



## IFP brings out DVD on Jain sites in Tamil Nadu

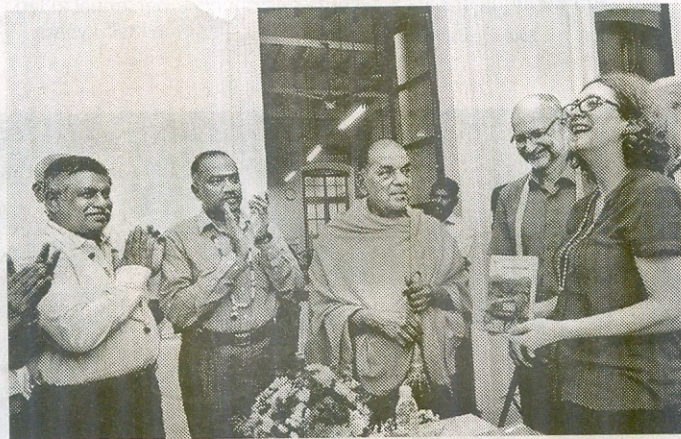
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A DVD on “Jain sites of Tamil Nadu” brought out by the French Institute of Pondicherry (IFP) was launched by French Deputy Consul General Isabelle de Marguerye, at its premises on Monday.

The DVD is a pioneering attempt at documenting all spatially distributed Jain sites numbering 464 sites including 82 sub-sites. These include structural and cave temples, rock shelters, rock cut images, inscriptions, loose sculptures and converted sites. TN has some Jain sites that are well known. But there are lots of small places located far away in the remote and green countryside, quietly awaiting the visitor. The maps prepared by IFP will help in understanding the spatial distribution and visit them.

The documentation is the result of nine years of research and study from 2008. The DVD contains photographic documentation, mapping and distri-



Isabelle De Marguerye, Deputy Consul of the Head of Social Affairs, French Consulate (R), launching the DVD in the presence of Frédéric Landy, Director of the French institute of Pondicherry, and Laksmisena Mahasvamigal, Head of the Melsittamur Jinakanchi Jain Math, on Monday | EXPRESS

bution of the Jain sites, a study of the architecture and iconography, a compilation of the inscriptions, study of the rituals and festivals and literature and grammar indicating the contribution of Jains to Tamil Language.

More than 460 sites have been

photographed, often in very dangerous conditions, documented, located in a geographical information system, for the Jain community as well as for tourists, said the Director of the Institute Frédéric Landy. A range of cultures also came together to finish this project.

Jains, Hindus, Christians, Muslims, atheists, world-famous scholars and technicians, all united their forces for producing this DVD.

“Hence this DVD is emblematic of what the IFP’s policy is. A mixture of goodwill and scientific knowledge, of heritage and cutting-edge technology, of people from Puducherry, Delhi or Paris,” he said.

“By this monograph on a specific community, we go beyond the single case of the great Jain community that spread much beyond South India and even South Asia: we are contributing to the cultural and peaceful diversity of India and to its national integration. Hopefully, we are reinforcing the mutual understanding and coexistence of various communities, ethnic groups, peoples and countries in a journey peace,” he added. The first copy of the DVD was received by Swami Svastisri Laksmisena Bhattaraka Bhattacharyavarya Mahasvamigal, Head of the Melsittamur Jinakanchi Jain Math, Melistamur, Near Dindivanam.