



Foundation Day of Puducherry

For Prelims: [Puducherry](#), [Council of Ministers](#), [Chola](#), [Vijayanagar Empire](#), [Third Carnatic War](#), [Union Territory](#), [Statehood](#)

For Mains: Modern Indian History, Post-independence Consolidation of India and the demand of statehood by UTs.

Why in News?

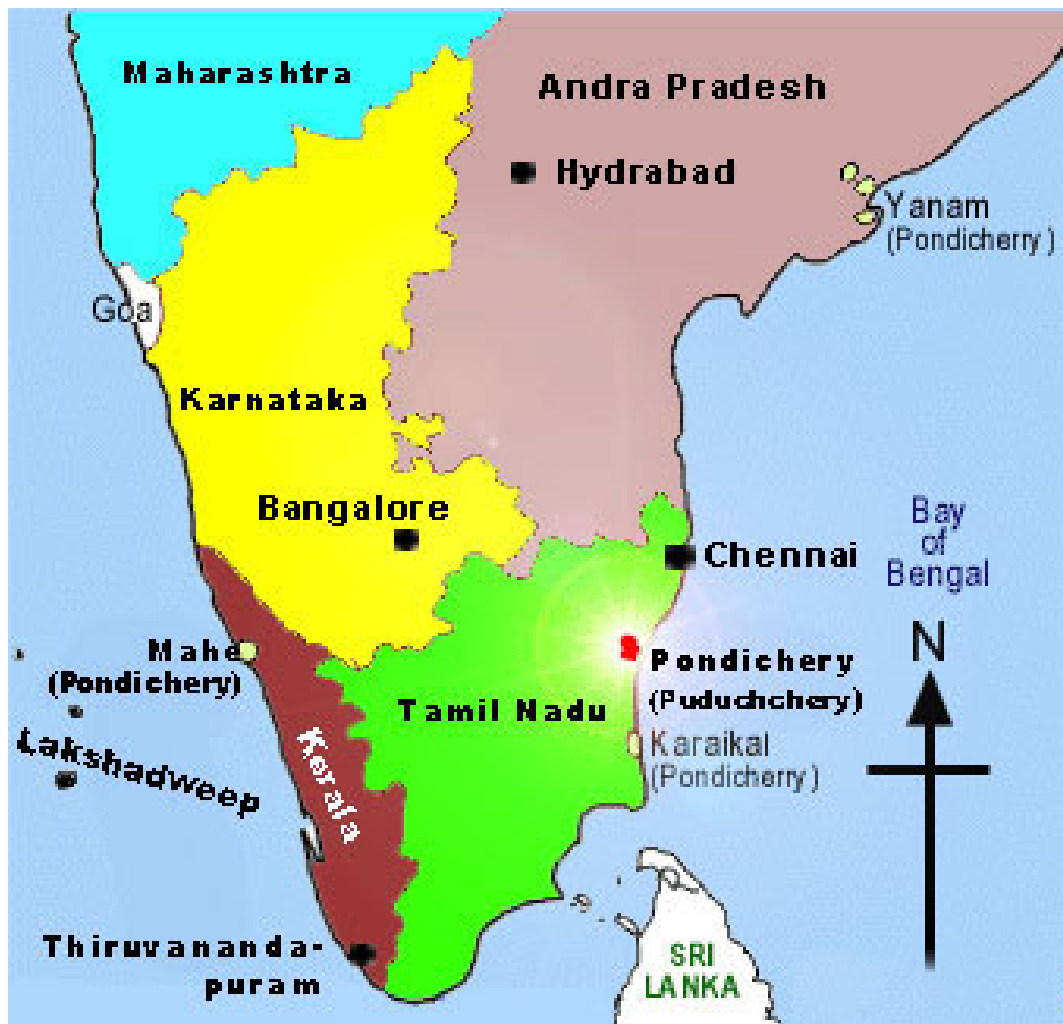
Every year, the **1st July** is marked as the foundation day of [Puducherry](#) as on this day the **Government of Union Territories Act 1963** providing **Puducherry** with **Legislative Assemblies and Council of Ministers** came into force.

What are Key Facts about Puducherry?

▪ **About:**

- The present **UT of Puducherry** was formed in **1962** out of the four former colonies of French (**Puducherry, Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam**) India.
- The **Puducherry** and **Karaikal** regions are surrounded by the state of **Tamilnadu** while **Mahe** is surrounded by the state of **Kerala** and **Yanam** by the state of **Andra Pradesh**.
- To accommodate the diverse culture, due to its multi-state location, Puducherry has been recognized as a Union Territory.

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▪ **History of Pondicherry:**

◦ **Ancient History:**

- Puducherry has a flourishing maritime history and **excavations at Arikamedu show that Romans** came here to trade in the **1st Century AD**.
- In around the fourth century A.D. Puducherry area was part of the **Pallava Kingdom** of Kanchipuram after which **Chola** took over it.
- After short rule of Muslim rulers of the North, the **Vijayanagar Empire** took control of almost all the South of India which lasted till **1638**, after which **Sultan of Bijapur** took control.

◦ **Colonial History:**

- The foundation of modern **Puducherry** was laid in the year **1673** after the **French East India Company** successfully obtained firman (a permit) from the Qiladar of Valikondapurarm under the **Sultan of Bijapur**.
- Puducherry was captured by the **Dutch** in 1693 but was returned to the French company by the **Treaty of Ryswick** in 1699.
- In 1674, **Francois Martin** was appointed as the **first Governor** by the **French East India Company** which undertook the ambitious project to transform Pondicherry from a small fishing village into a flourishing port town.
 - **Joseph Francis Dupleix** got a high post at Pondicherry in 1720.
- After becoming Governor in **1674**, **Francois Martin** developed it as a place of importance and as the stronghold of the French in India.
- **The Battle of Wandiwash (1760)** which was the decisive battle of the **Third Carnatic War** was won by the English and **Treaty of Peace of Paris (1763)**, that

followed the war, restored to the French their factories in India (including Puducherry).

- Under **Treaty of Peace of Paris (1763)** Puducherry and Chandannagar were returned to **France** but they could only have trading activities in them.
- **Post Independence:**
 - On **1st November 1954**, Puducherry became a **Union Territory** after the French possessions in India were transferred to the Indian Union and 280 years of French rule came to an end.
 - However, **Puducherry** became officially an integral part of India after the French Parliament in Paris ratified the Treaty with India in **1963**.
- **Political Status of Pondicherry:**
 - In accordance with **Article 239 of the Constitution of India** and the **Government of Union Territories Act 1963**, the President of India has framed the **Business of the Government of Puducherry (Allocation) Rules 1963**.
 - Puducherry has **elected legislatures** with the **Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry** being guided by the **Government of Union Territories Act 1963**.
 - The Puducherry Assembly can legislate on any issue under the **Concurrent and State Lists**.
 - The name of **Pondicherry** was changed to **Puducherry** by **The Pondicherry (Alteration of Name) Act 2006**.
 - **Puducherry has long demanded statehood** to gain greater powers for attracting industries, creating employment opportunities, and enhancing infrastructure for tourism.
- **Culture:**
 - **Sri Aurobindo Ashram** (a well planned town with **Franco Tamil architecture**) and Auroville (an experimental township) was an attempt to implement Sri Aurobindo's vision of new forms of individual and collective life, preparing the way towards a brighter future for the whole earth.
 - Puducherry is an Indian Union Territory that **offers a taste of France in India (due to its colonel history)**.

Read more: [Statehood Demand by Puducherry](#), [Bills for Women's Quota in J&K and Puducherry](#)

Drishti Mains Question:

Q. The political and administrative reorganization of states and territories has been a continuous ongoing process. Discuss this in the context of the statehood demand of Puducherry.

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Prelims

Q1. With reference to Pondicherry (now Puducherry), consider the following statements: (2010)

1. The first European power to occupy Pondicherry were the Portuguese.
2. The second European power to occupy Pondicherry were the French.
3. The English never occupied Pondicherry.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (a)

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