







D'EXTRÊME ORIENT SCIENCES HUMAINES

## **EDITORIAL**

The Pattrika has been running for several years now, informing a wide audience of the rich and various activities of the French research institutions on Indian soil: the Institut Français de Pondichéry (IFP), the Centre des Sciences Humaines in Delhi (CSH) and the Pondicherry Centre of the Ecole française d'Extrême-Orient (EFEO). We still hold this rôle to be important, but, given the amount of information now readily accessible online, we have decided henceforth to publish the Pattrika newsletter only twice a year (July and January) and in a lighter format. For more detailed information about our research, we invite our readers to visit our respective websites.

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## **FOCUS**

**CSH** 

## Urban Policies and the Right to the City in India: Rights, Responsibilities and Citizenship: A CSH-UNESCO-MOST collaboration (Peer Review Workshop held on 23rd March 2011)

This Research-Policy Paper which is in preparation results from the engagement of UNESCO since 2005 in an initiative by UNESCO-UN-HABITAT on 'Urban Policies and the Right to the City in India: Rights, Responsibilities and Citizenship'. It emanates from a commitment to promote the construction of more inclusive cities, and in particular to eradicate poverty, as announced in the 8th Millennium Development Goals (MDG). The realization that objectives of the MDG are lagging behind has led to initiatives such as the International Alliance of Inhabitants and the Habitat International Coalition to promote a rights-based approach that would help to strengthen political will to reduce poverty, and to change existing patterns of resource allocation. One notable outcome of these initiatives has been the 2004 "World

Charter for the Right to the City" that is being increasingly debated in the international arena. Considering the Right to the City as "a vehicle of social inclusion in cities" appears relevant in the Indian context of urban poverty, especially since the central government recently launched a National Urban Poverty Reduction Strategy (2010-2020).

In this report, we consider that the question of urban poverty is embedded in the process of deepening inequalities (in terms of both income and labour informalisation). Consequently, debating the notion of inclusive cities entails taking into account all sections of the population and considering the changing equations between different social groups. We will therefore not restrict ourselves to a focus on the urban poor only.

The objectives of this research-policy paper will be twofold: (i) to discuss the ambivalence of the Right to the City (RTC) approach and to examine its analytical and pragmatic value for the case of Indian cities; and (ii) to take stock, on a number of themes (women in the city, access to decent housing and urban services, discrimination, livelihoods etc.), of the existing situation and problems, including the legal and policy framework, and of the directions that are - or should be - taken towards a more inclusive city. The paper therefore will attempt to assess various public policies in terms of their inclusiveness, to understand their limits, and finally to propose a series of recommendations.

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# Continuation of the CSH-CPR Urban Workshop Series

Four workshops were held in the CSH-CPR Urban Workshop Series between January and April 2011. This series is a collaborative effort between the Urban Dynamics division of the CSH and the Centre for Policy Research (CPR), New Delhi, and the workshops are held on the last Tuesday of each month.

The twelfth workshop in the series was held on 25 January on "Exploring Integrated Transport in Delhi and Gurgaon" and was presented by Dalia Wahdan. It examined the provenance of and the meanings attached to the concept of 'integrated transport' in the National Capital Region. It was argued that the conception of IT and its associated institutional structures worsen the already inequitable provision of transport infrastructure and services.

The thirteenth workshop was held on 22 February on "Spatializing knowledge in urban governance" by Isa Baud and N. Sridharan. This presentation reported on methods developed in the research programme on 'Utilizing spatial knowledge in urban governance networks', being carried out in four cities in India. The presentation discussed the potential of the tools developed so far for more participatory urban governance networks.

The fourteenth workshop, entitled "Rule by Aesthetics, World-Class City Making in Delhi" was presented by Asher Ghertner on 29 March. This examined how urban aesthetics has replaced maps and statistics as a key technology of government and described how middle-class codes of appearance and civility have been used to project a new vision of urban space, and how slum residents have taken up and reworked these codes in pursuit of their own dreams of a "worldclass" future.

The last workshop was delivered on 26 April by Zarin Ahmad on "Urban transformations and 'unclean' occupations: an ethnography of Delhi's Muslim butchers". The paper focused on the relocation of the abattoir. It documented the class and religious dimensions of a seemingly secular environmental discourse, and it explained how urban transformations lead to further exclusion of a community, thus resulting in new and more nuanced forms of urban marginality.

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#### **EFEO**

## Progress with the EFEO Manuscript Collection

The EFEO Pondicherry Centre is pleased to announce that the digitization of its Manuscript collection which was started in January has been completed in excellent fashion by the San Marga Trust. The 1614 bundles totalling ca. 150 000 leaves have all been photographed in high resolution. These very readable images will be made available online to the public in due time, as per the MOU signed between the EFEO and the San Marg Trust. This should take place when the detailed cataloguing of the collection by Mr Varada Desigan, started in 2000, will have been completed (he has so far catalogued 63% of the collection). The catalogue of the collection will also be eventually published as a book. Extrapolating on the basis of what has been catalogued until now, it can be estimated roughly that 60% of the content of these leaves is in Sanskrit, 10% is in Tamil and 30% is in Manipravālam (a hybrid language, combining Sanskrit and Tamil). The scripts used are Tamil and Grantha. The collection, which comes from Alwar Tirunagari (Tirunelveli District), was acquired from a Vaishnava family in the sixties. More than a third of this material (about 650 bundles) relates to the cult of the Hindu God Visnu and at least 60 of these Vaisnava manuscripts transmit texts that have never been published. It has been registered in 2005 by the UNESCO, along with the IFP collection of Shaiva MSS, as being part of the "Memory of the World".

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## **IFP**

## First book fair devoted to India

The IFP will be represented at the first book fair entirely devoted to India. entitled "L'Inde des Livres", which will be organized by the Association "Les Comptoirs de l'Inde" on October 22-23. 2011, at the town hall of the 20th arrondissement in Paris, France, under the patronage of the Indian Embassy in France, the French Overseas Ministry, the Regional Direction for Cultural Action of the Ile de France Region, with the support of the city of Paris and the Library "Le Divan". The "L'Inde des Livres" book fair has among its many objectives, to make Indian literature better known to the general public, to present books on India written by Indian as well as foreign authors, to engage discussions with specialists on different themes related to India and to organize conferences on a wide variety of topics relevant to India. It will also present several exhibitions. among which, "3 centuries of French presence in India", "India through photographies" and "Indian Troops in France: 1914-1918".

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## RESEARCH

## **CSH**

## Inaugural workshop of the Making of Indian Engineers project

The first workshop of *The Making of Indian Engineers* project was held at India Habitat Centre, Delhi, on 21st-22nd February 2011, under the auspices of the Centre de Sciences Humaines. Nineteen scholars from both India and abroad attended the workshop (IIIT-Bangalore, IIIM-

Gwalior, IIT-Chennai, II-Mumbai, IIT-Delhi, Delhi Technological University, MIDS Chennai, Centre for Women Development Studies, Delhi, Centre for the Study of Developing Society, Delhi, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi, and CSH; Institut d'administration des entreprises, Paris, University of Paris-Dauphine, and University of Saint-Quentin en Yvelines, Fondation Thiers, Paris).

The workshop was organized as a brain-storming session on the history and sociology of the engineering professions in India. Three broad areas of research were covered: first. the history of the profession under the colonial regime and the development of engineering education since Independence; second, the sociology of Engineering Colleges and their student population (social mobility, choice of profession, professional expectations, etc.); third, engineers as professionals (definitions of the groups, workplace, careers, political and civic engagement, ways of life, etc.). The main aim of the workshop was to prepare a collective research proposal to be submitted to the French Agence Nationale de la Recherche for funding.

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## ➤ The Sociology of MP/MLA's in India

A collaborative research project was launched in December 2010, to develop a database of Indian Members of Parliament (MPs) and Members of Legislative Assemblies (MLAs) across 18 States, which is bound to become a reference for the quantitative/ qualitative research on Indian political personnel by building on the results of the collaborative work that has already been accomplished by researchers of the CSDS (New Delhi), CSH (New

Delhi), CERI-Sciences Po (Paris) and the CDSP-Sciences Po (Paris) in the years 1999-2008. The current team involves scholars from the CSDS (the Lokniti network), Sciences Po, CDSP, CSH and a series of US based voung scholars (Columbia, Berkeley, Stanford...). Research based on this database and other instruments such as the Right to Information Act will enable a better understanding of social mobility in the Indian political system, the role of politics in generating wealth for politicians, including from criminal or corruption activities, and the role of politics in economic and legislative processes. Indian politics is one of the most fruitful terrains for political research in the world.

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#### **EFEO**

➤ A Critical Edition
of the commentary by
Trilocanaśivācārya on
Somaśambhupaddhati – An
eleventh Century Śaiva Ritual
Manual

This project of critically editing the hitherto unpublished commentary on a Śaiva ritual manual, the *Somaśambhupaddhati*, was taken up at the Pondicherry Centre of the EFEO as part of our endeavour to understand the intellectual history of the *Śaiva* religion.

Śaiva ritual manuals usually deal with the worship of Śiva and with the rules and regulations to be followed by a Śaiva initiate. The Somaśambhupaddhati, the most famous work of this genre, was composed in the eleventh century by a Śaivasiddhāntin named

Somaśambhu who was the head of a once celebrated monastery called Golagi (the model for the many monasteries called Golakī-matha), situated in the Dahalamandala, located between the Ganges and the Narmada. This influential old pan-Indian Śaiva Siddhānta ritual manual was taken up for edition and translation (published in 4 vols in what is now the Collection Indologie between 1963 and 1998) by H. Brunner-Lachaux and it became one of the most prominent fruits of the study of the Sanskrit texts of the Śaiva Siddhānta pursued by the French institutions of research in Pondicherry.

The study of this commentary on the Somaśambhupaddhati builds upon the work instigated by Brunner-Lachaux and will enable us to improve upon the pioneering first volume of 1968. Trilocanasivācārva commentator on the Somaśambhupaddhati --- is one of the most celebrated Saiddhāntikas of South India. He belongs to the later part of the 12th century and authored several other works too on the Śaiva system, most famously the Siddhāntasārāvalī, which is often studied as part of priestly training today.

There are nine manuscripts available for this commentary and the collation work is in progress. The critical edition will include a detailed introduction and annotated notes. especially quoting unpublished early materials on the subject. The text of the Somaśambhupaddhati collated with Newari manuscripts (which H. Brunner was not able to use in her edition) and other available editions of the paddhati will also be provided as an appendix to the volume. The first volume of this commentary will contain the portions covered in the first volume of H. Brunner's edition, which includes the daily routines of



an initiate, worship of the sun, daily ritual offered to Śiva, the daily fire ritual, the worship of Caṇḍeśvara, of the cow, of the teacher, the rules for taking food, etc.

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### **IFP**

The worldwide growth in the number of ecologists, the globalization of society, and the increasingly important interplay between burgeoning human populations and ecological processes call for new ways for ecologists to communicate at the global scale.

The International Network of Next Generation Ecologists (INNGE, [injee]) is a newly established network that seeks to bring early career ecologists together from around the world, thereby strengthening international ties within a growing global community of ecologists.

INNGE hopes to be a network where early career ecologists can go to seek advice on international topics in ecology and particularly in cases where the early career section of their own national societies may have limited knowledge or experience. While there are quite a few established bodies of communication that provide an overview of career opportunities at the national and regional scale, it is hard to find a forum focused on international opportunities like international education programs, open job positions, and travel grants. INNGE wants to build the first such forum directed at and run by early career ecologists. INNGE specifically aims to enhance international knowledge about ecological topics as well as the ability to build academic networks for early career scientists locally and regionally and to foster cross-continental initiatives between ecological societies and their early career ecologists.

Vincent Bonhomme, from the French Institute of Pondicherry and member of the executive council of the French Ecological Society, is a co-founder of INGEE but calls all the interested persons to join the INGEE network, particularly for India.

All contacts and more detailed description can be found here: http://www.innge.net/

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## EVENTS

## SEMINARS / WORKSHOPS / ROUND TABLES / LECTURES

For a detailed list of these events, consult the respective links:

#### **CSH**

http://www.csh-delhi.com/pastevents. php?selectedcategory=6&tri=1 (for Urban Workshop Series: See above under FOCUS)

### **IFP**

http://www.ifpindia.org/-Seminars-.html

## **EFEO**

http://www.efeo.fr/blogs.php?bid=14&l=FR

## **WELCOME**

## ...at the CSH

Radhika Gupta, Post-Doctoral Fellow in International Relations, joined on 2 April 2011.

Violaine Pierre, Intern, Sciences PO/ Ecole Polytechnique, joined on 16 April 2011.

Matthieu Teachout, Intern, Ecole Polytechnique, joined on 16 April 2011.

Scott Viallet-Thevenin, Intern, Ecole Polytechnique, joined on 16 April 2011.

Tristan Dementhon, Intern, Faculté des letters et Civilisations, Université Jean Moulin Lyon 3, joined on 25 February 2011.

Florian Bristch, Intern, South Asia Institute, University of Heidelberg, joined on 2 February 2011.

Laure Criqui, Intern, Laboratoire Techniques, Territoires, Sociétés (LATTS), Université Paris-Est / ENPC, joined the CSH on 23 May 2011.

#### ...at the IFP

**Dr. Mythri PRASAD**, Post-doctoral researcher, joined the IFP from 1 July 2011 to 31 December 2012, to work on "*Transformation of small cities in India*", under the supervision of Dr. Eric DENIS, and within the framework of the SUBURBIN project.

Dr. G. BABU, Conservator, PhD, joined the Indology Department of the IFP from 1 January to 30 December 2011, to work on the Conservation of palm leaf manuscripts of the IFP, under the supervision of Dr. T. GANESAN.

Julie ALET, Master student from AgroParisTech, France, joined the Ecology Department of the IFP, as a trainee, from 15 January to 15 July 2011, to study "What are the possible current and future dynamics of agroforestry landscapes in the Western Ghats", under the supervision of Dr. Cédric GAUCHEREL and Dr. Claude GARCIA.

Mathieu CASTETS, research engineer, joined the Ecology Department of the IFP from 4 February to 29 December 2011, to work on "Landscape functioning, development of modeling platforms", under the supervision of Dr. Cédric GAUCHEREL.

**Dr. Vincent BONHOMME**, PhD, joined the Ecology Department of the IFP from 4 February to 31 December 2011, as a post-doctorate, to work on "Landscape modeling" as well as "Pollen morphometrics", under the supervision of Dr. Cédric GAUCHEREL.

Diane BOUCHET, student in 2nd year of Master Degree in Conservation Biology (EBE) from the University Pierre & Marie Curie, Paris 6, France, joined the Ecology Department of the IFP, as a trainee, from 7 February to 11 June 2011, to work on the "Recommendation of conservation priorities, based on the quantification of the endemism within the Western Ghats", under the supervision of Dr. Cédric GAUCHEREL and Dr. B.R RAMESH.

Rüksan BOSE, PhD candidate, joined the Ecology Department of the IFP on 14 February 2011, to work on her thesis entitled "Modelling the geographic distribution of tree species in the Western Ghats: vulnerability, potential areas and implications for conservation", within the framework of the Pl@ntnet project and under the supervision of Dr. R. PELISSIER and Dr. François MUNOZ.

**Dr. Bhuvaneswari RAMAN**, PhD, researcher at the London School of Economics, London, England, joined the Social Sciences Department of the IFP, from 1 March 2011 to 28 February 2013, to work on "Qualitative research on small towns dynamics" within the framework of the SUBURBIN project, along with Dr. Eric DENIS.

Audrey LUSTIG, Final year engineering student from the National Institute of Applied Sciences (INSA), Lyon, France, joined the Ecology Department of the IFP, from 6 March to 26 August 2011, as a trainee, to work on «*Cyclostationnarity analysis of ENSO memory and ENSO impacts in New Caledonia*», under the supervision of Dr. Cédric GAUCHEREL.

Devayani KHARE, project manager, joined the Laboratory of Applied Informatics and Geomatics (LIAG) from 15 March 2011 to June 2013, to work on the Western Ghats Collaborative Information System, under the supervision of Dr. Cédric VEGA.

Salima EL MOKHTARI, engineer in digital and vision imaging from Télécom Saint-Etienne, France, joined the IFP as an International Volunteer (VI) from 31 March 2011, for a two-year period. She is assigned to the LIAG and will be working in the field of signal and image processing for remote sensing.

KALAIVANAN K., PhD candidate from the University of Madras who was awarded the IFP 2011 Local Scholarship, joined the Indology Department of the IFP, from 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2013, to work on History of Tamilology: Saiva intellectual tradition (1800-1950), under the joint supervision of Prof. V. ARASU and Prof. Y. SUBBARAYALU, and within the framework of the Contemporary Tamil Culture programme.

JEYAKUMAR S., a doctoral student at Madurai Kamaraj University who was awarded the IFP 2011 Local Scholarship, joined the Ecology Department of the IFP, from 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2013, to work on Spatial and temporal variation of Biomass in tropical evergreen forest of Western Ghats under the supervision of Dr. K. Rajarathinam, and local coordination of Dr. N. Ayyappan, Researcher, and Dr. Cédric Gaucherel, Head of the department of Ecology, within the framework of the Dynamics of Forest diversity programme.

PONNARASU S., PhD candidate in Anthropology, who was awarded the French Institute's Local Scholarship for PhDs, joined the Social Sciences Department of the IFP from April 2011 to March 2014, to work on his thesis entitled "Transformation and Continuity of Agrarian Power Structures (1800–2010): An ethnohistorical study of Kongu Vellalar, Kongu Nadu".

### ...at the EFEO

Dr. Eva WILDEN rejoined the Pondicherry Centre of the EFEO in July for a period of three years after three years on secondment working at the University of Hamburg as part of the DFG-funded "Manuscript Cultures" project.

Dr. S.L.P. Anjaneya SARMA returned to the Pondicherry Centre of the EFEO at the end of June after a month giving lectures on "Readings in the *Bhâmatî* and in other commentaries of the tradition of philosophical Vedânta" in his capacity as Guest Professor at the Religious Sciences Section of the École Pratique des Hautes Études in Paris.

## **GOODBYE**

## ...at the CSH

Dr Anouck CARSIGNOL, an affiliated researcher at the CSH, spent the month of January in India conducting field work and preparing for the Reunion project in collaboration with Dr Ingrid Therwath. She attended the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in Delhi and the inauguration of a monument commemorating indentured labour in Kolkata.

Anna ZIMMER, Department of Geography, University of Bonn, left on 15 April 2011.

Margot RUBIN, School of Architecture and Planning and School of Political Studies, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa, left on 31 March 2011.

**Tristan DEMENTHON**, Intern, left on 5 May 2011.

**Arpita MITRA**, Publications-in-Charge, left on 1 March 2011.

## ...at the IFP

Damien LÉCOLE, software engineer from the Technological University of Compiègne, France, who joined the IFP as an International Volunteer (VI) on 9 April 2009, left on 28 February 2011. He had been assigned to the LIAG, and worked on Webmapping applications, notably within the framework of the Shiva project, as well as on the development of other computer applications.

Quentin RENARD, bio-engineer from the University of Gembloux, Belgium, who joined the IFP as an International Volunteer (VI) on 1 April 2009, left on 1 April 2011. He had previously worked from 1 June to 30 September 2008, on the *Dynamics of Forest Diversity* project at the IFP, to study cases of forest fires in the Western Ghats, under the supervision of Dr. Raphaël PELISSIER.

Jimmy LE BEC, Master 2 student, currently undergoing training at the French Institute for Research and Development (IRD), Paris, who joined the Ecology Department of the IFP as part of a field mission on 15 February 2011, to work on "Modelling forest dynamics" under the supervision of Dr. Raphaël PELISSIER, left on 13 April 2011.

Elfie SWERTS, PhD student at Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, who joined the Social Sciences Department of the IFP on 23 February 2011, to work on the "Evolution of town systems in China and India: Observation, statistic modeling, comparison" within the framework of the the ANR Geopolis and SUBURBIN projects, and under the supervision of Dr. Denise PUMAIN and Dr. Eric DENIS, left on 28 April 2011.

Baptiste LEGUEREAU, Master 1 student at the University Bordeaux 3, France, who joined the Social Sciences Department of the IFP, as a trainee, on 3 February 2011, to work on "Urban dynamics and decentralization" in the framework of the SUBURBIN project and under the supervision of Dr. Kamala MARIUS-GNANOU, left on 29 April 2011.

Dr. Philippe CHARLOT, from the GREQAM and University of Aix-Marseille, France, who came to the Institute on 12 April 2011, to work on the International Project for Scientific Cooperation (PICS) entitled "Hierarchical Models, Risk and Dynamic Correlations", under the supervision of Prof. Velayoudom MARIMOUTOU, left on 2 May 2011.

Simon PERRIER, Master 1 student in Geography at the University Paris 10, Nanterre, France, who joined the Social Sciences Department of the IFP on 21 February 2011, as a trainee, to work on "Rural diversification, rural development and urbanization processes in south India", within the framework of the SUBURBIN project and under the supervision of Dr. Frédéric LANDY and Dr. Kamala MARIUS-GNANOU, left on 6 May 2011.

France ARBOIX, Ph.D candidate at the University of Montpellier 2, France, who joined the Social Sciences Department of the IFP, as a trainee, on 12 January 2011, to work on "*Nutrition education in schools*" under the supervision of Dr. Brigitte SEBASTIA, left on 9 May 2011.

Dr. Narendran KODANDAPANI, Ph.D, who joined the Ecology Department on 1 October 2009, to work on *Spatial Data Analysis* within the framework of the Pl@ntnet project, left on 25 May 2011.

Camille COUX, Master 2 student at the University Montpellier 2, France, who joined the Ecology Department of the IFP as a trainee on 20 February 2011, to work on the "Influence of linear networks on population dynamics" under the supervision of Dr. Cédric GAUCHEREL, left on 30 May 2011.

Jacky ROYER, preparing a Masters Degree in the "Heritage and Historical Archives", programme of the Université d'Avignon, France, who had joined the library of the IFP as a trainee on 16 May 2011, to help with the promotion and preservation of the rare documentary collections of the IFP, left on 15 July 2011.

VINEETHA V., M. Phil degree holder in Ecological Informatics, who joined the Laboratory of Applied Informatics and Geomatics (LIAG) of the IFP as a trainee on 12 April 2011, to work on a climatological database under the supervision of Dr. Cédric VEGA, left on 29 July 2011.

Paul BERTIN, Master 2 student at the University Michel de Montaigne, Bordeaux 3, France, who had joined the Social Sciences Department of the IFP as a trainee on 16 February 2011, to work on "Large scale projects in northern Chennai: agenda setting practices and selected impacts" within the framework of the Chance2Sustain project, and under the joint supervision of Dr. Eric DENIS and Dr. Kamala MARIUS-GANOU, left on 3 August 2011.

## ...at the EFEO

**Dr. Lalitha G. BHAT**, Research Fellow, has retired from the Pondicherry Centre

of the EFEO on 1 July 2011. She will return to her native region, Kerala, after 17 years of service. She has worked on various projects related to Sanskrit literature, in particular helping Dr. H.N. Bhat with the collation of manuscripts for his forthcoming critical edition of the play *Bâlarâmayana*.

Leah E. COMEAU, a US Fulbright researcher who was affiliated to the Pondicherry Centre of the Ecole française d'Extrême-Orient for several months to pursue research work on the theme "Between Love and God: Revising Social Histories and Literary Landscapes in Medieval South India" and conducted her research work under Dr. G. Vijayavenugopal, left on 29 June 2011.

Dr. Marzenna CZERNIAK-DROZDZOWICZ, professor at the Jagellonnian University of Krakow (a member of the European Consortium for Asian Field Studies), left the Pondicherry Centre of the EFEO afar a stay of one month from 29 January 2011 where she continued her work on the project "The Role of Tradition in the Contemporary Pancaratra Religious Practice of South Indian Vaishnavas."

Fanny DUTILLEUX, EFEO scholar, left in February 2011 after spending three months at the Pondicherry Centre of the EFEO during which she continued her research on the sculptures of Himachal Pradesh.

Michael GOLLNER, Concordia University, received a Canadian scholarship to reside in Pondicherry during the 2009-2010 academic year. He left in April 2011 after studying Sanskrit and following the Shaiva reading sessions conducted by Dominic Goodall.

**Dr. Dominic GOODALL**, Head of the Pondicherry Centre of the EFEO for just over nine years, returned at the end of April to Europe for a stay of two years

in Paris, where he is giving lectures in the Religious Sciences Section of the École Pratique des Hautes Études on Cambodian inscriptions and on the history of Śaivism. Dr. Valérie GILLET has taken over his responsibilities as Head of the Centre.

Nirajan KAFLE, left in April 2011 after working at the Pondicherry Centre of the EFEO for a period of three years under the Franco-German project led by Early Tantra Dominic Goodall and Isaacson Harunaga and funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft and the National Agency for Research.

Dr. V. S. RAJAM, who has taught Classical Tamil for 20 years at the University of Pennsylvania, visited the Centre from 15 April to 3 June 2011 to pursue her research.

Dr. Alex WATSON left on 17 April 2011 after several long stays at the Pondicherry Centre of the EFEO in 2010-11, during which he continued work with Dominic Goodall and S. L. P. Anjaneya Sarma on their joint project on rival notions of salvation as presented in a tenth-century Sanskrit treatise by the Kasmirian theologian Rāmakanṭha, the *Paramokshanirasakarikavrtti* ("Commentary on the verses rejecting others' views of liberation").

## **MILESTONES**

**IFP** 

## National Order of the Legion of Honour awarded to Prof. Tatacharya

Professor Navalpakkam Ramanuja Tatacharya, professor and researcher at the French Institute of Pondicherry (IFP), leading authority in the fields of *Nyaya* (logic), *Vyakarana* (grammar), *Mimamsa* (Vedic interpretation) and the *Vedanta* 

(Upanishadic philosophy), was awarded the prestigious medal of the National Order of the Legion of Honour (Ordre national de La Légion d'honneur) by the Government of France in recognition of his outstanding contribution to Sanskrit studies.

This title, along with several other previous ones, rewards his numerous scholarly achievements, in particular his *Sabdabodhamimamsa*, a multivolume inquiry into Indian theories of verbal cognition. An official ceremony will be held at the French Consulate in Pondicherry in July 2011, in the presence of the Ambassador of France in India, Mr. Jérôme Bonnafont.

## HIRAYAMA Prize awarded to Pandit Sambandan Sivacharya

Pandit Sambandan Sivacharya, working at the Indology Department of the IFP, has been awarded the HIRAYAMA Prize by France's Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres for the services he has rendered to the IFP throughout his illustrious career.

Hirayama was a Japanese sponsor, artist and archaeologist who made an important donation to the Academy so that it might award an annual prize for research about the cultures of the Far East. The decision to confer this prize upon an Indian Pandit was unanimous.

# Doctoral Thesis of Mr.Stephen Azariah

Mr. Stephen Azariah successfully defended his doctoral thesis entitled "Pollen analysis of lake sediments, surface soils and leaf trait measurements in the Eastern Ghats, India", on 21 April 2011 at the Department of Botany, Madras Christian College (affiliated to the University of Madras).

This thesis, which was funded from 2006 to 2009 by the external project fund

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accorded to Dr. K. Anupama at the IFP by NRSA, India, was "highly commended".

## **PUBLICATIONS**

**IFP** 

Tamil Dalit Literature: My Own Experience.

Edited and translated by David C. Buck, Kannan M., IFP/ North Central Education Foundation, A Project of The Peden Fund, 2011, xxxviii, 158 p. (Steles: Jean Filliozat Series in South Asian Culture and History no2)

Language: English. 450 Rs (21 €) ISBN: 978-81-8470-186-9



Until the past twenty or thirty years, Dalit people in India, traditionally the recipients of some of India's worst discrimination and oppression, did not have much of a literary voice. Now,

however, there are voices representing millions of Dalits — people who certainly do speak for themselves, but many of whom cannot write for themselves, and would not be published if they did. Some of those voices, translated from Tamil into English, are contained in this volume, along with an extensive introduction. Each of the nine Dalit authors collected here has contributed an essay on his or her own experience as a Dalit writer; seven of them also contributed previously unpublished short stories or poems. Their works often display an in-your-face character, but there are also subtle nuances and carefully drawn characters and situations. Dalit literature is fresh and new, and old and stale, all at the same time. It arises directly out of lived experiences in an unjust world.

**Keywords:** contemporary Tamil literature, dialects, Dalit/untouchables

Palynology and Certain Aspects of Histology of the Vernonieae (Asteraceae) in South India [PDF on CD-ROM].

G. Vasanthy, IFP, 2011. (Collection Ecologie n° 47)

Language: English. 300 Rs (14 €) ISBN: 978-81-8470-183-8



An updated and reorganized electronic version of the author's doctoral thesis, this work deals primarily with the

palynology and palynotaxonomy of 5 genera: Adenoon Dalz. Elephantopus Linn., Lamprachaenium Benth. (1 species of each genus), 9 species of Centratherum Cass. and 29 species of Vernonia Schreb. The majority of these taxa are from the Western Ghats. one of the richest and most diverse ecosystems in peninsular India. In addition, certain micro-characters of florets and achenes (seeds) have been examined in order to identify the characters of taxonomic value for correlating them with the pollen types of Vernonieae in South India. A richly illustrated work, it includes drawings (6 pages), photographs (59 plates), light micrographs and scanning and transmission electron micrographs. The 42 pollen plates are provided with detailed explanations.

**Keywords:** pollen characters and evolution, micro-characters of florets and achenes, classification, keys, Vernonieae (Asteraceae), South India

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