

Pondicherry Heritage Festival 2016



Friday February 5th to Sunday February 7th

Organised by INTACH, The People for Pondicherry's Heritage (PPH) and PandyCAN, with the Departments of Art & Culture and Tourism, Government of Puducherry, supported by the AFP, IFP and many other organisations and individuals.

Pondicherry's 1st Heritage Festival in 2015 explored various facets of Pondicherry's culture – its spiritual heritage, its contribution to the world of letters, visual and performing arts both folk and classical, its traditional and contemporary crafts and the work done by organisations, institutions and individuals towards understanding its architectural heritage, conserving it and promoting it. It was a platform for experts from Pondicherry and beyond, old residents, new arrivals, guests and visitors to meet and discuss what is special about Pondicherry and how to preserve our beautiful and unique town, highlighting its rich architectural heritage through the venues where events were organised.

Pondicherry has forever been a very beautiful place in India and continues to be special. With its beautiful coast, lakes and forests, its history is rich with amazing people from India and around the world who have been attracted to its shores from time immemorial. The gift of these people to Pondicherry, India and the world has been the rich tapestry of its cultural and spiritual contribution through its architecture, its arts - performing and visual, its literature and philosophy. We are the custodians of this gift of Pondicherry's to humanity and have a responsibility to future generations to conserve it and celebrate its beauty so that it is always remembered and forms the base upon which anything new is created.

Pondicherry's 2nd Heritage Festival in 2016 will try to do just that by exploring specifically: **Built heritage** – how to conserve and restore it & the restoration/reconstruction of the collapsed Mairie Building; **Natural Heritage**: how to conserve and restore its coast, the wetlands and tanks and the forests - urban and rural; **Heritage of Performing Arts**: theatre, dance, music; **Heritage of the Written Word**: from extensive research being carried out on ancient texts, to Pondicherry's rich history of its luminous writers to what inspires its young writers; **Heritage of Visual Arts**: painting, sculpture, pottery, photography and art in public spaces.

The objective of the Pondicherry Heritage Festival in 2016 remains the same as in 2015:

- To create and strengthen this distinct identity of belonging and being Pondicherian for all its residents,
- to show its specialness in all its variety to visitors who come from all over the country and the world, attracted by the idea of "Pondicherry".
- to create a platform for experts, historians, old and young residents and children to meet and discuss what is special about Pondicherry and how we can preserve our town.

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Activities and events around the three-day festival

1. Children's Heritage Mapping Project:

Students will share how they view the heritage of their town using modern technology to create a new, online, geotagged, multimedia mapping project. Participants submit location-specific images (photos, drawings, paintings, video) and narrative media (text, audio files, and video with stories, reports, memoirs, interviews) about Pondicherry – urban and rural.

2. **National workshop on Heritage** for architectural students from across the country by INTACH HERITAGE ACADEMY, in collaboration with INTACH Pondy: **1st to 5th Feb 2016**

3. **Hindustani Classical Music on the Harmonium** by Dr. Ravindra Katoti accompanied by Udayraj Karpur on the Tabla. **2nd February 2016**, 7pm at the AFP Auditorium, Rue Suffren

4. **A lecture** on “Valuing Heritage: a comparative perspective - Insights from France, Russia and USA”, by Laurent Thevenot on **4th February 2016** at 11am at IFP

5. **A personalized tour of Golden Bridge Pottery** with Virginia Soukup. Meet at Hotel Seagull. 10am on 4th February 2016. Bring your own transport or share an auto rickshaw at cost! Sign up: <http://www.meetup.com/Pondicherry-Heritage/events/228149049/>

Pondicherry Heritage Festival 2016



Day 1, 5th February 2016

Focus on our **Architectural Heritage**:

6:30am - 7am: **Suprabhatam** by Aneesh Raghavan, **Invocation** by the famed vocalist Dr. Ashwini Bhide
Venue: Gandhi Statue

10am - 1pm **A Dialogue with Conservation Experts on our Built Heritage.** Presentation by some of the visiting experts on their work followed by Q&A session addressing the issue: What should be the best practices for restoration/rebuilding our built heritage?

Participants: Shikha Jain, KT Ravindran, Charles de Brantes, Philippe Toussaint, Nadine, Benny Kuriakose, Arun Menon, Navin Piplani, Nilesh Thakkar, Vikas Dilawari, moderated by K T Ravindran

Venue: Chamber of Commerce Conference Hall, 1, Rue Suffren

2pm - 4pm: **The Future of Pondicherry's Built Heritage: One year after the Mairie's collapse what do the experts think:** Speakers to include K T Ravindran, Arun Menon, Raphael Gastebois, Pierre Gard, a presentation of INTACH Pondicherry's proposal of the Mairie's reconstruction/restoration and a presentation of ideas from Pondicherians on its adaptive reuse (result of a participatory exercise), moderated by Kakoli and Devangi

Venue: Institut Français de Pondichéry, 11, Rue Saint Louis

6pm – 6:30pm: **Inauguration of Interactive exhibition for children and launch of Pondicherry's Interactive Mapping Project** by UNESCO Director.

Venue: Craft Bazaar

6:30pm - 9pm **INAUGURAL FUNCTION** – Late Varakavi Subramanian's poem on Pondicherry sung by Aneesh raghavan. Inauguration in the presence of the Chief Minister, MP, MLA, Chief Secretary and other dignitaries, UNESCO Director Shigeru Aoyagi and acclaimed dancer Anita Ratnam.

Bharatanatyam Performance by Pondicherry Dancer Krithiga R.

Venue: Gandhi Thidal

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Day 2, 6th February 2016

Focus on our **Natural Heritage and Heritage of the Performing Arts**

6:30am - 9am: **Urban forest walk** (Swadeshi Mills) with Alex and Forest officials.

Starting **from Sea Gulls at 6:30 sharp** up to 20 people

sign up on-line: <http://www.meetup.com/Pondicherry-Heritage/events/228155565/>

7am - 7:45am: **Thevaram, Thiruvasagam, Pasuram** by M Kandasamy and accompanists

Venue: Kalatheeswarar Temple, Mission street

10am -1pm: **Conservation and Restoration of the Natural Heritage of Pondicherry – the coast, wetlands and tanks and forest** moderated by Probir Banerjee

The Coast: Aurofilio, Dr. Ramana Murthy, NIOT

Wetlands and Tanks: Nityanand Jayaraman, Raghu Menon

Forest: G. Kumar Conservator of Forests, GOP, Paul Blanchflower, Auroville Botanical garden

Venue: Chamber of Commerce conference hall, 1, Rue Suffren

2pm - 4pm: **Heritage of the Performing arts: in conversation with dancers, musicians and theatre people.**

Participants: Anita Ratnam, Koumarane Valavane, Vinay Kumar, Rekha Tandon, Aneesh Raghavan, Krithiga, Aurelio

Venue: La Maison Tamoule, Old 36, New 44 Vysial Street

5pm - 6pm: **Performances by Special Needs Children** with children from Satya Special School, Baby Sarah's Home and Jaly Home, Samugam Trust

Venue: Gandhi Thidal

6.30pm - 7pm: **Odissi dance** by Aneesh Raghavan

Venue: GRATITUDE heritage, 52 Rue Romain Rolland

7:30pm - 9pm: **Caribbean music with a touch of soul & jazz** by French singer/songwriter Erika Lernot

Venue: AFP auditorium, Rue Suffren

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Day 3, 7th February 2016

Focus on our **Written Heritage & Heritage of Visual Arts**

6:30am - 11am: **Bird watching** at Puducherry's wetland with Rajamanikam, Lekshmi, Alex –**from Sea Gulls at 6:30 sharp**. Up to 30 people. Bring binoculars

Sign up online: <http://www.meetup.com/Pondicherry-Heritage/events/227551673/>

7am - 7:45am: **Compositions of great poets who have lived in or passed through Pondicherry:** singing by Shoba Raghavan's young students Soumya, Soundrya A, Soundrya R. Mridangam: Naidhruv.
Venue: Gandhi Statue

10am - 1pm: **Heritage through the written word:** Saiva Aagamas – Satyanarayanan; Sangam literature – Indra Manuel; Poetry of the Alvar saints – Suganya Anandakichenin; Thevaram – T Rajeswari; Ananda Rangapillai – Vengada Soupraya Nayagar; Sri Aurobindo and The Mother – Manoj Das; Subramania Bharati – P Raja; Bharathidasan – Mannar Manan, and Pondicherry's young writers - P N S Pandian, Sairam Krishnan, Sushrut Badhe, Olympia Shilpa Gerald. Talks, reading, recitation and singing moderated by Maurice Shukla

Venue: Institut Français de Pondichéry, 11, Rue Saint Louis

2pm - 4pm: **Our Heritage of visual arts in conversation with painters, sculptors, photographers & potters:** Participants: Ray Meeker, Deborah Smith, Adil Writer, Kasha Vande, Pattabi Raman, Nishanth Varma, K Vasant, Desmond Lazaro, Manoj Dixit and Sonam Dubal

Venue: 25 Rue Dumas

5pm - 6pm: **Children's Heritage event:** Traditional & Modern performances by children of Sanjeevi Nagar & Alankuppam villages.

Venue: Gandhi Thidal

6pm - 7pm: **Musical Performance** by the Adishakti Group

Venue: Cluny Embroidery Centre, Rue Romain Rolland

7.30pm - 9pm: **Closing Ceremony** followed by **A celebration of natural heritage through dance** by Poojarini Chowdhury's students from Anegundi Heritage Village and Lycee Français de Pondicherry

Venue: Gandhi Thidal.

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Events through the three-day Festival 5th to 7th February 2016

1. CRAFT BAZZAR : Exploring local heritage, interactive exhibition for children.
Opening Times - Friday 5th Feb 15:00- 21:00, Saturday 6th Feb 14:00 - 21:00, Sunday 7th Feb 12 - 20:00
2. INTACH's exhibition panels to engage children in Heritage Conservation at the CRAFT BAZAAR.
3. Pondicherry artists « Open Studio ».
Sign up and details: <http://pondicherryheritagefestival.org/open-artist-studios/>
4. Photo Exhibition by Sebastian Cortes at Maison Columbani, Inauguration at 5:30pm on 5th February
5. Heritage Walks by Ashok, INTACH. Special access to heritage properties, both public and private.
Sign up at: <http://www.meetup.com/Pondicherry-Heritage/>