

## **HISTORY OF PUDUCHERRY AND ITS CULTURAL AND HERITAGE**

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### **ABSTRACT:**

One of the important historical place in India which are deep rooted with history of our nation and place of tourist attraction in South India it none other than Puducherry after the name change 2006. It record of rich place for conservation of old buildings, improving pavements, putting up heritage lighting, nature beauty coupled with heritage city tag. Everybody knows that Puducherry means "French Connect" and most of the conservation focus in Puducherry presently is on the built heritage. Not mere tourist place it has got it much famous for the festival celebrates not just the architectural heritage, but also the cultural, spiritual and natural heritage of Puducherry. It is hub for global designation through heritage. The problem lies intangible heritage. To add feather to this "Pondicherry has a long convention of link, do commerce and goods exchange – this is indefinable tradition that UNESCO. Due to over population, commercialization the so called "French Connect is fading away" Further to add industries and other commercialisation establishment are to be taken into account for the upholding the rich tradition of –FRENCH-ENGLISH-TAMIL –PEOPLE AND MULTI LANGUAGE. Currently it attracts visiting the attractions is one of the most important employment providers for us. By 2022, the management of Puducherry wants the sightseer arrivals to touch 25 lakh. While facing problems but, there is still huge potential benefit when we restore our past glory and history of our historical importance

**Keywords:** Heritage, tourism, Spiritual, French and cultural

### **1.1. INTRODUCTION**

Pondicherry became very popular city in the history only after the coming of Dutch, Portuguese, English and the French. French people acquired the following places like Ariyankuppam, Kakayanthoppe, Villianur, and Bahur. East India Company over a period of time and became the Union Territory of Puducherry after Independence, have written histories that predate the colonial era. The UT of Puducherry consists of a). Puducherry b). Karaikal c). Mahe and d). Yanam. The Pondicherry is all about 162 kms Chennai the capital of Tamilnadu and Coast of the Bay of Bengal. There are no specific hill area or forest. It is one of the 8 union territories of India. It is named after the largest district, Puducherry. Puducherry's ambience is not influenced or dominated by one fabulous heritage monument or by amazing natural surroundings, except perhaps the sea. These influences find expression in its architecture and streetscapes, in its people and visitors, and in a subtle feeling which is peculiarly "Pondy".

### **1.2. HISTORY OF FRENCH CONNECTION**

Shady streets dotted with colorful, colonial-era buildings boasting of splendid architecture, adorn this erstwhile French colony of Pondicherry or Pondy. Also known as Puducherry, it is a UT town which shares its boundary with Tamil Nadu state. It is resemblance of French influence and the places like French War Memorial, Botanical Garden,

Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and other places speaks the history of Pondicherry. Even in the streets of Pondicherry, you can find French restaurants and people speaking in French. This place it was once the largest French control colony and it has a long narration and only one of its kind culture, nicknamed in the of French Riviera of the East. You can go to the beach in the morning, shop for hand-painted silk or go to a yoga class in the afternoon, and finish the day by sampling the best of French and Indian cuisine.

### **1.3. PUDUCHERRY HERITAGE TOWN**

The term "Pondy" currently known as Puducherry and it called as "heritage" town and culmination of varied cultural influence and much familiar among world tourists due to its architecture and style streetscapes. The town is planned on a grid pattern from its inception. Puducherry's ambience is not influenced or dominated by one fabulous heritage monument or by amazing natural surroundings, except perhaps the sea.. These influences find expression in its architecture and streetscapes, in its people and visitors, and in a subtle feeling which is peculiarly "Pondy". Puducherry's ambience is not influenced or dominated by one fabulous heritage monument or by amazing natural surroundings, except perhaps the sea. In French culture the Town, the nature of roads are edged by majestic style buildings with long amalgam walls and stately gates, behind which life unfolds. The concealment have often vertical one and elevated window pane and are highlighted cream, yellow and pink. In Tamil Town, the streets are lined by verandahs and extended porches where its residents would gather and passing guests would spend the night. Puducherry has an attention-grabbing spiritual inheritance too and is a blend of eastern and western culture, and of antique and modern divine disciplines. These movements congregate in a practical manner in the identical twin community of the Sri Aurobindo Ashram and Auroville.

### **1.4. CHANGING FACE OF PUDUCHERRY: ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION**

- According to Part of the change is just the passage of time.
- The Pondicherry's is so called transformation into a holiday-maker hub.
- Many project have started in the name of 'smart city' project.
- One Mr. Ramakrishnan raised the voice of about the struggle of Pondicherry, is that there is very little scholarly research about its intangible heritage. Need to be studied across union territory.
- According to Annoussamy, the present day as the result of relic of the past.
- Many Spoken French and some of the street names and structures resemble of French institutes.
- Pondicherry Cuisine - a blend of French and Tamil flavours, mostly common in Catholic Tamil families - also survives in some kitchens.
- But today more shops selling wood-fired pizzas and burgers are visible in boulevard town, than those offering French crepes or croissants. "Many years have passed since the French left; Pondicherry has been assimilated into India.
- Rafael Gastebois said that Pondicherry symbol of not only buildings but also the way the town has been laid out.

### **1.5. CHALLENGES OF PUDUCHERRY TOWN AND TOURISM**

The challenges confronting the coastal Puducherry are similar to the ones faced by the coastal cities in India.

- Increasingly intense conflict flanked by developmental pressure and the health of the coastal environment.
- Beech erosion; destruction of mangroves.
- Increasing demographic pressure with its attendant problems of waste generation and groundwater exhaustion – the latter cause’s salinity intension.
- Incomplete performance of seasonal fishing bans, and overfishing.
- Pollution of the sea front due to municipal and industrial wastes.
- Pressure on establishing hotels and amusement parks.

**TABLE NO.01: PONDICHERRY AT GLANCE –PAST AND PRESENT DAY**

<b>EARLIER</b>	<b>PRESENT SENERIO</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Less traffic</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• More congestion</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Only bi-cycles</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• More two/four wheelers and commercial vehicles</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Less industry activity</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• More production /commercial activities</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Less tourist inflow</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Familiar designation</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Heritage city tag</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Smart city concept</li><li>• Commercially fuelled city</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No white building</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• New colour building is coming up</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• European traders – including the portuguese and dutch – visited puducherry from the 16th century onwards</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Today is mostly a relic of its french past</li></ul>

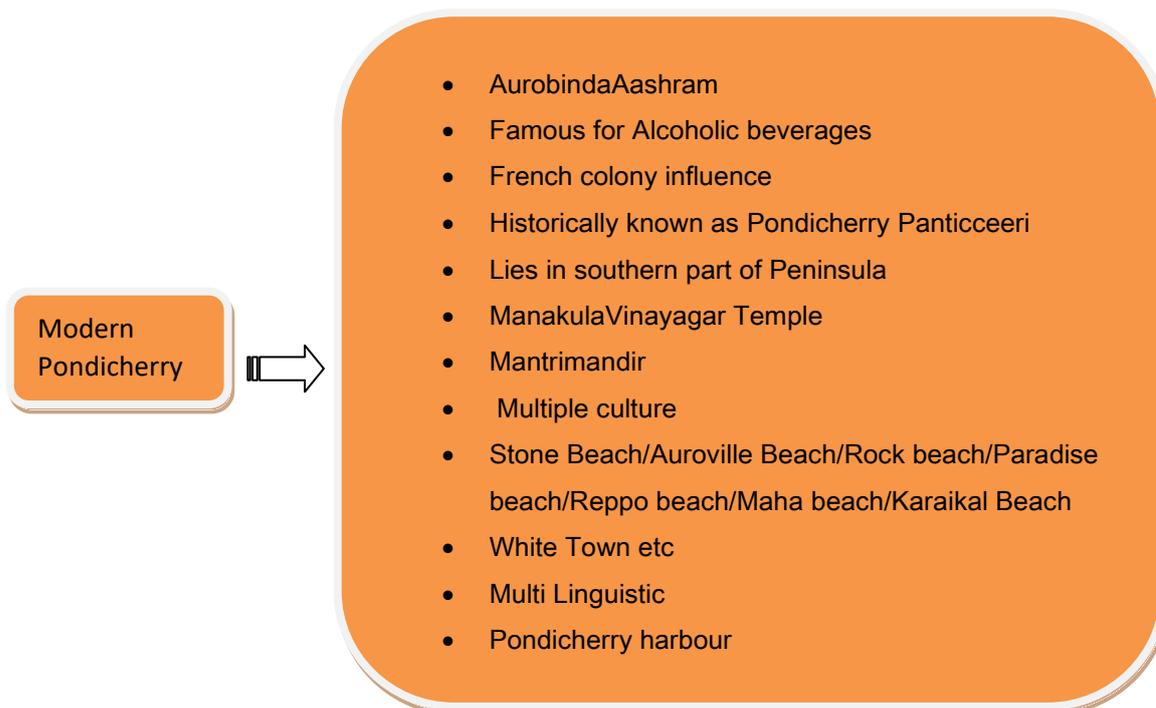
Despite keeping a very low profile in tourist promotion, the tourist inflow in Pondy has been increasing every year. It is estimated that the tourist inflow will increase by 20% annually. It has a floating population of one lakh a day. Pondicherry attracts both foreign and domestic tourists.

Their numbers are growing steadily every year. Leisure and holiday are the main draw for over 60% of tourists who visit Pondicherry. This reveals the tremendous potential for developing Pondicherry. A Pondicherry display is Indian spirituality and French aesthetics at it best. Pondicherry, the coastal town of Karaikal is another major pilgrimage centre with the famous Saneeswarar temple, devoted LORD SATUM.

### **1.6. GOVERNMENT INTIATIVES FOR CONSERVATION: PLAN OF ACTION**

- Govt of Pondicherry followed amendsvarious building rules by laws, Regulations 2012

- The composition of a State Level Heritage Conservation and Advisory Committee
- The committee is still in the process of being finalised.
- Govt Keen on repair and steps taken restore the old buildings and heritage site.
- It calls for the preparation of a list of heritage sites.
- INTACH already has a list of approximately 400 heritage buildings which needs to be approved by the committee and the government.
- The tourism dept take no. of initiatives provides grants for the conservation of city like the ornamentation of the beach promenade, revitalisation of streetscape.



### **1.7. CONCLUSION:**

"The French Riviera of the East". Puducherry is just more than history, heritage and spirituality. It is the perfect place to come if you want to take the pace of life down a few notches. Puducherry is one of the most familiar and planned cities of India. That tradition has to be preserved. Our focus is on the 'white town', but there is also our own history to protect. Declared historic town must be maintained without any deviation and continuously monitored. One must take into consideration not just the built heritage, but also intangible heritage, such as the cultural value, of the place. The site or property must also have an adequate protection and management system to ensure its safeguarding. UNESCO lists heritage sites should be maintained as per the norms and procedural communication.

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