



## 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?

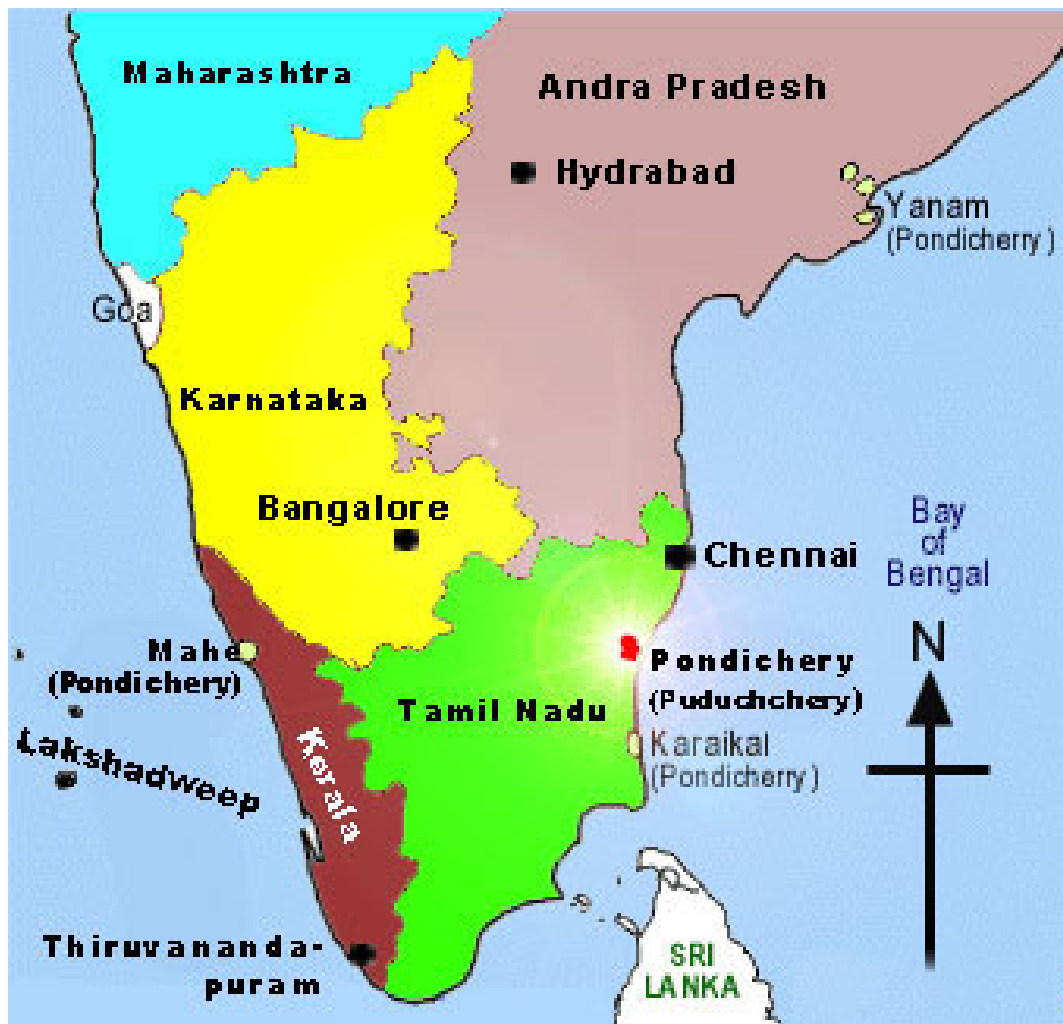
Every year, the **1<sup>st</sup> July** is marked as the foundation day of [Puducherry](#) as on this day the **Government of Union Territories Act 1963** providing **Puducherry** with **Legislative Assemblies and Council of Ministers** came into force.

### 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](#)

#### **Drishhti 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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