Academic pact inked

Tripartite agreement among three major institutions

Staff Reporter

PUDUCHERRY: Pondicherry University, University Michel de Montaigne - Bordeaux 3 and the French Institute of Pondicherry have entered into a tripartite agreement to facilitate academic cooperation. The Memorandum of Understanding was signed on Friday.

It focussed on teacher and research exchange in the areas of arts, humanities, human and social sciences. It was also to facilitate student exchanges and possibly for students in Puducherry to be supervised by professors in France, Vice-Chancellor of Pondicherry University J.A.K. Tareen said.

This is the 20th MoU signed by Pondicherry University and the seventh with a French institution. The first exchanges would possibly be from the French Department.

Speaking at the function, vice-president, International Relations, University Bordeaux 3, Christian Bouquet said that their university had taken note of Pondicherry University’s Centres for Development Studies, European Studies, Political and International Studies and they could extend the current agreement to cover these areas.

There were three reasons for the Bordeaux 3 University to sign this MoU. The first was the connection between the university and India, especially Puducherry. Many researchers from Puducherry were now working in the university.

Second, the university had a desire to work with more Indian students since there were only around a dozen Indian students at Bordeaux 3. Third, they would like to foster friendship and mutual understanding between the two countries.

Director of French Institute of Pondicherry Pierre Grard said the tripartite agreement would foster growing ties between France and India in the ever-increasing competitive academic landscape.

Consul General of France to India Pierre Fournier said the MoU was just the beginning as no work had been done as yet. He promised full support of the French Consulate for academic cooperation.