



PONDICHERRY HERITAGE FESTIVAL 2019



Coming together to celebrate the rich and diverse heritage of Pondicherry

22nd January - 11th February

Organised by



People for Pondicherry's
Heritage



INTACH
Pondicherry Chapter

PondyCAN!
Pondy Citizens' Action Network

PondyCAN!



Government
of Puducherry

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Department of Tourism
Pondicherry



INTACH

Pondicherry heritage festival 2019 – A Brief Report

Concept of Pondicherry Heritage Festival

Popular destinations across the world such as New York, Berlin, Paris and Sydney continue to attract a wide audience from all spheres of life and are a melting pot for cross-cultural exchanges. Pondicherry also has this element of bringing together a diverse population of tourists and travellers looking for something to coax them into a new, exciting, passionate and yet peaceful lifestyle and environment. There is an unseen touch in how Pondicherry invites people of all cultures and yet retains its own, which expands beyond the exotic charm of its beautiful architectural heritage and sandy beaches.

Magical yet ordinary to the casual eye, the city harbours a deeper meaning and connection to the intangible realms of beauty, wisdom, tranquillity and harmony. This has led Pondicherry to become a universal platform for positive inner change and has inspired an inclusive, collective and inspiring evolution towards a future, long foreseen by the sages of yore. The marriage of spirituality and material research is a trademark of Pondicherry 's excellence and uniqueness.

On November 29th, 2014, the collapse of the Mairie building (Town hall) of Pondicherry, which was built in 1870 to accommodate the offices for the mayor of Pondicherry, led to the realization that the need to conserve and celebrate the heritage of Pondicherry is immense.

A group thus emerged from the civil society called "People for Pondicherry 's heritage" (PPH) and conceived the idea of the Pondicherry heritage festival, first of which was held in 2015 and became an annual event. The Pondicherry heritage festival is being organised by People for Pondicherry 's heritage (PPH), INTACH Pondicherry and PondyCAN.

The main objectives for the Pondicherry's heritage festival are:

A) to create and strengthen this distinct identity of belonging and being Pondicherrian for all its residents

B) to show its unique character in all its variety to visitors who come from all over the country and the world attracted by the idea of "Pondicherry"

C) to create a platform for experts, historians and old residents to meet and discuss what is special about Pondicherry's and how we can preserve our town.

The charm and beauty of pondicherry presents a unique challenge to the government and civil society organizations interested in protecting and restoring its built heritage. Unlike the monuments and national parks under the purview of the archaeological survey of India, the architectural heritage of pondicherry is a melange of private and government buildings. Pondicherry has two distinct parts namely, the French and Tamil quarters. The French quarter has structures built in the European classical style whereas those in Tamil quarter are built in the vernacular style of Tamil Nadu. The two construction methods have influenced one another resulting in a harmonious blend of the both styles in many buildings.

Pondicherry 's unique architectural style is an inheritance of which we are but today's custodians. it is our responsibility to preserve the essence of this built heritage for the future generations. it is with this wide vision that the pondicherry heritage festival sought to explore the various facets of the town's culture, spiritual heritage, contributions to the world of art, literature, folk and classical music and dance, traditional and contemporary crafts and the work done by many organizations, institutions and individuals towards understanding and preserving the heritage of the town.

Evolution of Pondicherry Heritage Festival:

Now in its fifth year, the pondicherry heritage festival continues to celebrate the singular character of this extraordinary town and its environs. in the first year, 2015, attention was drawn to pondicherry 's outstanding architectural legacy, its spiritual heritage and intangible heritage. The following year, 2016, the festival celebrated pondicherry 's natural heritage, explored its heritage through the written word, visual arts and performing arts. In 2017, besides celebrating architectural, intangible and natural heritage, the festival focused on one of Pondicherry's most ancient heritage, at Bahour. In 2018, the festival focused on the streetscapes of Pondicherry and expanded to explore another ancient heritage of Pondicherry, at Madagadipedu, Thirubhuvanai and Thiruvandar Kovil. The festival expanded in this year with several local organisations and individuals actively involved & organising events, under the pondicherry heritage festival banner. this overwhelming response made the heritage festival again a three weeks event from 22nd January to 11th February 2018.

“Coming together to celebrate Pondicherry 's rich & diverse heritage”

The success of the Pondicherry heritage festival is due to the active participation of our festival partners and new participants.

Events of this year

1. Student competition: Arts activities for school children creative expression for heritage preservation
2. Academic competition: Pondicherry heritage quiz.
3. Excursion: Village tour- Discovering the heritage of Bahour.
4. Photography exhibition: A walk through Pondicherry 's streetscapes.
5. Photography exhibition opening: Groves of Aiyaṅār / les bosquets sacrés d'aiyaṅār.
6. Dance: Navarasa by Unmukta Sinha
7. “Made in Pondy” A craft Bazaar expo of nationally and internationally known largely hand crafted products by local artisans and creative entrepreneurs from the Pondicherry region.

8. Art exhibition: Interpreting heritage by 19 Pondicherry artists.
9. Dance: Nrityasangeet, depicting the spiritual poetic heritage of India.
10. Wetlands tour: Exploring Oussudu lake on World Wetlands day
11. Food trail: Celebrating the local cuisine of Pondicherry.
12. Photo exhibition: Wetlands and climate change
13. Open house: Ecole Française d' Extrême-Orient, A tour to the impressive colonial building.
14. Dance: Bharatanatyam Performance by Nandhini & her students at Band stand.
15. Dance: Nrityanjali, an Odissi dance recital by Aneesh Raghavan
16. Dance/storytelling: Anita Ratnam: ma3ka
17. Book launch beyond the boulevards: a short biography of Pondicherry by Aditi Sriram
18. Discussion: Eminent scholars inside and outside Pondicherry discussed on cities and heritage.
19. Music: Carnatic students sang about natural heritage in different languages.
20. Open house: Lycee français de Pondichéry.
21. Open house: Ecole française d' Extrême-Orient
22. Community event: Reclaiming the streets for children.
23. Excursion: Storytelling, arts activities, fishing, community walk in Kanaganeri lake.
24. Music/storytelling- Shivan Mullankandy Pamban
25. Colour PONDY's beauty event for School children

The emphasis for this year's festival was on Pondicherry's splendid natural heritage, including the coast, and wetlands. The natural heritage is as much at risk as built heritage, and often gets overlooked. Hence this year the focus was on coasts and wetlands through photo exhibitions, storytelling, excursions, art activities and community events to create awareness about the deteriorating natural heritage of Pondicherry.

Art activities for school children

This year Pondicherry Heritage Festival hosted various programs for the school children to ignite the young minds about their heritage and make them participate and celebrate the heritage of their town. The program also made them understand the importance of heritage and the need to preserve them. Painting, sketching, collage, letter and poem writing, power point, photography, solo and group dance competitions were conducted under the theme cultural heritage of Pondicherry. The program was hosted by Dr. Kannan and his team with the support of INTACH Pondicherry and Department of tourism, Pondicherry. The Government of Puducherry School of Education department had accorded permission to conduct the programs and a circular to this effect was sent to nearly 500 schools by India Post and email. Invitations were sent to all Government, Govt. aided schools and private schools of Pondicherry Urban and Rural areas and to Cuddalore and Tindivanam. The entire program was made into 2 days

The first day events were held at the Art and Craft Village, a project of Tourism Department Govt of Puducherry. Below are the events that were conducted as a part of the festival.

1. Painting Competition
2. Sketching Competition
3. Collage
4. Letter Writing
5. Poem Writing
6. Powerpoint competition
7. Debate
8. Solo dance
9. Group dance
10. Photography competition

The topic for all competitions was heritage (Cultural / Spiritual / Natural) and History of Pondicherry

- Junior level entry was VI grade to VIII Grade
- Senior Level entry was IX grade to XII Grade

The schools had mailed the organizing team and there were 1100 participants on the first day

Competition	Number of participants
Painting	300
Sketching	250
Collage	40 teams (2 each)
Letter writing – Tamil and English	30
Poem Writing	40
Powerpoint	50
Photography	100
Solo dance	40
Group dance	25 teams (10 each)

It was a huge logistical nightmare but thanks to volunteers from INTACH Pondicherry – their office staff, architects, Interns and college students from Mahatma Gandhi Medical College and PHF members were in large numbers to take care of registration, Event coordination Food and Security. The government agencies like Police outpost was created. Fire equipment's kept ready and a full-fledged ambulance was also ready at the site. The Tourism Department staff were very helpful, and the Director of Tourism attended the program and gave his speech to the students. Food was arranged for all 1100 students and to all accompanying teachers also. The program commenced at 8 00am and ended by 4 00 pm.



Venue of the Program: Art and Crafts village, Muruganpakkam



Writing competition in progress



Painting competition



Sketching competition



Students trying their hand in pottery wheel



Prize distribution for the winners

Pondicherry Heritage Quiz

On the 23rd of January, an heritage quiz was organised by Dr. Kannan and Pondicherry Heritage festival organisers. Heritage Quiz was held at Alliance Francaise Campus, Pondicherry with the support of Education Department, Pondicherry. The Education Department, Pondicherry had requested all the schools of Pondicherry area to take part in the program. There were about 48 schools with 500 children taking part which included Government, private schools. There were also schools from Cuddalore, Pondicherry and Panruti. Heritage festival team coordinated the registration details. Mr. Karthik the Quiz master from Pondicherry and Ms Surya, an architect from Chennai conducted the quiz for all the students in both levels - Junior and Senior Levels. Then the Quiz was held in both levels as finals and the winning and runner up teams of both levels were felicitated by the Alliance Francaise officials and Dr. Dinkar Palande, an internationally recognised pioneer in hand surgery. The program was coordinated by Monsieur Saikat and Madame Marie Joelle of Alliance Francaise and INTACH Pondicherry.



Students and teachers during break at Alliance Francais



Prize distribution for the winners



Prize winners with certificates and medals

Village tour- Discover Bahour

The town of Bahour has played an important role in both the cultural and natural history of Pondicherry. It is home to the Chola-period Moolanathaswami temple as well as Bahour lake, one of region's most important water-bodies and a significant habitat for migratory birds. Totally, 25 people made to the tour. The event was organised by PONDYCAN. Alex, lead the tour and explained the participants about the heritage of Bahour. The walk commenced with the visit to Moolanathaswamy temple, where he spoke about the history, significance of the placement of the statues, inscriptions and others. Then the participants were taken to the Bahour lake, where they had the opportunity to view the natural heritage of Pondicherry. The trip was concluded with the visit to the Bangari and Singari water tank.



Mr. Alexander of PONDYCAN gives a talk about the heritage of Bahour



Participants exploring Bahour

Photography exhibition: A walk through Pondicherry 's streetscapes.

Pondicherry heritage festival hosted a "Built Heritage and Streetscapes of Pondicherry" exhibition. The aim was to capture the heritage of Pondicherry through the lens of the locals and make them actively participate in conserving the heritage of Pondicherry. Many young and amateur residents enthusiastically participated in the competition. Art work created by school children on the art activities event were also displayed in the exhibition. The exhibition was held at the Ashram Exhibition Hall in the beach road for a period of 5 days from 28th January to 1st February. The event was hosted by Ms. Kakoli Banerji, Pondicherry heritage festival team and INTACH Pondicherry.



A young group of spectators at the Photography exhibition

Dance Navarasa

An odissi dance recital based on the nine aesthetic flavours or emotions of Indian art was performed by Ms. Unmukta Sinha. A rasa when translated literally means “juice, essence, or taste”. According to the natya shastra, entertainment is a desired effect of performance arts but not the primary goal. The primary goal is to transport the individual in the audience into another parallel reality, full of wonder and bliss, where he experiences the essence of his own consciousness, and reflects on spiritual and moral questions. The event was held at Alliance Francaise on January 31st.



Unmukta Sinha performing for the Pondicherry Heritage Festival

Photography exhibition - Groves of Aiyāṇār / les bosquets Sacrés d'Aiyāṇār

In sacred groves at the edges of settlements, Aiyānar, the local god, deploys his army of cows, horses, and elephants of terracotta. They stand in wait, ready for him to mount, so that he may chase away maleficent forces that threaten to disturb the serenity of sleeping villagers after dark. The exhibition featured the photographs of Jean-Louis Cardin's photographs titled Les bosquets sacrés d' Aiyānar/ Groves of Aiyānar which was inaugurated by her excellency, Kiran Bedi, the Lieutenant Governor of Pondicherry. This photographic exhibition reflected the fragile and eerie beauty of such shrines, ancient and modern, that are spread across the length and breadth of the Tamil-speaking south. The exhibition was held at Ecole Française d'Extrême-Orient from 31st January to 28th February.



Lieutenant Governor Kiran Bedi inaugurating the event at EFEO

Locally made products- Made in Pondy

The region of Pondicherry has a long history of creativity and entrepreneurship, with international trade dating back to the beginning of the Common Era. The Pondicherry area also has a rich heritage of local manufacturing. The Periplus of the Erthraen Sea, a Roman merchant guide written in the 1st century AD, references a marketplace right outside of modern-day Pondicherry. In 1937 Roman pottery was found there and later excavations confirmed that the local inhabitants traded with Rome throughout the 1st century.

The Chola rulers prided themselves in their cotton, and silk manufacturing and textile guilds in south India exported high quality clothing materials that Roman women particularly enjoyed. Along with textiles, the Pondicherry area exported spices, jewels, and metal works. By the end of the 9th century, the Chola dynasty had established itself as a trading powerhouse, sending Tamil merchants up the east coast of India and into Southeast Asia and China. The international trade continued until the 13th century. In 1674 the French East India Company set up its first trading center in Pondicherry. Over the subsequent period of colonisation, Pondicherry sent goods to several European countries. The region's strong history of manufacturing allowed Pondicherry to continue to impress foreign countries with the quality of their diverse products.

The heritage of creativity and entrepreneurship continues to this day. Each year at the Pondicherry heritage festival, made in Pondy brings a collection of the finest products in the region, made and design by our brightest local talent. The products were at sale in the Crafts bazaar, Gandhi Thidal from 1st February to 5th February.



Made in Pondy team of the Pondicherry Heritage Festival



Locally made products at sale

Interpreting heritage through art

This exhibition of works by Pondicherry artists featured local streetscapes and captured the essence of the town as well as vignettes of its special heritage. Artists include: Abel, Ejourmale, Candappan, Gopal Jayaraman, Gayatri, Silambarasan, Shanmugam, Vaasudevan, Saravanan. P, S.r. Vengadesh, Radja Perumal, Sugumaaran, K.K. Segar, Tiroumalai, Sreedar, S.M.C. Rajesh, Manimaran, and Saravanan P. The exhibition was held at Maison Colambani from 1st February to 10th February.



Paintings exhibited at Maison Colambani



Visitors looking at the exhibited paintings

Dance Nrityasangeet

Poojarini Chowdhury, a dancer, choreographer and singer, of Redfeet dance studio Pondicherry, presented a Nritya Sangeet Recital for the Pondicherry Heritage festival 2019 titled “Dancing Devotion”, with dancers from the heritage village of Anegundi, Hampi, and others. She danced with them and also sang while dancing, wonderfully refreshing renditions of well-known traditional songs of devotion through the ages.

Set in the courtyard of the Lycee Francais, with the back drop of the beautiful tree, this program took the audience on a journey in time through the Spiritual poetic Heritage of India from the 7th century till our times.

Starting with a sloka in Sanskrit followed by songs and poems written by Annamacharya, Amir Khusroo, Namdev, Meera bai Rabindranath Tagore and Boloram Jana, in seven different languages from four corners of the country. Poojarini led the singing as she danced, with a guitar and tabla accompaniment. This unique and fluid performance with the lilting melodies in the multiple languages were further enhanced by the French circus artist who danced with a crystal ball.



Artists performing at Lycee Francais



A large audience at Lycee Francais

Wetlands tour- World wetlands day Oussudu lake adventure

On the World Wetlands day, a wetlands tour was organised as a part of the Pondicherry Heritage festival. Oussudu Lake is the region's largest water-bodies and a designated protected (as opposed to actually protected) habitat for migratory birds. Raphael Mathavet, Head of the Department of Ecology at the French Institute of Pondicherry conducted the tour. The century old lake, which attracts about 20,000 migratory birds every year is around 12 kilometres from Puducherry and has been designated one of the most important wetlands in Asia by the International Union for Conservation of Nature. An enthusiastic group of locals and school children actively participated in the tour.



School students exploring the lake



Participants seeing the migratory birds with scientist Raphael Mathavet

World Wetlands and Climate Change

Our wetlands are a crucial defence against many of the ravages of climate change. This photo competition was hosted by Raphael Mathavet, Head of the Department of Ecology at IFP to create awareness among the residents about their natural heritage. The participants captured the unique importance and beauty of the imperilled ecosystem. The selected entries were displayed on the French Institute of Pondicherry (IFP) beach side façade. The Chief Secretary of Pondicherry gave away the prizes to the winners.



Scientist Raphael Mathavet with the winner



Chief Secretary Ashwani Kumar with the winners and the PHF team

Open houses

Ecole Française d'Extrême-Orient and Lycee Français de Pondicherry opened its doors on 2nd February and 9th February respectively in the occasion of the Pondicherry Heritage festival. These open houses gave the opportunity to the residents and travellers to Pondicherry to visit some of the most beautiful heritage buildings which are normally not open to the public.

Ecole Française d'Extrême-Orient

In 1955 Jean Filliozat, the eminent Indianist who would later serve as the Director of the EFEO for twenty years, with the encouragement of the Prime Minister of India Jawaharlal Nehru. The EFEO has housed its own collections and has provided facilities for Indian scholars. Today, the Centre provides a setting for the Library of Indology (about 11 000 titles) and houses a collection of maps and drawings, as well as manuscript texts on palm leaves in Sanskrit, Tamil, and Manipravalam. In 2005, "The Shivaite Manuscripts of Pondicherry "(EFEO-IFP) were entered in the UNESCO "World Memory" register at the joint request of EFEO, IFP and the National Mission for Manuscripts of the Indian Government.



Open house at Ecole Francais D' Extreme-Orient

Lycee Franais

Established under the terms of the Treaty of Cession of French Territories in India, the French Institute of Pondicherry was inaugurated on 21 March 1955 under the name "Institute Franais d' Indologie". It was engaged, under the leadership of its first director (Jean Filliozat), in the study of Indian civilization and culture, and more particularly in the history and the religions of South India. The 1960s, a department of ecology was created to collect information on the conditions and evolution of the environment in South India (vegetation, soils, climate changes, etc.) with its focus on the Western Ghats, one of the world's 34 hotspots for biodiversity.



Open house at Lycee Franais

Dance- Bharatanatyam

On 2nd February, a Bharathanatyam dance was performed by guru Nandini and her disciples. The event was organised by Pondicherry India China friendship association. The event was held at the Band Stand, opposite to Gandhi Thidal and was supported by the Department of Tourism and INTACH Pondicherry.



Children performing Bharathanatyam at the Band Stand.



Certificates and prizes were distributed to the dancers

Dance Nrityanjali

The Performing Arts Club of Mahatma Gandhi Medical College & Research Institute, a constituent college of Sri Balaji Vidyapeeth in association with Pondicherry Heritage Festival organized Nrityanjali, an Odissi Dance performance by Mr Aneesh Raghavan at SBV on 4th February 2019. Aneesh Raghavan, a disciple of renowned Odissi exponent Smt. Sangeeta Dash has performed at several prestigious venues in our country and abroad. He is a Graded Artiste of Doordarshan. He had the honour of performing the before former President of India, Dr Pranab Mukherjee. An alumnus of Sri Aurobindo International Centre of Education, his multilingual education has led him to complete his master's with excellence in Sanskrit. He has been awarded the prestigious South Zone Cultural Centre "Youth Talent Award" for the year 2016 and Yuva Prathiba Award by Debangana School of Odissi. Felicitating the performance, Prof. Subhash Chandra Parija, Vice Chancellor, SBV, lauded the efforts of the Performing Arts Club of Mahatma Gandhi Medical College & Research Institute for organizing such events which will surely promote the heritage, culture of different states of our country in the minds of the students which in turn will be a stress buster in the midst of busy student life.



Artist Aneesh Ragavan performing at the festival

Dance/storytelling by Dr. Anita Ratnam

Dr. Anita Ratnam presented her complex and multi-dimensional "neo-Bharatam" and spoken word piece, 'Ma3Ka', on a Tuesday night in the serene courtyard of Gratitude, a restored French- era building, as a part of Pondicherry Heritage Festival. Using Vedic hymns, singing, silence, drumming, contemporary mythology, and a distinctive movement vocabulary, *Ma3Ka* is the performative expression of the Hindu goddesses Saraswati, Lakshmi, and Meenakshi. Each of these divine matriarchs — representing knowledge, prosperity, and martial art — is refracted through the prism of Dr. Ratnam's personal narratives. The event was held at Gratitude Heritage Guest House on February 5th.





Different expressions performed by dancer Anita Ratnam

Book Launch- Beyond the Boulevards: a short biography of Pondicherry by Aditi Sriram

Pondicherry has been arranging and rearranging itself ever since it was pétanqued onto a patch of South Indian land where different boules—artists, journalists, scholars, language learners, DJs, tourists, students, labourers, shop owners, ashramites—knock against each other, “tok-tok”. Some boules confront each other, some keep their distance, others roll purposefully in different directions. *Beyond the Boulevards* was written by Aditi Sri Ram who teaches writing at Ashoka University. She completed her master’s in creative Writing from the New School in New York City in 2013. Although she did not grow up in Pondicherry, her father and his seven siblings did; her grandparents still own a house in Pondicherry and her great grandparents received Nehru in their home in 1955 when Pondicherry transitioned from a French colony to an Indian town. This is her first book. The book comprises of residents sharing their stories with the author. There is the butcher who spent fourteen years in jail; a twenty-one-year-old waiting to join her boyfriend in New York; a Tibetan woman raised in Delhi who runs a popular Latin American dance studio; a English literature professor who is compiling a multi volume encyclopedia about his city. All of them converge on the beach promenade of sunset- watching, breeze- seeking pedestrians. This city-wide ritual tells its own story of how people come together: the contrast of colours, languages, religions and family legacies. The event was held at Palais de Mahe on 6th February and was organised by Dilip Kapur, Founder and President of Hidesign and Pondicherry Heritage Festival.



Gathering of locals at the book launch



Hidesign owner Mr. Dilip Kapur launching the book at Palais de Mahe

Round table discussion on cities

The roundtable on cities was hosted at the French Institute of Pondicherry (IFP) as part of the Pondicherry Heritage Festival 2019 which brought together five authors – Anu Majumdar and Akash Kapur, writers from Auroville, who have authored books on Universal township, Nirmal Lakshman, Director of The Hindu Group of Publications and author of Degree Coffee by the Yard, Aditi Sri Ram, author of Beyond the Boulevards and P. Raja, historian-author.

The authors discussed challenges in their respective journeys towards discovering the soul of their cities in their books. Frederic Landy, Director of French Institute of Pondicherry and Sunaina Mandeem, co- founder of PondyCAN and organiser of the festival, also participated in the discussion.

Mr. Kapur discussed the philosophical content of the City of Dawn and the complex concept behind the founding of Auroville and growing up there. While Ms. Sri Ram pointed out the different perceptions of the city life and amid the dramatic changes in the landscape, one still felt that one had a handle on things. Mr. Raja recounted that the inspiration to write the Concise History of Pondicherry came as much from his school teacher who always emphasized the importance of a grasp of local history that largely shaped his perspective. Ms. Lakshman described how she developed newer insights into what the city really was and how it differed from the assumptions ingrained while growing up. Ms. Majumdar, who moderated the discussion, noted that what distinguished the works of participant- authors was that the narrative was not removed from the realities of other people.



Discussion of all the authors on cities at the terrace of IFP

Music - Songs of Nature

Carnatic music students presented folk songs on nature in several languages. The renditions were in Tamil, Malayalam, Telegu, Gujarati, Bengali, Kashmiri and Rajasthani with the accompaniment of Arumukhanam- a six faced percussion designed by S.Gopakumar, assistant professor of Bharathiar Palkalaikoodam. The event was held at INTACH Pondicherry on 8th February.



Participants singing the songs of nature



Participants performing with the instrument "Arumuganam"

Local food- The Pondicherry Culinary Trail

An exclusive food walk was conducted from Feb 7- Feb 8. The food walk explored the local cuisine of Pondicherry ranging from local road side shops to restaurants to coffee shops to ice cream bars. The tour was designed and guided by Edwin of Eat Pondy. While the tour was free, participants paid for their food. Both the days, the trail was a hit and people kept asking for more such walks.



Participants dining at one of the restaurants in the culinary trail



Participants relishing at the famous mutton soup stall near Railway station



PONDICHERRY HERITAGE FESTIVAL 2019

PONDICHERRY HERITAGE CUISINE TRAIL



ROLEX
 What not to Miss: Egg Dosa and their salnas
 Trivia: Typical road side food

PARIS RESTAURANT (Vietnamese)
 What not to Miss: Their soups and chaio.
 Trivia : Authentic Vietnamese and French cuisine

BAI SOUP SAMOSA
 What not to Miss: Mutton samosas and Nalli soup
 Trivia : Not to miss only open in the evening 6.30 - 9.30

BILAL
 What not to Miss: Biryani and Idyappam Paaya
 Trivia : Must try place. Opened On all days from 11am to 10pm except on government holidays.

KAMARKATTU - NANARI SHARBAT (M.G. ROAD)
 What not to Miss: Kamarkat & Lassi
 Trivia : Kamarkats are made Fresh everyday!

MURUGAN CAFÉ
 What not to Miss: Idly & Sambar

ARISTO
 What not to Miss: Biryani, their gravys and falooda
 Trivia: It is closed on Fridays.

DHANALAXMI ICE-CREAM
 What not to Miss: Pista Icecream, badam and rose milk
 Trivia : Available only in the evenings from 6 to 8 based on the availability.

INDIAN COFFEE HOUSE
 What not to Miss: Bombay toast, omelette and coffee
 Trivia : Must try place. Opened on all days from 7am to 10pm

Guided Culinary Trail
 7th & 8th, Feb | 6pm-8pm

Led by **EAT PONDY**
 Follow us on Instagram

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Heritage cuisine trail map

Reclaiming the streets for children - Street Play

On February 10, one of the streets in the historic area was pedestrianised from 10 AM – 1 PM for the children to play. The street play event was meant to revive the manner of experiencing public spaces the way it was meant to be as we transformed Eswaran Koil Street in the historic town to be free of motorised traffic and clean for children to play. Historically, as well, the streets in the Boulevard town was a place for social activity where people gathered, built relationships or shared thoughts about their world while children played in the streets without any safety concerns. Unfortunately, the streets have been lost to vehicles. Children today need the chance to be outside, active, making friends and being part of the community just as much as the previous generation did. Hence Pondicherry Heritage Festival brought this back to promote greater sense of community, overall happiness and reclaim more friendly streets for children. Like any other open streets in the world, it was a free event. Door to door campaign was done in and around Eswaran Koil Street to create awareness about the need for the children to be outside.

Residents and children in the Boulevard town actively participated in the event and made it a huge success. The event was conceptualised and hosted by Ananthi Velmurugan, Conservation Architect and Research Scholar at INTACH Heritage Academy and was largely supported by INTACH Pondicherry. Mrs. Radha of Pondicherry Heritage Festival team taught the traditional games for the children.



Children learning to play Kabbadi from Mrs. Radha of the PHF team



Children playing in groups



A group picture after the successful event



Happy faces in the event

Storytelling, walking, fishing, drawing and painting at Kanagan Eri Lake

To create awareness among children to conserve the waterbodies of the town, a painting and Kolam (Rangoli) competition was organised by the French Institute of Pondicherry (IFP), INTACH Pondy and Pondy Can on the banks of the Kanaganeri lake on February 10th. The objective was to create widespread awareness among students and sensitise them towards protection of water resources, its augmentation, conservation and reuse. As many as 47 children from schools located near the lake participated in the event as a part of the Pondicherry Heritage Festival. The Kanaganeri lake needs a long-term action plan to conserve for the future generations. Frederic Landy, Director of the French Institute of Pondicherry, said that all lakes and tanks in South India were created for bringing surface water to the farmers. Now the farmers neither use ground water or surface water and there is no agriculture. The idea is to make people aware of the use of Kanagan Eri. Cities need green spaces and must preserve the natural habitat in order to attract tourists and investments. Hence Pondicherry Heritage Festival was used as an anchor to create awareness among the locals, especially children.



Paintings being exhibited after the competition



Painting and Kolam competition in progress

Changing face of Pondy 1969 – 2019

With the fast-changing face of Pondy, Shivan Mullankandy Pamban told the stories of Pondy, sang oldies and soft rock at the Story Tellers bar, Promenade Hotel on February 10th as a part of the festival.



Shivan performing at the event



Gathering at the Story teller's bar

Colour Pondy's heritage

On the 11th February 2019, evening, around 80 school children were invited to French Consulate lawn for the Heritage colouring event "Colour Pondy's Beauty" – for children and adults in love with Pondicherry 's Heritage". During the evening the French consulate distributed the book to school children along with colouring pencil and required stationary. The kids were excited to colour the heritage of Pondicherry from the book. The Colour Pondy's heritage was the last event of Pondicherry Heritage Festival 2019.



A participant colouring the Notre Dame church in the Colour Pondy's beauty book



Participants enthusiastically colouring the book



The organizers of the Pondicherry Heritage Festival 2019 would like to acknowledge, with gratitude all those who were involved in making the festival an immense success.