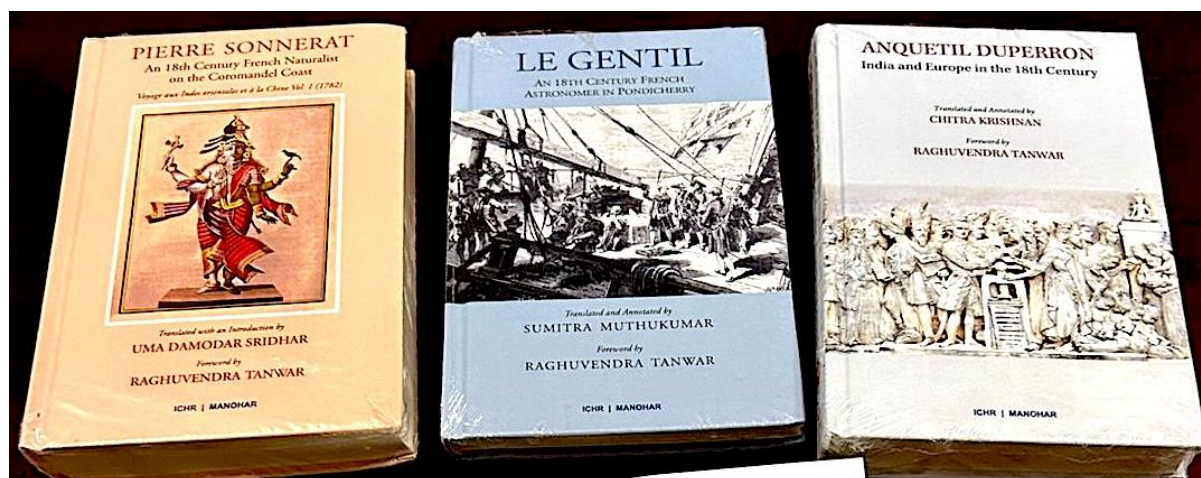


PRESS RELEASE



The Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) is pleased to announce the release of three books under its project on “Translation of Foreign Sources on India”.

India has long fascinated travellers and chroniclers from around the world, many of whom left rich historical records of their journeys and studies here. The three books now released are English translations, from the original French, of the memoirs of three 18th-century French travellers — Le Gentil, an astronomer; Pierre Sonnerat, a naturalist and scholar; and Anquetil Duperron, a writer, philosopher and translator.

These translated travelogues and scholarly records offer English-speaking readers a fresh perspective on 18th-century Indian society, environment and culture — one markedly different from British colonial-era discourse. The three translators — Dr Sumitra Muthukumar, Dr Uma Damodar Sridhar and Dr Chitra Krishnan — deserve praise not only for their lucid translations but also for their meticulous research, which adds a valuable editorial apparatus of insightful introductions, period illustrations, bibliographies, indexes and detailed notes illuminating these historical records.

Co-published by ICHR and Manohar, these annotated translations are a must-read for historians and scholars of India's colonial period, as well as anyone drawn to vivid, authentic portraits of an era that helped shape India as it is today. They are set to become major reference works in Indian studies.

The three books were formally released on June 20, 2026, at the C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Institute of Indological Research, Chennai, by Prof. Raghuvendra Tanwar, ICHR Chairman; Mr Hugues Boiteau, Scientific and Academic Attaché in Chennai (Consulate General of France in Puducherry, French Institute in India); Dr Nanditha Krishna, President of the C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation; and Prof. Michel Danino, Indologist and one of the initiators of the ICHR project.



(Left to right:) Dr Nanditha Krishna, Prof. Raghuvendra Tanwar, Mr Hugues Boiteau, Prof. Michel Danino



(Left to right:) Prof. Raghuvendra Tanwar addressing the gathering