

IFP, an institute that provides a unique platform

Institute organises open house on Indo-French scientific cooperation

S. PRASAD

PUDUCHERRY: Puducherry has provided a particularly fertile ground for French Institute of Pondicherry's flourishing activities, especially in its scientific reach and growing political importance in the relations between France and India, Consul-General of France in India, Philippe Janvier-Kamiyama has said.

Inaugurating the 60th anniversary celebrations of IFP on Wednesday, Mr. Kamiyama said the institute initially had a threefold purpose — language teaching, scientific research and another related to its land of birth, Indology — thanks to the first Director Filliozat who held the chair at the College De France.

The expertise of IFP has developed over the years and in academic circles, the institute has now become a reference point in all its areas of expertise such as analyses of Sanskrit language and literature, history of religions, Ta-

mil studies and archaeological heritage of South India.

The collection of about 8,500 palm leaf manuscripts elevated by UNESCO to the status of Humanity's Heritage has had a positive impact on research which was able to draw from the best sources and also for the preservation of the memory of a civilisation whose pundits continue to collaborate with the institute, Mr. Kamiyama said.

IFP is therefore a unique scientific platform in India essential to our knowledge of this immense country, of which it provides not only a scientific and rigorous perspective but also a benevolent and enlightened one.

"In the present world often marked by obscurantism and violence, IFP for its part promotes intercultural exchanges and it does through its use of reason, enlightened by the analyses of world around us and the meaning it gives to its progress, comforts us and gives use the best



Delegates at the 60th anniversary of the French Institute of Pondicherry on Wednesday - PHOTOS: T. SINGARAVELOU

weapons of enlightened curiosity and tolerance," he added.

Pierre Gard, director, French Institute of Pondicherry, said owing to scientists in India and France, the institution has been able to

produce knowledge in various fields from classical India with Sanskrit studies to very modern and contemporary works in the field of modelling to carbon stock assessment.

Mr. Gard said the special

blend between the Indian and French cultures must become an example. After 60 years of successful research in South India, the institute now has to start preparing for the next 60 years, he said.

The institute also orga-



nised an Open House in the presence of eminent scientists about the future of scientific cooperation between India and France and the place of the IFP within this.

Anthology of poems from *Akananuru* released

STAFF REPORTER

PUDUCHERRY: An Anthology of Poems from among the earliest Tamil literary work, *Akananuru*, translated and annotated by George L. Hart, Emeritus Professor of Tamil, was released by Philippe Janvier Kamiyama, Consul-General of France in Puducherry at the 60th anniversary of the French Institute of Pondicherry (IFP).

"The *Akananuru* is the longest collection in the Tamil Sangam anthologies. It is one of the seminal works of classical India and contains

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poems that are among the finest ever written in India or anywhere else. Its use of imagery can be striking and sublime, but even more. Its evocation of life 2,000 years ago in all its aspects rings true.

The aim of this translation is to make *Akananuru* acces-

sible to those who know English," according to George L. Hart, Emeritus Professor of Tamil at the University of California, Berkeley.

Other works

Mr. Hart's publications include works on the nature of classical Tamil society and culture, investigations into Dravidian influence on classical Sanskrit literature.

He has worked for the recognition of Tamil as one of the world's classical languages. He is a recipient of the Kural Peedam, the Tamilperayan Award and the Padmashri.



Former directors of French Institute of Pondicherry Jean Pierre Pascal, Denis Depommier and Velayoudam Marimoutou being honoured during the 60th anniversary of IFP on Wednesday. IFP director Pierre Gard and Consul-General of France in Puducherry Philippe Janvier Kamiyama are in the picture - PHOTO: T. SINGARAVELOU

Couple as

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

PUDUCHERRY: A young couple were roughed up by a few youths at Bharathi Park on Wednesday for alleged "indecent behaviour."

An eye witness to the incident said the couple were indulging in public nuisance while several were sitting in the park. A group of youths

Woman dies of swine flu near K