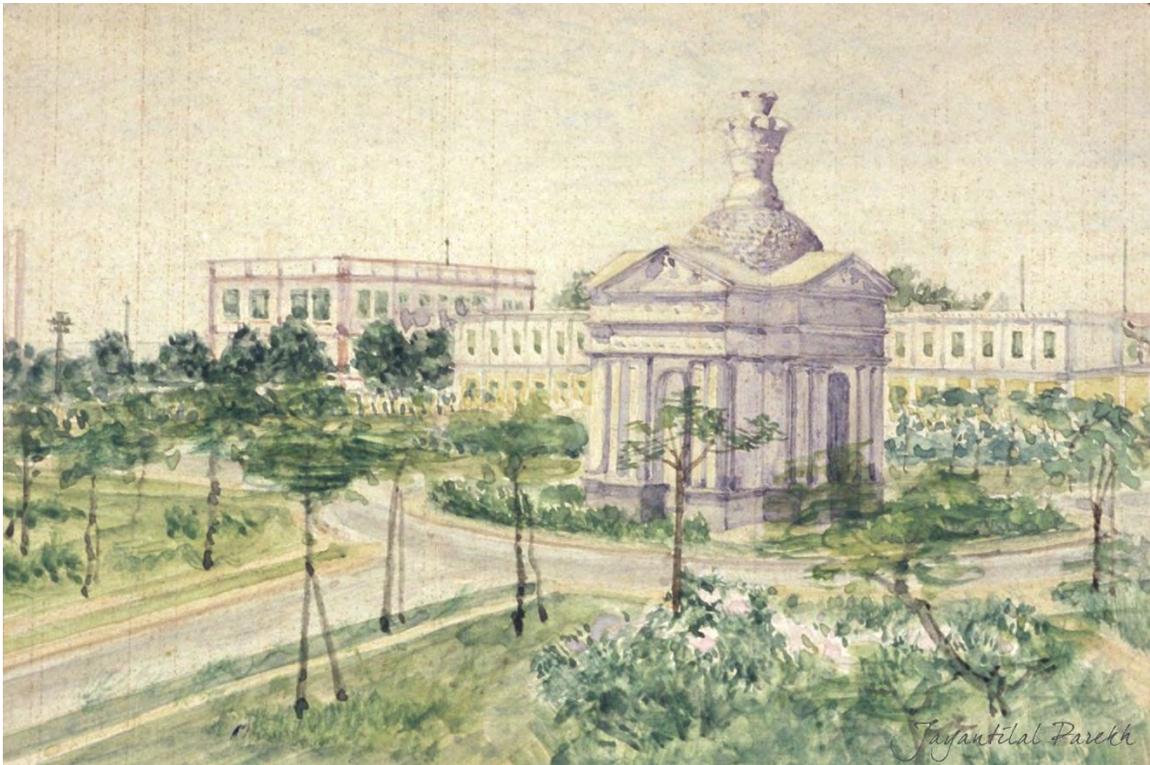


2016

PONDICHERRY HERITAGE FESTIVAL



Coming together to celebrate Pondicherry's rich, diverse heritage

5th to 7th February, 2016

Architecture, Culture, History, Traditions, Art in all its forms, Nature, Spirituality

Supported by:

Department of Tourism, Government of Puducherry
Department of Art & Culture, Government of Puducherry
INTACH - Delhi

Organised by:

INTACH - Pondicherry
People for Pondicherry's Heritage
PondyCAN
Alliance Française Pondichéry



PondyCAN!
Pondy Citizens' Action Network



PONDICHERRY HERITAGE FESTIVAL



2016

5th-7th February

Conception of The Pondicherry Heritage Festival

Just as popular destinations such as New York, Berlin, Paris and Sydney continue to attract a varied audience and are a melting pot for cross-cultural and inter-social exchanges, Pondicherry also has this element of bringing 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 its promenade on the banks of infinity.

Magical, yet ordinary to the casual eye, it 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 inclusive collective and inspiring evolution towards a future long foreseen by the sages of Yore and a future burning bright in the hearts of the children of tomorrow. The marriage of spirituality and material research is also a trademark of Pondicherry's excellence and uniqueness.

In 2015 the collapse of the Mairie Building (City Hall) of Pondicherry, which was built in 1870 to accommodate the offices for the Mayor of Pondicherry and legal registry, led to the realization that the need to conserve and celebrate the heritage of Pondicherry was immense. A group thus emerged from the civil society called the People for Pondicherry's Heritage and conceived the idea of the Pondicherry Heritage Festival.

The main objectives for the Pondicherry Heritage Festival are:

- a) To create a platform for heritage conservation experts, residents and tourists to comprehend and discuss the unique qualities of Pondicherry and arrive at methods to preserve them.
- b) To share and elaborate the inherent character of the town to visitors from different parts of India and the world.
- c) To identify and express the meaning of being a resident of Pondicherry.

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 Archaeological Survey of India monuments and National Parks, the architectural style of Pondicherry is a mélange 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 the 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 both styles in many buildings. Pondicherry's unique architectural style is an inheritance; of which we are but custodians today. It is our responsibility to preserve the essence of this 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 worlds 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.



Pre-Festival Introduction Activities

The Cultural Heritage Mapping Project

The Cultural Heritage Mapping Project was conceived to create an inclusive learning platform with the various aspects of Heritage, as the core subject. The project developers, Notional Space and IT developers Janastu designed a geo-tagging, multimedia mapping application along with INTACH Pondicherry.

In the first phase of the project, student volunteers and institutional partners will conduct cultural mapping workshops for the youth of Pondicherry, in the urban and outlying village communities. The primary focus of these workshops will be to raise awareness on the issue of preservation of cultural heritage (tangible and intangible). They will also, by default, facilitate inclusive, educative and uplifting discussions on local social issues. Once a group has articulated the aspects of cultural heritage they wish to focus upon, they can start uploading their documentation and media files (video, audio, photo etc.) to the online platform along with geo-tags. This work will, by default, promote further educational exchange and facilitate creative solutions for the protection of Pondicherry's heritage.

In the second phase INTACH Pondicherry will upload their documentation on the Tangible and Intangible History of Pondicherry. An added function in the application will enable Pondicherry's residents and visitors to upload their own walking tours and enable geocaching. Over time, integration of further layers and categories for Pondicherry's social, built and natural heritage will be developed by Notional Space and Janastu.

This project was inaugurated on the 5th of February at the Craft Bazaar by the Director of UNESCO, Mr. Shigeru Aoyagi.





Shigeru Aoyagi was appointed as Director of UNESCO in New Delhi in January 2012. Prior to that, he served as Director of the UNESCO in Kabul and UNESCO Representative to Afghanistan from 2006 - 2011. Shigeru joined UNESCO in July 2002, as Chief of the Literacy and Non-Formal Education (NFE) section at the Headquarters in Paris. In this capacity, he has supervised, managed and coordinated the section's work within the framework of Education For All (EFA), as well as its work on literacy and NFE for four regional programmes for universalization of primary education and eradication of illiteracy. He has also contributed to the adoption of the UN resolutions on the United Nations Literacy Decade (UNLD) International Plan of Action, coordinated the EFA Flagship programmes on UNLD and UNESCO-FAO programme on rural people. He has also worked on the launch of the Literacy Initiative for Empowerment at the international level, in the 11 first-round implementation countries.



The National Workshop on Heritage

As a part of the Pondicherry Heritage Festival 2016, the INTACH Heritage Academy organized a five-day course on Understanding Conservation and Management of Historic Interiors, in Pondicherry from 1st to 5th February, 2016.

The aim of the course was to introduce the philosophy and practices of conservation and restoration of buildings and hence facilitate, for the participants:

- A development and understanding of the concept of heritage buildings and their adaptive reuse.
- An introduction to the notions of value and the significance of cultural heritage in architecture.
- A development of the basic approaches to conservation, focusing on adaptive reuse of historic interior spaces.
- An introduction to the role of key stakeholders in heritage conservation.
- A pathway into critically thinking, analysing and solving the present-day issues of heritage conservation.

The course was well received and welcomed architecture students as well as experts as participants. The course sessions were conducted by the trained staff of the INTACH Heritage Academy with assistance from the experts from INTACH Pondicherry.

Valuing Heritage: A Comparative Perspective

Mr. Laurent Thevenot was invited to conduct a lecture and share his perspectives on the comparative analysis of heritage conservation in France, Russia and USA. The lecture was held at the Pondicherry French Institute on the 4th of February, 2016.

Tour of Golden Bridge Pottery

As a part of the Open Studios Event of the Pondicherry Heritage Festival, 2016, a tour of the Golden Bridge Pottery was organized on 4th February, 2016.



Golden Bridge Pottery has always been considered a mythical place by Pondicherry residents and pottery enthusiasts alike. In the 60's Deborah Smith came to Pondicherry on a spiritual quest and joined the Sri Aurobindo Ashram. She was then asked by The Mother to start a pottery unit and for this reason, she invited her friend Ray Meeker to build the kilns and hence Golden Bridge Pottery was born.



Ray Meeker is co-founder of Golden Bridge Pottery at Pondicherry. Meeker is considered to be a pioneer of ceramic art in India for his role in introducing glazed studio stoneware, for his research in fired housing and finally, for breaking new ground with his monumental sculptures.



Deborah Smith is co-founder of Golden Bridge Pottery. Smith, who had trained and lived in Japan, was invited to set up a pottery unit at the Sri Aurobindo Ashram in 1971. Smith has trained with Yamamoto Toshu, a Japanese National Living Treasure, in Bizen, Japan and subsequently assisted her professor Susan Peterson as a translator in writing a book on another Living Treasure, Japanese master potter Shoji Hamada.

Hindustani Classical Music Performance

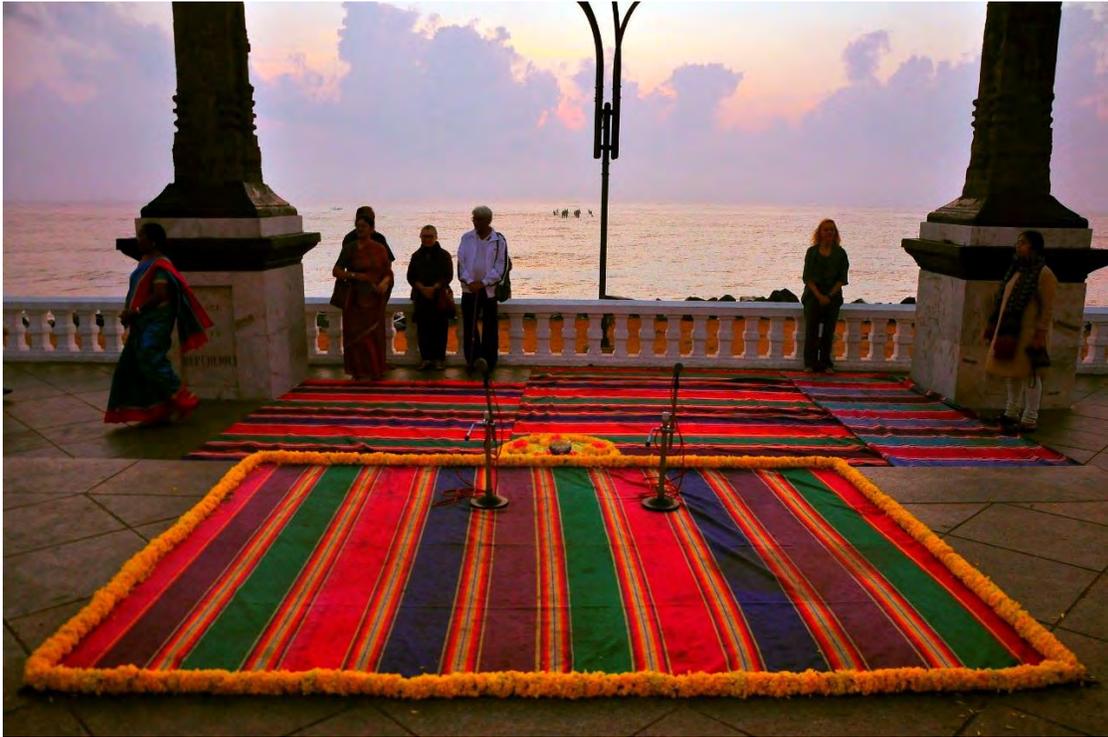
A Hindustani Classical Music offering was organized on 2nd February, 2016 at the Alliance Française Pondichéry Auditorium. The audience was enthralled by the soothing music performed by Dr. Ravindra Katoti on the harmonium and Udayraj Karpur on the tabla.



Day 01: 5th February, 2016

Focus on Pondicherry's Architectural Heritage

Invocation: *Suprabhatam*



At 06:30am, as the sun rose on the city of Pondicherry, a young singer, Aneesh Raghavan sang praises of the Lord, at the promenade along the Bay, as a commencement of the Pondicherry Heritage Festival, 2016.



A Dialogue with Conservation Experts on Pondicherry's Built Heritage

A key part of the Pondicherry Heritage Festival is learning and the best way to learn is through interaction. An intensive three-hour session was organized where conservation experts presented their work and initiated interactive discussions with the audience. This session was moderated by Mr. K.T. Ravindran.



Shikha Jain has vast experience in cultural heritage of India that is a result of steering more than 40 conservation projects for various state governments and preparing conservation plans funded by international bodies such as the Getty Foundation and World Monuments Fund through her organization DRONAH.



Prof. KT Ravindran is the Dean Emeritus at the RICS School of Built Environment and was earlier the Dean and Head of the Department of Urban Design at School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi for over two decades.





Charles H. de Brantes is President of Friends of Pondicherry Heritage and founding member of French Heritage in India. He is a writer-translator of Bede Griffith's 'The marriage of East and West' and film-maker of 'From Pondicherry to Chandernagore, a traveller's diary', for French TV.



Nadine Le Prince is the descendant of a long line of artists dating back to the sixteenth century. In 1998, Nadine purchase the *Nand Lal Devra Haveli* in Shekawati, Rajasthan which was originally built in 1802. Nadine has worked to restore the haveli and all its frescos. She also works with other organizations involved in the preservation and restoration of havelis in Shekhawati.



Benny Kuriakose, in his quest as a creative person, has travelled diverse paths and translated the philosophy of his mentor Laurie Baker many times over. A retrospective of his work reflects his perseverance to transform those same concepts of cost effectiveness, conservation and sustainable architecture, in several sequences, whether it be in his designs for private or public spaces.



Arun Menon is an Assistant Professor, IIT Madras. His research interests include structural restoration of historical or monumental structures, seismic response of masonry structures and experimental investigations on historical structures.



Navin Piplani is the Director of The INTACH Heritage Academy in New Delhi. Navin has acquired knowledge and hands-on skills in historic building conservation by working on several significant architectural conservation projects in India and Europe.





Nilesb Thakkar is the Director at Jeernodhar Conseravators Pvt. Ltd., specializing in conceptualizing, organizing, engineering, training, project management, preparation and use of traditional lime and lime mortars in the area of Heritage Building Conservation.



Vikas Dilawari is a practicing conservation architect with more than two and half decades of experience exclusively in the conservation field, ranging from urban design to architecture.



The Future of Pondicherry's Built Heritage

A two-hour interactive presentation session was conducted at the Pondicherry Chamber of Commerce to understand and explore the possibilities for the future of Pondicherry's built heritage, one year after the collapse of the Mairie Building (City Hall) of Pondicherry.



The presentations included INTACH Pondicherry's reconstruction and restoration proposal for the Mairie Building along with the ideas from the Pondicherry residents on adaptive reuse of the building.

The other speakers included K.T. Ravindran, Arun Menon, Rahael Gastebois, Pierre Grard and the INTACH Pondicherry expert team.



Raphael Gastebois is the Head of the Department of Architecture and Heritage, Department of Cultural Affairs (Indian Ocean region), based in Reunion Island.



Dr. Pierre Grard, PhD is a Botanist and a Computer Scientist with a Doctorate in Population Biology and Ecology. He joined the Pondicherry French Institute on June 8, 2012 as the new Director.



Ashok Panda has been working with INTACH, Pondicherry for the last 15 years. He is the co-convenor, coordinator and project manager of the organization. His work includes conducting heritage walks, tourism promotion projects in Pondicherry and Tamil Nadu as well as raising finances to support activities like solid waste management.



Inauguration Function

The Pondicherry Heritage Festival, 2016 was officially inaugurated on 5th February, 2016 at 18:30 at the Gandhi Thidal, Goubert Avenue.



The Honorable Chief Minister Thiru N. Rangaswamy, Member of Parliament Thiru R. Radhakrishnan, Director of UNESCO Mr. Shigeru Aoyagi, Member of Legislative Assembly Thiru Laxminarayan, The Honorable Ministers of Tourism Thiru P. Rajavelu and Art & Culture Thiru T. Thiagarajan, Chief Secretary Mr. Manoj Parida, Acclaimed dancer Anita Ratnam and other esteemed dignitaries were invited to preside over the function.



The Inauguration commenced with a recitation of the poem of Late Varakavi Subramania by Aneesh Raghavan, followed by the lighting of the lamp and a Bharatanatyam recital by Krithiga R.



The Pondicherry Heritage Festival was presented to the audience by the members of People for Pondicherry's Heritage and then the chief guests and dignitaries shared their thoughts, views and ideas for the city.



Day 02: 6th February, 2016

Focus on Pondicherry's Natural Heritage and Heritage of Performing Arts

Urban Forest Walk

The Swadeshi Cotton Mills Forest exists on a private industrial land and spans an area of 12-43-85 H.A.C. As many as 184 species of flora have been documented in this forest land which propagates mainly through spontaneous growth of vegetation; trees, undergrowth, climbers, lianas; alike.

The land had been previously closed to the public but upon request, The Forest Department allowed a group of participants of the Pondicherry Heritage Festival to visit and student the flora. The Forest Department plans on re-opening the property to students of botany, for research and specie analysis.

Musical Offering: Thevaram, Thiruvasagam, Pasuram

A musical offering was organized at the Kalatheeswarar Temple in Pondicherry. M. Kandasamy and accompanists sang praises to the Lord with surrender and devotion.



Conservation and Restoration of the Natural Heritage of Pondicherry

A three-hour interactive presentation session was organized at the Chamber of Commerce to share, educate and discuss the prospects of conservation and restoration of the natural heritage of Pondicherry, which includes the coast, wetlands, tanks and forests. The session was moderated by Mr. Probir Banerjee.



Nityanand Jayaraman is a Chennai-based writer and social activist, and teaches environmental journalism at Asian College of Journalism. He is part of an anti-corporate collective called Vettiver Koottamaippu, and involves himself in mobilising youth to lend solidarity to social and environmental justice struggles around the country. He is an active volunteer in the campaign for justice in Bhopal and Kodaikanal, and is currently working to help stop a destructive coal fired thermal power plant from being set up in the hydrologically and environmentally sensitive Cheyyur taluk in Kanchipuram district

Raghu Menon works with the Pondicherry Science Forum and its R&D wing, the Centre for Ecology & Rural Development.

G. Kumar is Conservator of Forest Nodal Officer, Government of Pondicherry.





Aurofilio is of Italian parentage, was born and brought up in Pondicherry and completed his education at the Sri Aurobindo International Centre of Education. In love with the sea since childhood, he decided to combine this passion with his higher education and received a Masters in Tropical Coastal management at Newcastle University. He is an avid swimmer, diver, surfer, and wind-surfer.



Dr. M. V. Ramana Murthy PhD is a Scientist of Ocean Engineering at NIOT.



Paul Blanchflower has over twenty years of experience in forestry and landscaping. He arrived in Auroville in 1991 from Scotland after graduating in Forestry and Ecology at Edinburgh University. He founded the Auroville Botanical Gardens in 2000 that offers a variety of services for land management and landscaping.



Heritage of Performing Arts: In conversation with Dancers, Musicians and Actors

The best way to understand the cultural heritage of a country, city, town or village, is to study the performing arts prevalent in the area. A two-hour demonstration and interactive session with renowned choreographers, composers, dancers and actors was facilitated at La Maison Tamoule.



Rekha Tandon is a dancer, choreographer and researcher in the classical Indian dance style of Odissi, and has a PhD in Dance Studies from Laban, London. She lives and works beside Auroville, teaches classes/workshops that connect Odissi dance with yoga. She is the Artistic Director of Danceroutes (www.danceroutes.com) and has published several articles, a book, dance videos and a documentary on Odissi.

Dr Anita R Ratnam, based in Chennai (Madras) , India, is highly respected as a performer, writer, speaker and arts entrepreneur and culture mentor. She has been described as an “intersectionist”, whose work weaves the many disciplines of dance, theatre, spoken word, ritual, archaeology, dramaturgy and women’s issues. For over 40 years, her distinguished career has witnessed over 1300 performances in 37 countries.

Koumarane Valavane started practicing theatre at very young age. In the University of Marseille, he along with his friends created a cultural association named “centre culturel de Luminy ” and made theatre as its primary element.

Vinay Kumar is Managing Trustee and Artistic Director of Adishakti Laboratory for Theatre Arts & Research.



Aurelio, the creative director of SVARAM, is a musician, educator, ethno-musicologist, researcher, sound designer and sound healer.



Performances by Special Needs Children

The children with special needs from the Satya Special School, Baby Sarah's Home, Jaly Home and Samugam Trust performed a variety of dance items at the Gandhi Thidal to the encouragement and joy of the audience.



Odissi Dance Recital

The multi-talented, young and versatile dancer Aneesh Raghavan, disciple of Guru Sangeeta Dash, gave an Odissi dance recital at Gratitude Heritage.



Caribbean Music Concert

Residents of Pondicherry being multi-cultured and having a variation in taste of music enjoyed the Caribbean Music Concert which had a touch of Soul and Jazz.



Erika Lernet, from Martinique, grew up with the music of the world : traditional drums from the Caribbean Island, but also the marvelous mix of music that all young people discover by living in Paris : Jazz, soul, Hip hop, and oriental music.



Day 03: 7th February, 2016

Focus on Pondicherry's Written Heritage and Heritage of Visual Arts

Bird Watching

Kaliveli, Ousteri and Bahour Lakes are part of the bioregion of Pondicherry. Since the heavy rainfall from the monsoon of 2015, the lakes are full and have become home for many local and migratory birds like the waterfowl.

As a part of the Pondicherry Heritage Festival, a walk through the Kaliveli Tank was arranged with experts in the field of Environmental Science.



Lekshmi. R has a M.Sc in Environmental Science and Management from Mahatma Gandhi University, Kerala and is currently pursuing research at Pondicherry University on altitudinal gradient in butterfly distribution of Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve, Southern Western Ghats. She is also a birder and naturalist. Her other areas of interest are butterfly gardening and photography.



R. Rajamanikam has a Masters in Ecology & Environmental Sciences from Pondicherry University and is in the final stage of completing his Ph.D in Solid Waste Management. He has 8 years of experience in of solid waste management, community outreach and birdwatching associated with Auroville and PondyCAN. He has been committed with Wetland Projects in Puducherry schools and also works closely with local communities to improve their perception and attitude towards wetland and wildlife resources.



Compositions of Great Poets Related to Pondicherry

The history of Pondicherry is rich with poets and writers who lived within the growing city or passed through, leaving behind their imprint of the town, while the town was imprinted in their writings.



A group of young students of Guru Shoba Raghavan, namely, Soumya, Soundrya A. and Soundrya R. sang compositions of various poets of Pondicherry, accompanied by Naidhruv on the Mridangam.



Heritage Through the Written Word

The social, cultural, natural, spiritual and architectural heritage of Pondicherry and Tamil Nadu has been expressed in ancient Sanskrit texts which have been researched and studied and in the poetry, literature, plays and stories of writers spanning generations. It is these written words which conserve and preserve the history of Pondicherry and continue to educate and inspire new generations.

To celebrate and share texts inspired by and written in Pondicherry, a three-hour interactive session was organized at the French Institute of Pondicherry, inviting research experts, writers, poets and playwrights to share their work and research with the audience.



The Saiva Agamas and Sangam Literature were explained and partially recited by **Mr. Satyanarayanan** and **Ms. Indra Manuel**.

The poetry of the Alvar Saints was recited by **Suganya Anandakichenin**, who holds a postgraduate degree in English Literature and who is also a *Professeur Agrégé* in English, has finished her Ph.D in Indology (Tamil studies) on *Kulacēkara Āḷvār* and his *Perumāḷ Tirumōḷi* at Hamburg University in Germany. She is currently working as a research scholar at the École française d'Extrême-Orient in Pondicherry.



Thevaram songs which praise Lord Shiva were sung and explained by **Dr. T. Rajeswari**, a Senior Research Fellow at the École française d'Extrême-Orient in Pondicherry.

The writings, poetry, stories, prayers and plays of Ananda Rangapillai, Sri Aurobindo, The Mother, Subramania Bharati and Bharathidasan were sung, recited and explained by literary experts.

Dr. S.A. Vengada Soupraya Nayagar is Associate Professor of French at Tagore Arts College and has been teaching French for the past twenty-seven years. He has published articles and translations in French, English and Tamil.

Manoj Das is an award-winning Indian author who writes in Odia and English. He has been awarded numerous accolades, including the Sahitya Akademi Award Fellowship and Padma Shri.

P. Raja, a professor of English, is a fictionist, poet, playwright, translator and folklorist. His areas of specialization are Pondicherry's history, culture, literature and religion. He has published 24 books and 8 booklets in English and 7 books in Tamil.

The new generation of writers were also invited to share their work and inspirations which will be a part of the literary heritage of the future Pondicherry.

P. N. S. Pandian, born in Pondicherry, has a Masters in History, M. Phil in Gandhian Thoughts and Post Graduate Diploma in Journalism and Mass Communication. A journalist since 15 years, besides contributing to journals like *Suthandhiram* and *Tharaasu*, he has also been a chief reporter for the popular Tamil daily *Malai Murasu*. He also brings out a quarterly literary magazine *Natrinai*. His book on political history *Ooratangu Utharavu* (Curfew) has been acclaimed by historians, political leaders and critics and received the best historical book award in 2015. Also interested in cinema, he has directed and produced a documentary film *Agavizhi* (The Eye with Inner Sight).

Sairam Krishnan was born in Pondicherry and followed the usual Engineering-MBA route until he realized that his pen was better at writing stories than at corporate copywriting. He is currently at work on a stationary travelogue book of Pondicherry and his writing has appeared in *The Hindu* and *Scroll*.

Sushrut A. Badhe, a graduate of mechanical engineering from Pondicherry Engineering College is the author of *Bhagavad Gita: The Rhythm of Krishna* which was published by Sri Aurobindo's Action in July 2015. The author holds two records at India Book of Records for his work of re-writing all 700 verses of the *Bhagavad Gita* into individual poetic verses. Through this book the author attempts to take the English speaking readers closer to the original Sanskrit text.



Olympia Shilpa Gerald is a freelance feature writer and journalist who moved to Pondicherry in 2013 while working as a Senior Reporter with The Hindu. Keen on chronicling Pondicherry's ever-evolving present as much as its invigorating past, she now writes for national newspapers, magazines and web portals. Her work has also been published in The New Indian Express, Conde Nast Traveller and The Wire. Discovering what contemporary Pondicherry has to offer travellers and residents is what keeps her on her toes now. She can be found prowling the boulevards, on the look-out for new initiatives, activities, places of interest and inspiring ideas in Pondicherry. Her fixation with the city has manifested itself in various forms - a weekend column on the what to do in Pondy, stories for a city portal, newsletters for Puducherry Tourism and content for off-beat websites. However, the latest revelation of her love affair with this former French outpost is an upcoming city blog on life and leisure in Pondicherry.



Heritage of Visual Arts: In Conversation with Painters, Sculptors, Photographers and Potters

The intangible nature of Pondicherry has attracted painters, artists, sculptures and photographers from years on end and the city hence has a wide diversity of skill, technique and knowledge in the field of visual arts.

An open discussion with the artists and artisans of Pondicherry was organized at the residence of Ray Meeker and Deborah Smith, the founders of Golden Bridge Pottery.



Ray Meeker is co-founder of Golden Bridge Pottery at Pondicherry. Meeker is considered to be a pioneer of ceramic art in India for his role in introducing glazed studio stoneware, for his research in fired housing and finally, for breaking new ground with his monumental sculptures.





Deborah Smith is co-founder of Golden Bridge Pottery. Smith, who had trained and lived in Japan, was invited to set up a pottery unit at the Sri Aurobindo Ashram in 1971. Smith has trained with Yamamoto Toshu, a Japanese National Living Treasure, in Bizen, Japan and subsequently assisted her professor Susan Peterson as a translator in writing a book on another Living Treasure, Japanese master potter Shoji Hamada.



Adil Writer is a ceramic artist, painter and architect from Bombay, currently living and working in Auroville, where he is a partner at Mandala Pottery which produces functional tableware, assorted ceramic items, architectural ceramic murals & installations. From his own studio at Mandala, he creates his own line of studio pottery.



Kasha Vande is the owner and manager of Kasha Ki Aasha and the co-creator of Pandy A.R.T, launched with Anand Vengadesan (Busihunt Magazine).



Pattabi Raman is a photojournalist based in India and specialises in socio-economic, socio-cultural and environment issues.





Nishanth Varma is a producer, writer, director and cinematographer. He is an alumnus of Mind Screen Film Institute, Chennai. His maiden feature *My First Movie* deals with the life of an independent filmmaker. Apart from feature films he has made various documentaries, advertisements and short films. He is known for his offbeat films like *Deivan*, *Beyond Paradise* and *Disability Rights Advocate*. He is currently working on his second feature film “Mei” which deals with the inner conflict of a failed Sadhu.



K. Vasanth is the sole practitioner of the lost wax method of bronze sculpting in Pondicherry. At the age of 16, he began a rigorous three-year training with a famed master sculptor in Swamimalai, Kumbakonam in the guru-shishya tradition, before returning to his home near Auroville to set up his own workshop. Today, at the age of 29, he is a master in his own right, leading a team of 18 craftsmen who specialise in this ancient craft.



Desmond Lazaro is a painter presently based in Pondicherry who was born in Leeds, U.K. Lazaro’s work, as well as his personal history, spans East and West and he has exhibited extensively in India, UK, Dubai, Hong Kong and Germany.



Manoj Dixit is a self-taught artist based in Pondicherry, who has always adopted a universal approach when it comes to expressing his cosmopolitan spirit.





Sonam Dubal is a 1990 alumnus of National Institute of Fashion Technology, New Delhi, revivalist designer Sonam Dubal's line Sanskar, which he started in 1999, is his continuing experiment of redefining traditional silhouettes.

Children's Heritage Event

The children of schools from villages around Pondicherry, namely Sanjeevi Nagar and Alankuppam were given the opportunity to entertain the gathering crowds with traditional and modern dance performances at the Gandhi Thidal, Goubert Avenue. This event was organised by Mohanam Cultural Centre.





Musical Performance

Members of the Adishakti Music Group performed and enthralled the audience with their drum beats at The Cluny Embroidery Centre.



Closing Ceremony

The end of the second successful Pondicherry Heritage Festival was celebrated at Gandhi Thidal. Members of the People for Pondicherry's Heritage, INTACH Pondicherry and the Chief Guests shared their experiences and plans for the future festivals, acknowledged the effort and support from all the partnering organizations and celebrated the accomplishments of the Pondicherry Heritage Festival 2016.



After the facilitation of the Chief Guests and Organizing Core Team, a series of dances expressing the natural heritage of Pondicherry, was presented to the audience. The dancers were from Lycee Français de Pondicherry and Anegundi Heritage Village (trained by Poojarini Chowdhury).





Daily Events from Day 01 to Day 03

Craft Bazaar

The Craft Bazaar was organized in order to showcase children's perspectives of heritage and facilitate activities for children and families.



Some of the activities at the Craft Bazaar included

- Kollam making
- Story telling
- Learning Pondicherry through photographs of streets
- Traditional games
- Recycling waste
- Bamboo musical instruments
- Art therapy
- Dancing
- Puppet making
- Colouring and painting

- Treasure hunt
- Making reading fun with films and computers
- Mapping
- Exhibition on Architectural Heritage for children

Open Studios: Pondicherry Artists

Among the many secret delights of Pondicherry are the small and growing number of artists scattered throughout the town. Each artist is inspired by and engages with their community and environment differently. Together they form an important part of the living, tangible heritage of Pondicherry.

As a part of the Pondicherry Heritage Festival, some resident Pondicherry artists generously opened their studios and galleries during the morning and/or afternoon and provided the visitors an exceptional opportunity of interaction and learning.

Some of the artist studio and galleries are:

- Tasmai
- Amarane Art Gallery
- Aquarelles, Galerie d'Art
- Learnart Weekend School
- The Metal Craft
- Kalinka
- Vanna Aruvi Art Gallery

Photograph Exhibition by Sebastian Cortes

In 2004 Cortés moved together with his family to India, where his award winning travel, lifestyle and fine art photography is greatly appreciated. Garnering applause from noted artists, intellectuals and press, Cortés developed several book projects, the most recent Pondicherry, published by Roli Books, further extended his very personal discourse with photography, initiating a productive period of fieldwork within a new cultural context. Cortés lectures at the Sri Aurobindo Centre for Arts and Communication. His images are exhibited and reviewed widely in Europe and in India.

The photographs on display at Maison Colombani are, as described by the photographer, an extended photo-essay describing the photographer's perception and visual interpretation of Pondicherry.



Pondicherry Heritage Walk

To experience the spirit of Pondicherry it is essential to walk through the old town and closely observe the nature of its architectural traditions.

Pondicherry has two distinct parts: The French and Tamil. The French quarter has structures in the European classical style, whereas the buildings in the Tamil quarter are in the vernacular style of Tamil Nadu. The two styles have influenced each other with the result that many buildings in both parts of the town are a harmonious blend of European and Tamil architectural patterns.

Ashok Panda of INTACH Pondicherry planned a special Heritage Walk through these two distinct areas of the town for Pondicherry Heritage Festival. The visitors were guided to landmark buildings, private houses, public buildings and buildings which need immediate restoration.





The organizers of the Pondicherry Heritage Festival 2016 would like to acknowledge, with gratitude all those who were involved in making the festival an immense success.

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