the Western Ghats of India where the Ecology Department of IFP has several research projects in progress.

Contact: Dr Pierre Couteron,
pierre.couteron@ifpindia.org

➤ Pollen Identification Multimedia Software for Capacity building in Plant Science

"Pollen Grains of South Indian Trees: A User friendly Multimedia Identification Software" (in preparation) may enable the users to learn Palynology (the microscopic study of pollen-walls portraying nature's manifold diversified and geometric micro-designs), "by click of the mouse". In addition, it will enlighten Taxonomists, promising young Palynologists and Paleo-environmentalists and others (in Paleo-and Neo-Tropics) trained in light microscopic techniques on the utility of Information Technologies in basic and applied Palynology. Tree pollen taxa of 153 species belonging to 147 genera (Mangroves: 11, Western Ghats: 129 and others: 7) and 63 families (2 monocots and 61 dicots) have been included. The chemically fossilized/acetolysed pollen mounted on slides are from the pollen-spores collection ("data-based" 22,000 specimens) of the Palynology Laboratory of the IFP. IDAO by CIRAD, a self-training tool in plant taxonomy has been adapted to identify pollen (dispersed in air or subfossilised in paleo-sediments) by non-sequential choice of characters and without terminology. Vectorised drawings of a composite picture and of 135 character states belonging to 24 pollen characters of selected tree taxa have been prepared. Information on the pollen is organized in a database accessed by the identification system. For each taxon, in addition to pollen morphological description, pollen micrographs (1280 Light Microscopic Digital of 153 taxa and 105 Scanning Electron Microscopic of 49 taxa) with legends, brief information on Ecology and Taxonomy and Distribution data of species and genus are furnished. The illustrated Terminology linked with pollen morphological descriptions and Bibliography are also included.

Contact: Dr Vasanthy George,
vasanthi.g@ifpindia.org

➤ Palaeoenvironments in south India: a holistic approach to the interpretation of past environment change

The main challenges in the study of Palaeoenvironments today are along two axes: firstly, in the interpretation of individual proxy records at distinct sites in a multifaceted manner and secondly,

in putting together such records for a regional comparison and interpretation, in the global context by using powerful qualitative and quantitative biomarkers like pollen.

One of the areas of "data-deficiency" is in land-records from peninsular India and here we address this gap with pollen-vegetation-climate relationships. We also address the important challenge of understanding palaeomonsoon variability through land records, reflecting both the southwest and northeast monsoons, through a study of the sedimentary records from rain-fed irrigation reservoirs in peninsular India. Our study is essentially multidisciplinary, multi-institutional and uses a multi-proxy approach, linking to contemporary ecology, plant physiology, remote sensing and GIS; we have also links with geology, geochronology, environmental magnetism and geochemistry that help posit the record of biological change in the physico-chemical context that it took place in. And finally, for a truly holistic approach to reconstructing past environment change that includes the role of human impact, we have bridged across traditional scientific boundaries and linked also with archeologists and historians. Our main partners are the Forestry and Ecology Division of National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA), the Indian Space Research Organization's Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (ISRO-GBP) and the Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) in addition to various forest departments.

Contact: Dr K. Anupama,
anupama.k@ifpindia.org



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

LECTURES/SEMINARS/ROUND TABLES/WORKSHOPS

CSH

Indo-French seminar on *New Medias and Cultural Exception in an Era of Globalisation: A Comparative Approach*. As part of a collaboration between the CSH, the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), the Foundation *Maison des Sciences de l'Homme* in Paris, and the University of Paris III, this seminar was jointly organised on 5th-7th September, at the ICSSR in New Delhi. The purpose of this multidisciplinary seminar was to share analyses of the contemporary French and Indian Cinema, Television and Multimedia, with a special focus on alternative models that appear as "cultural exceptions" in a context of globalisation of mass medias. In this frame, 17 papers were presented and discussed, dealing with the following topics: French and Indian approach to globalisation; cinema industries; global television, cultural exception and education policy.

Workshop on *Urban Actors, Policies and Governance in Delhi*, organised by the Centre of Study of Law and Governance, Jawaharlal Nehru University and CSH at Centre of the Study of Law and Governance, on 14th September 2005. This was the second in a series of three "city workshops" (Kolkata, Delhi, Hyderabad) organised in the framework of the international,

pluridisciplinary project on "Urban actors, policies and governance. The decision-making processes governing the supply and demand of a few collective goods in four Indian mega cities" (see www.csh-delhi.com/UAPG/index.htm). These workshops allowed the team to present 10 preliminary papers in front of local academics and actors.

A double meeting was also organized (in Paris on 14th November and in Delhi on 17th November) associating team members and the project's Advisory board, to reflect on the desirable orientation of the project at this crucial junction, before team members embark on the last phase of fieldwork, which will focus on the comparative dimension of the study.

Round-Table on *Democratization in Progress: Women and Local Politics in Urban India* on the occasion of the release of the CSH book, by Tulika, authored by Dr. Stéphanie Tawa Lama-Rewal, EHES/CSH and Dr. Archana Ghosh, ISS, Calcutta, co-organised by CSH and India International Centre (IIC), at IIC, 15th September 2005. Discussions were held with Niraja Gopal Jayal (CSLG, JNU), Sudha Pai (Centre for Political Studies, JNU), and B.S. Baviskar (Institute of Social Sciences) as chairperson (see *publications section*).

International Seminar on *Actors and Models of the Indian Diaspora in International Relations*, organised by CSH and India International Centre at IIC, 26th-27th September 2005. During this seminar, the 16 papers presented focused on three major issues: 1) the various political strategies developed by the Indian diaspora, 2) the increasingly important role of trans-state networks built by the Indian diaspora with an emphasis on transnationalism, 3) the sustainability of the Indian diaspora as an autonomous entity in the international framework of the 21st century. The researchers who made presentations came from India (9), United Kingdom (2), France (2), Malta and Iran (1 each). Future research in this field will involve a comparative analysis in a systematic manner to analyse the emerging international trends among other diasporas.

Round-Table on *Strategies for Acquiring Mutual Knowledge* as part of the concluding session of the second International Symposium on Reciprocal Knowledge. An International Conference of Transcultural, organised by the CSH, the Embassy of France in India, the Delegation of the European Commission to India, CSH, Jawaharlal Nehru University, the Goethe-Institut/MaxMueller Bhavan and the Alliance Française de Delhi at the Auditorium of the Alliance Française de Delhi, 23rd October 2005 (see *editorial*).

International Seminar on *Consumerism and the Emerging Middle Class: Comparative Perspectives from India and China*, organised by the International Institute for Asian Studies, Leiden & Amsterdam; the Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches Internationales (CERI), Paris; CSH; Institute of Chinese Studies (ICS), Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, Delhi; and India International Centre (IIC), New Delhi at IIC, on 7th-9th November 2005. China and India have been going through processes of liberalization and globalization in the last few decades, and so become obvious objects of comparison in terms of scale and historical depth. Economic growth in both societies makes it possible for substantial parts of the population to transform their lifestyle from frugal to consumption-oriented. While attention is mostly given to the production side of the economy, the consumption side in the national markets is not always sufficiently taken into account. The cultural

analysis of consumption in India and China was addressed during the seminar. A book will summarize the main outcomes of this seminar.

International Workshop on *Impact of Globalisation on National Firms: the Case of India and China in a Comparative Perspective*, organised by CSH, National Council of Applied Economic Research, London School of Economics, CERNA and the India International Centre (IIC), at IIC, on 12th & 13th December. This workshop concluded a joint project co-financed by the European Union under the EU-India Small Projects Facility Programme.

The aim of this workshop was to evaluate the impact of liberalization and globalization on Indian domestic firms and compare it with the implications on Chinese firms. The firms studied for the purpose included those in the electronics, textiles, automobile and energy sectors. The evaluation focused on three areas, namely, 1) the impact on industrial policy and the relationship between the economic administration and firms, 2) the impact on corporate governance of industrial groups, and 3) the issue of technological catching-up and absorption. The workshop brought together researchers from different institutes, including European, Indian and Chinese institutions, and was successful in developing a comparative perspective on the different issues.

IFP

Workshop on *The Western Ghats of India – a biodiversity hotspot*, a one-day symposium organised at the IFP on 17th November to launch the drafting of a collective edited volume about biodiversity and ecology of the Western Ghats forests. The book, which is planned to be released through a reputed international publisher, will have different chapters ranging from physical to biological aspects, human ecology and forest management. The contribution for each chapter is expected to be by eminent and experienced researchers and forest administrators, who have been invited for the kick-off symposium. During this meeting, the overall framework of the book, the modalities of the chapters and the timeframe for drafting have been discussed and agreed upon by the attending contributors.

Workshop on *Exposure to new information regarding various subjects, history, geography and social sciences*, a one-day workshop was organised by the IFP for teachers of the *Lycée Français* in Pondicherry at the IFP on 10th November. The workshop concluded with a visit of the IFP by the teachers who also interacted with some researchers and collaborators at the institute.

Workshop on *Healing Today: soundings in the contemporary fashions of Indian medicines* organised by the Dept of Social Sciences, IFP and coordinated by Dr. Laurent Pordié, at the IFP on 28th October. In the framework of the regional programme "Societies and Medicines in South Asia", the IFP organised a workshop on medical systems in India. The seminar addressed a fundamental epistemological question: "should we develop a new methodological concept to understand healing today, and thus revise the current analytical categories in which indigenous medicines fall?" An impressive panel of around 15 international specialists coming from prestigious European and Indian institutions, such as F. Zimmermann (EHES, Paris), D. Wujastik (UCL, London), H. Naraindas and M. Banerjee (Delhi), or D. Benner (Cambridge), joined L. Pordié (IFP), organiser of the event, to collectively ponder on the contemporary state of Indian medicines. Configured

in a way that would facilitate debates, this meeting has been able to define the intellectual and social space, from which reflection will be further developed. The originality and success of this meeting witnesses the rapid maturity of the programme "Societies and Medicines in South Asia".

Workshop on *Water territories viewed from Social Sciences* was organised by the Dept of Social Sciences, IFP and coordinated by Olivia Aubriot, IFP. The first meeting was held at the IFP on 27th September and the second meeting on 29th November 2005. As many tank rehabilitation programmes have been implemented in the area of Villupuram district and Pondicherry state, where there is an overuse of groundwater in this area, the idea is to combine the knowledge of all the institutions locally involved in the issue of water (PWD, NGOs, universities, research institutes) to generate collectively some analysis of the water problem at a regional scale, and from the social point of view (use of water, water users' association implication, agricultural dynamics, labour wages et al.)

Lecture on *Charlands (River Islands) of the Damodar: The Vulnerability of Livelihoods and Survival Strategies* by Gopa Samanta, senior lecturer in geography from Mankar College, West Bengal at the IFP on 2nd November. The paper explores the vulnerabilities and livelihoods of the Bangladeshi immigrants (mostly illegal) living in charlands of the Damodar river in Burdwan district of West Bengal. The fieldwork for this study was done in nine *chars* through in-depth interviews, long informal discussions and participant observation. The process of migration and peopling as well as the present socio-economic conditions of the charland inhabitants are also studied to have a better understanding of the vulnerabilities and livelihood strategies. The process of conversion of sandy lands into fertile agricultural fields through their indigenous methods of applying bio-manure is found interesting in this era of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. River erosion and floods make charlands highly fragile and vulnerable, with which people have to cope and have to arrange their post-flood livelihoods on their very own system with which they were used to in Bangladesh. Above all, a perception study is done to identify the perceptions of people regarding vulnerabilities and livelihood stresses enhanced by non-citizen identity and poverty.

Lecture on *Women's empowerment through public policies: the case study of the Mahalir Thittam in Tamil Nadu* by Laure Burrus, from the Institute of Political Sciences, Bordeaux, France and a residential Masters candidate in Goeconomy at the IFP (Dept of Social Sciences, Programme "Microfinance") at the Jawaharlal Nehru Conference Hall, at the IFP on 19th September. This presentation ends a four-month research on the public scheme "Mahalir Thittam" (women scheme). The goal of this scheme is the women's empowerment thanks to self-help groups (SHG) formation. To reach this goal, it involves Government agencies, NGOs and banks to form and train SHGs.

Lecture on *Religion, Environmentalism and Health in Kerala* by Remy Delage, researcher from School of African and Asian Studies (SOAS), London, at the IFP on 23rd August. Since the independence and the modernization of transport conditions facilitating access to remote pilgrimage places, as well as the impact of new channels of communication on diffusion of religious values and Sabarimala popularity over South Indian states, this pilgrimage has become one of the most significant religious phenomena as it attracts between five and 10 million pilgrims beyond cultural and Hindu cult boundaries. The popularization of Aiyappa cult in South India through an intense circulatory regime of pilgrimage has made reconsidered contemporary Kerala as one of the most important pilgrimage destinations in South Indian Hinduism.

PUBLICATIONS...

CSH



Beyond the Transition Phase of the WTO: An Indian Perspective on Emerging Issues
Dipankar Sengupta, Debashis Chakraborty, Pritam Banerjee (eds.)
Academic Foundation, New Delhi, 2006, 683p, Rs 1195

This book is devoted to those issues affecting international trade and domestic development whose international regulatory framework has not yet come up for discussion or whose final contours have not yet been decided upon so far. The various studies of lawyers and economists that go into this edited volume discuss issues ranging from the International Trade in Services including Telecommunications, Transport, Education and E-commerce to questions of compatibility between Obligations towards Environmental Protection and Social Concerns codified in international treaties and protocols and an International Trade Regime that promotes free trade. The volume discusses current problems that affect India's Agriculture like SPS-TBT, and Agricultural Subsidies as well as the issue of Seed Protection and Genetically Modified Crops. It also looks at problems and prospects of Indian industry in the face of the MFA phase-out and TRIPS. The volume projects about future problems that will rise as India enters into an increasing number of Regional Trading Arrangements as well as her experiences where Dispute Resolution at the WTO is concerned. The Volume concludes with a discussion on the Singapore Issues like Trade Facilitation, Government Procurement and Competition Policy. The volume not only discusses the importance of these issues to India as well as the current 'state of play' but suggests the appropriate positions for India to take on all these issues at the WTO negotiations and other fora if a Global Agreement on an issue is not probable.



Reconfiguring Identities and Building Territories in India and South Africa
Philippe Gervais-Lambony, Frédéric Landy & Sophie Oldfield (eds.)
Manohar-CSH, 2005, 346p, Rs 745

Questions of territory, space and identity are critically important in the international geopolitical context as well as central to contemporary research in the social sciences. Processes connected with globalization have reconfigured identities and territories at multiple scales, connecting and disconnecting places in complex ways and re-enforcing old while producing new forms of segregation and polarization. Global processes meet the complex and locally specific South African and Indian geographies of inequality, expressed at national, regional and local scale. In the South African case, a political imperative to transform the legacies of racial inequality from colonial and apartheid rule underscores the centrality of racial identities. However, racial discourse and differentiation embodies and at times masks a complex mix of place-based, gender, class and cultural identities, expressed in a multi-scalar politics of territory. More than 50 years into independent rule, Indian identity politics continues to build to a large extent on caste and the intricate ways in which caste-affiliation merges with religious, socio-economic, political and place-based identities. In both contexts, the politics of identity and territory simultaneously unify and divide. The spaces, territories and identities (re)produced in the complex contexts in which the global, national, regional and local meet lie at the heart of the research from which the papers in this book have been generated. The research investigated the reconfiguration of Indian and South African identities and territories through dialogue primarily between geographers, but also other social scientists, from India, South Africa and France.



Democratization in Progress: Women and Local Politics in Urban India
Archana Ghosh & Stéphanie Tawa Lama-Rewal
Tulika Books, 2005, 158p, Rs 375

This book presents the findings of an empirical study of the implementation of women's reservations in four Indian megacities: Chennai, Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai. It offers a detailed and lively account of what it means to be a woman Councillor in an Indian mega-city today, and a critical view

of the functioning of Municipal Corporations, with specific emphasis on women's roles and opportunities to participate and perform in their new environment. By choosing to consider the decentralization policy in general and women's reservations in particular as an experiment in democratization, the authors provide useful and useable insights into a range of issues at stake.

To what extent, in what ways and under which conditions can increased political representation of women at the local level empower women?

Is the functioning of urban local bodies truly participatory and inclusive?

What are the (other) reforms needed to make women elected to urban local bodies more effective agents of urban development?

The first part of the book presents the theoretical, legal, material and institutional contexts in which the implementation of reservations for women must be situated. The second part analyses the empirical findings of the study and reflects on the relevance of gender in urban local self-government. The book thus provides new, concrete data on the question of women's political representation. It also contributes to the ongoing global debate about the relationships between democracy, inclusive urban governance, social justice and development.



Ensuring the Conformity of Domestic Law with World Trade Organisation Law. India as a Case Study
Julien Chaisse, CSH Occasional Paper 13, New Delhi, 2005, 189p

The World Trade Organisation (WTO), established in 1995, provides a contractual framework within which Member States undertake to implement law and regulations regarding foreign trade in a wide range of sectors. The purpose of this

study is to examine why and how WTO rules are actually implemented and to what extent they have changed Indian law.

The conformity of Indian law to WTO regulations is compulsory for two reasons. Firstly, by declaring that, "each Member shall ensure the conformity of its law, regulations and administrative procedures with its obligations as provided in the annexed Agreements", the Agreement establishing WTO affirms the obligation for all the Members to ensure such compliance. The legal consequences of this obligation are discussed with regard to the effective adaptation of Indian domestic law. Secondly, WTO has set up a new dispute settlement mechanism to monitor the compliance of domestic law with WTO regulations. The contribution of this mechanism in ensuring conformity to WTO rules has been assessed with reference to India's involvement in disputes.

On the theoretical side, this study identifies the characteristics peculiar to WTO that ensure the implementation of its regulations and oblige India as well as other Members to comply with international norms. On the practical side, it gives an overview of the recent innovations or changes in Indian law that are presently applicable and simultaneously assesses India's integration in international trade governance.

EFEO



Tamil Ilakkanam Perakarati (An Encyclopaedia of Tamil Grammar and poetics)

Acirriyar Ti. Vi. Kopalaiyar (Editor T.V. Gopal Iyer),
Tamilmanpatippakam/EFEO, 2005, 17 vol.; Rs 4000
Language: Tamil, preface in English (Distributed by Tamilmanpatippakam, Chennai, and EFEO)

The Tamil Ilakkanam Perakarati is an enormous encyclopaedia of Tamil grammar and poetics, one of the most fruitful disciplines in Tamil thinking and writing. It compiles the

information given in the erudite texts of 2 millennia – treatises in verse and a huge number of prose commentaries – ordered into 17 volumes containing key words in alphabetical order, split along the lines of traditional sub-disciplines. The three main sections are *Ezuttu* (phonetics), *Col* (morphology and syntax) and *Porul* (poetics), where two volumes fall on *Ezuttu*, 4 on *Col*, and 11 on the various sub-disciplines subsumed under poetics: 2 for *Yappu* (metrics), 2 for *Ani* (figures of speech), 4 for *Akam* (love topics), 1 for *Puram* (heroic topics), 1 for *Pattiyal* (literary genres), *Payiram* (prefaces) and *Marapiyal* (word usage), and at last 1 for *Meyppatu* (physical manifestation), *Natakam* (drama), *Alavai* (valid means of knowledge), *Anantakkurram* (collocations to be avoided), *Niyayam* (logic) and *Vazuvamaiti* (poetic licence). The last of these volumes contains an extensive bibliography. The information provided gives the terminological key words, their alternatives in various texts, the definitions pertaining to them as to be found in different treatises, the explanations and discussions connected with them in the commentaries, the examples from literature (i.e. quotations from the poetry), along with the author's own explanations.

WELCOME ...

...at the CSH

Lionel BAIXAS, a doctoral student in Political Science from CERI/Sciences Po, Paris, joined the CSH in November 2005 (see *research section*).

Laurence HENRY, a post-doctoral scholar in International Law from *Centre d'Etudes et de recherche internationales et communautaires* (CERIC), Université Cezanne Aix-en-Provence, joined the Centre from October 2005-February 2006 (see *research section*).

Augustin MARIA, a doctoral student in Economics from University of Paris 9-Dauphine and *CERNA-Ecole des Mines de Paris* joined the CSH from November 2005 to March 2006 to work on *Water Management in developing cities*.

Malte PEHL, a doctoral student in Political Science from South Asia Institute (SAI) at the University of Heidelberg, is affiliated to the Centre from November 2005-February 2006 (see *research section*).

Stéphanie TAWA LAMA-REWAL, a research fellow in Political Science at the Centre for the Study of India and South Asia (CNRS-EHESS, Paris) joined the CSH on 10th September on a two-year posting by the CNRS. She is coordinating the Dept *Political dynamics, institutional set-up and social change*.

Pascale VISIONNEAU from *Ecole Spéciale Militaire de Saint-Cyr*, joined the CSH from September to December 2005 as an intern, working on *Diplomatic and strategic relations between India and China since 1998*.

...at the IFP

Dr. Frédéric BORNE, Ph.D in Applied Informatics from *Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement* (CIRAD), France joined the Dept on 25th October to head the Laboratory of Geomatics and Applied Informatics for a period of two years.

Dr. Bernard MONDET, Medical Entomologist from *Institut de Recherche pour le Développement* (IRD), France joined the dept from 15th October for a period of three years to head the new IFP project entitled *Spatial Epidemiology*.

Anand PAKIAM joined the IFP on 28th November 2005 as the new communications in-charge of the institute.

Dr. Brigitte SEBASTIA, PhD from *Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales* (EHESS), Toulouse, France, joined the Dept as a post-doctoral scholar from 1st October to work on her research *Siddha (citta) medicine in Tamil Nadu: contemporary representations and practices*.

R. SRILATHA, MCA candidate from Pondicherry Engineering College, joined the Dept from 5th September-31st December to work on the IFP project *Historical Atlas of South India*.

...at the EFEO

Marzenna CZERNIAK-DROZDZOWICZ from Jagellonian University is staying in Pondicherry from mid-December 2005-March 2006 on the Mellon Fellowship from AHS in Chicago in connection with her project *Role of Pancaratra Tradition in the Contemporary Religious Practice of the South Indian Vaishnavas*.

Martine GESTIN, a post-doctoral student of the EFEO, is back in Pondicherry for three months till end-January 2006 to pursue her fieldwork among the Mutuvan of the Kardamom Hills.

Dr. Alex WATSON, Junior Research Fellow in Indology at Wolfson College, Oxford, returned to continue working with Anjaneya Sarma and Dominic Goodall on their joint project on soteriology (the *Paramoksanirasakarika*) from December 2005 to February 2006.

GOODBYE ...

...at the CSH

Anastasia ANGUELETOU, a doctoral student in Economics, left the CSH in October.

Julie BAUJARD, a doctoral student in Anthropology, left the CSH in December.

Linda BOUIFROU, a doctoral student in Urban Geography, left the Centre in December.

Patrick DORP, secretary general/financial officer, left the CSH in November.

Adrien FANET, webmaster at the CSH, left the Centre in December.

Dr. Girish KUMAR, head of the Political Dynamics division, left the CSH in December after five years to join the Indian Institute of Public Administration.

Eric LECLERC, head of the International Relations division, left the CSH in December.

Dipankar SENGUPTA, a research fellow in Economics, left the CSH in December to join the University of Jammu.

...at the IFP

Dr. M. BALABUBRAMANIYAM, a research assistant, left the IFP on 19th November.

Saikat BHATTACHARYA, communications in-charge left the IFP on 15th December.

Dr. VASANTY Georges, researcher, retired from her services on 31st December after 35 years with the Institute.

MILESTONES

IFP

Mr. (the Mahopadhyaya) V. Venkataraja SARMA, collaborator of the project "Paninian Grammar through its examples" (a joint project by IFP-EFEO and the University of Tirupati) has been awarded the "Certificate of Honour to Eminent Traditional Sanskrit Scholars", which in India is the most prestigious award in the domain of Sanskrit studies. He has received this award in New Delhi from the President of the Republic of India.

Above the personal homage rendered to this eminent scholar of the EFEO, this award also underlines the importance, which the Indian Sanskrit community accords to the erudite work, which is achieved by the team headed by F. Grimal.

INSTITUTES

CENTRE DE SCIENCES HUMAINES

2 Aurangzeb Road,
New Delhi 110 011
Tel: (91) 11 3041 00 70
Fax: (91) 11 3041 00 79
Email: infos@csd-delhi.com

New Website:
<http://www.csd-delhi.com>

+(from France): CSH abs.
Valise Diplomatie pour
l'Ambassade De France en
Inde,
128 bis rue de l' Université,
75351 Paris 07 SP.

Director

Dr. Véronique DUPONT,
head, *Urban Dynamics
division*,
veronique.dupont@csd-delhi.com

Administration

Attreyee ROY
CHOWDHURY,
publications in-charge,
attreyee@csd-delhi.com
Bertrand LEFEBVRE,
scientific secretary,
bertrand.lefebvre@csd-delhi.com

Research Divisions

Prof. Nicolas GRAVEL, *head*,
Economic Transition division,
nicolas.gravel@csd-delhi.com

Dr. Stéphanie TAWA LAMA-REWAL,
*head, Political Dynamics
division*,
tawalama@ehess.fr

ECOLE FRANCAISE D'EXTREME-ORIENT

Director: Prof. Franciscus VERELLEN
Secretary General: Christian COSTOPOULOS
(EFEO, 22 Avenue du Pdt. Wilson, F-75116 Paris)

The Pondicherry Centre
16 & 19 Dumas Street
Pondicherry 605 001
Tel: (91) 413 233 2504 / 233 4539 / 222 5639
Fax: (91) 413 233 0886 / 233 5538
Email: efeopdy@vsnl.com

The Pune Antenna
C/o Deccan College,
Yerawada
Pune 6

Pondicherry

Head
Dr. Dominic GOODALL,
sanskrit, saivism,
ddsg@satyam.net.in

Administration

Prerana Sathi PATEL,
executive assistant,
efeopdy@vsnl.com

Pune Head

Dr. François PATTE,
sanskrit and mathematics
For further details, please visit
our website: <http://www.efeofr/recherche/indologie.shtml>

INSTITUT FRANÇAIS DE PONDICHÉRY

11 Saint Louis Street, PB 33,
Pondicherry 605 001
Tel: (91) 413 2334168
Fax: (91) 413 2339534
<http://www.ifpindia.org>

Director

Dr. Jean-Pierre MULLER,
ifpdir@ifpindia.org

Administration

Williams MICHEL,
secretary general,
williams.michel@ifpindia.org
Anand PAKIAM,
communications in-charge,
ifpcom@ifpindia.org

Scientific Departments

Dr. Pierre COUTERON,
head, department of Ecology,
pierre.couteron@ifpindia.org
Dr Laurent PORDIE
*head, department of Social
Sciences*,
laurent.pordie@ifpindia.org

Other services

Dr. Frédéric BORNE,
*head, Lab of Geomatics and
Applied Informatics*

Ms Anurupa NAIK, *head*,
*Centre for Documentary
Resources*
anurupa.n@ifpindia.org

For information on *Patrika* & Publications, please contact:

Attreyee Roy Chowdhury,
attreyee@csd-delhi.com
Anand Pakiam,
ifpcom@ifpindia.org
efeopdy@vsnl.com