

4th Classical Tamil Summer Seminar

Organised by the the centre of the École Française d'Extrême-Orient in Pondicherry,
31st July – 25th August 2006

Winter School becomes Summer Seminar

Yes, the CTWS will take place in 2006 for the 4th time – but it will be a Classical Tamil Summer Seminar (CTSS) for a change. (This is due to reasons of organisation, and hopefully we will go back to normal in winter 2007.) The plan for 2006 is, as was promised, an intensive reading of Puṛam poetry, since in 2005 we concentrated on Akam texts. For the first two weeks we will read *Puranānūru* with pandit T.V. Gopal Iyer. His selection of poems will include not only martial poems and praise of kings, but will emphasize also the more philosophical and didactic elements to be found in that anthology. We will make use also of the extensive manuscript material collected in the last year. The second half of the course will be devoted to sections from the *Tiruvīḷaiyāṭarpurāṇam*, a collection of narratives dealing with the pastimes of Shiva in Maturai, perhaps of the 17th century. One of the stories we will read is a retelling of the Cankam legend, an account of Shiva composing a Cankam poem at the king's request – and being criticised by a scholar of the court.

As a small consolation for those who regret the shift in time-table: directly preceding the CTSS, that is, in the last week of July, the EFEO will organise a workshop with the title “Between Preservation and Recreation: Tamil Traditions of Commentary in Pursuit of the Cankam Era”. Everybody will be welcome to listen in.