

## PUDUCHERRY

# On show, residents' love for Puducherry's past



## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

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### Organisers believe this will inspire people to conserve its rich heritage

An exhibition of select photographs of Pondicherry's Built Heritage and Streetscapes and artwork created by schoolchildren on the Union Territory's heritage began at the Ashram Exhibition Hall on Beach Road on Monday.

Organised by the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage, PondyCan and People for Pondicherry's Heritage (PPH), the exhibition, which will be on till February 1, includes

photographs of heritage buildings in the French and Tamil quarters including the Old Light House, the iconic Mairie building, which collapsed in 2014, Foyur du Soldat, besides streetscapes in the Boulevard.

According to Sunaina Mandeem, co-founder, PondyCan, "This is our built heritage and heritage of our town. The theme for the festival is Natural Heritage and that is what the Oussudu Lake and the wetlands represent. As part of the festival, we will be having two exhibitions simultaneously, one on the 'Built Heritage and Streetscapes' and the other on 'Wetlands' organised by the Department of Ecology of the French Institute of Pondicherry (IFP)."

The exhibition at the Ashram hall also has a separate room with exhibits of over 700 children about their idea of heritage, Ms. Mandeem said.

Kakoli Banerjee of People for Pondicherry's Heritage said that the idea behind the exhibition was to give the residents of Puducherry, a platform to express their love for Puducherry through photographs.

The participants were asked to submit prints and we received a great response. This will not only create awareness but will also inspire people to participate in conserving our rich heritage for the future generations, she said.

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