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-Kamathy, has said. Inaugurating the 60th anniversary celebrations of IFP on Wednesday, Mr Kamathy 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 Pillaiyar who held the chair at the College De France, as many houses. 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, Tamil studies and archaeologica

tical cooperation between India and France and the place of the IFP within this.

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

REGION

Rescued residents anxious about property

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Chennai: Residents who have been evacuated from inundated neighbourhoods are worried about their belongings.

Pricilla of Royappa Nagar in Maduravoyal was rescued by the Tamil Nadu Fire and Rescue personnel a few days ago after her area became flooded. "I took out all my jewels and cash with me. I have left behind all the electrical appliances. I hope they are safe," she said. A few residents of Sri Ganesha Nagar in Mannivakkam left their houses a few days ago after the area got inundated.

"I still have all my jewels and cash with me. The locality looks deserted. There is always a fear of burglars breaking into our houses, which are empty. It was not possible to stay in this house," says N. Varun, a resident.

"There is police presence in most of the flooded areas. Besides, they won’t steal at night having snakes," a police officer said.

Couple assaulted

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

PUDUCHERRY: A young couple were roughly 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 seated in the park. A group of youths warned them first. Then they attacked the man with a stick. The woman was also attacked when she tried to stop them. On hearing the couple scream, people who were sitting in the park ran to help.

Police personnel, who were near the Assembly complex, rescued the couple.

Woman dies of suspected swine flu near Kancheepuram

PUDUCHERRY: A young woman was diagnosed with suspected swine flu and died of the disease on Wednesday.

The woman, who was admitted to a private hospital in Kallakurichi on Tuesday, died of the disease on Wednesday. Medical personnel said the woman had travelled from Tamil Nadu to Puducherry on Tuesday and was admitted to the hospital on Wednesday morning.

Former directors of French Institute of Pondicherry Jean Pierre Pascual, Denis Depompier and Wilyrodam Mammonith have honoured during the 60th anniversary of IFP on Wednesday. IFP director Pierre Grand and Consul-General of France in Puducherry Philippe Janvier Kamathy are in the picture - PHOTO: T. SINGARAVULU