

10th Classical Tamil Summer Seminar in 2012

Organised by the centre of the École Française d'Extrême-Orient

in Pondicherry, 6th to 31th of August 2012

This summer the CTSS will take place for the 10th time, certainly a reason to celebrate. We shall read, for the first two weeks, Nammālvār's *Tiruviruttam*, a small anthology of a hundred verses in Antāti mode that forms part of the Vaishnava bhakti corpus, the *Tivyappirapantam* (around 8th century of the Common Era). It is fascinating on the one hand for its experimental adaptation of elements from the earlier erotic poetry (*Akam*), on the other hand for the efforts made by its medieval commentators in order to give a theological interpretation. For most of us it might be the last opportunity of hearing the explanations of pandit R. Varadadesikan, who, with 89 years, is finally about to retire from the office he has held for more than 40 years. The second two weeks will be devoted to the *Peruṅkatalai*, an incomplete epic poem of the late first millennium which might be the oldest surviving testimony of narrative materials belonging to the tradition of the *Bṛhatkathā*. A chosen episode will be explained by Professor G. Vijayavenugopal.