

Puducherry

Original name **Putucceri**, formerly (until 2006) **Pondicherry**, also spelled **Pondichéry**

It is an union territory of India. It was formed in 1962 out of the four former colonies of French India: Pondicherry (now Puducherry) and Karaikal along India's southeastern Coromandel Coast, surrounded by Tamil Nadu state; Yanam, farther north along the eastern coast in the delta region of the Godavari River, surrounded by Andhra Pradesh state; and Mahe, lying on the western Malabar Coast, surrounded by Kerala state. The territory's capital is the city of Puducherry in the Puducherry sector, just north of Cuddalore.

The original name of the territory, Putucceri, is derived from the Tamil words putu ("new") and ceri ("village"). The French corrupted this to Pondichéry (English: Pondicherry), by which it was called until its name was officially changed to Puducherry in 2006. Area 190 square miles (492 square km). Pop. (2008 est.) 1,074,000.

LOCATION

Region	Area	Latitude/Longitude	Towns
Puducherry	290	Between 11° 46' and 12° 30' North	Between 79° 36' and 79° 53' East
Karaikal	161	Between 10° 49' and 11° 01' North	Between 79° 43' and 79° 52' East
Mahe	9	Between 11° 42' and 11° 43' North	Between 75° 31' and 75° 33' East
Yanam	20	Between 16° 42' and 16° 46' North	Between 82° 11' and 82° 19' East
State	480	-	

Literacy

Commune	Literates	Illiterates	Total	% of col 2 to col. 4
I. PUDUCHERRY	526,643	124,357	651,000	80.90
Puducherry	168,792	28,772	197,564	85.44
Ariankuppam	37,231	10,893	48,124	77.36
Ozhukarai	167,241	26,542	193,783	86.30
Mannadipet	38,433	15,072	53,505	71.83

Villianur	58,651	19,287	77,938	75.25
Bahour	33,158	14,514	47,672	69.55
Nettapakkam	23,137	9,277	32,414	71.38
II. KARAIKAL	123,320	26,637	149,957	82.24
Karaikal	54,588	10,584	65,172	83.76
Thirunallar	24,422	5,194	29,616	82.46
Neravy	7,840	1,837	9,677	81.02
Nedungadu	10,686	2,866	13,552	78.85
Kottucherry	12,291	3,134	15,425	79.68
T.R. Pattinam	13,493	3,022	16,515	81.70
III. MAHE	31,422	1,386	32,808	95.78
IV. YANAM	20,062	6,992	27,054	74.16
STATE	701,447	159,372	860,819	81.49
Source : Director of Census Operations, Puducherry				

POPULATION -2001

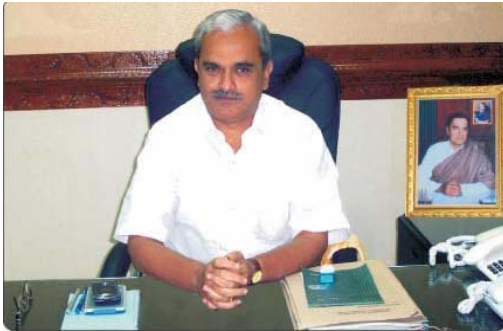
FIGURES AT A GLANCE

Population -2001			
	INDIA	PERSONS	1027015247
		MALES	531277078
		FEMALES	495738169
	PUDUCHERRY U.T	PERSONS	974345
		MALES	486961
		FEMALES	487384
	PUDUCHERRY	PERSONS	735332
		MALES	369428
		FEMALES	365686
	KARAIKAL	PERSONS	170640
		MALES	84365
		FEMALES	86275
	MAHE	PERSONS	36823
		MALES	17146
		FEMALES	19677
	YANAM	PERSONS	31362
		MALES	15876
		FEMALES	15486
II	PERCENTAGE DECADEL		

	GROWTH RATE		
	INDIA	1991-2001	21.34
	PUDUCHERRY .U.T.		20.56
	PUDUCHERRY		20.82
	KARAIKAL		17.11
	MAHE		10.09
	YANAM		54.52
III	SEX RATIO		
	(No. of females per 1000 males)		
	INDIA		933
	PUDUCHERRY .U.T.		1001
	PUDUCHERRY		990
	KARAIKAL		1023
	MAHE		1148
	YANAM		975
IV	POPULATION DENSITY		
	(per Sq. Km.)		
	INDIA		324
	PUDUCHERRY .U.T.		2029
	PUDUCHERRY		2534
	KARAIKAL		1060
	MAHE		4091
	YANAM		1568
V	PERCENTAGE OF LITERACY		
	RATES BY SEX		
	INDIA	PERSONS	65.38
		MALES	75.85
		FEMALES	54.16
	PUDUCHERRY U.T	PERSONS	81.49
		MALES	88.89
		FEMALES	74.13
	PUDUCHERRY	PERSONS	80.9
		MALES	88.72
		FEMALES	73.04
	KARAIKAL	PERSONS	82.24
		MALES	89.69
		FEMALES	74.99
	MAHE	PERSONS	95.78
		MALES	97.59
		FEMALES	94.23
	YANAM	PERSONS	74.16
		MALES	79.11
		FEMALES	69.07



Dr. IQBAL SINGH His Excellency Lt.Governor of Puducherry



Thiru. V. VAITHILINGAM
Hon'ble Chief Minister

- **Planning and Finance**
- **General Administration**
- **Electricity**
- **Agriculture**
- **Hindu Religious Institutions**
- **All other subjects not allocated to any other Ministers**
- **Relief and Rehabilitation**

Thiru. E. VALSARAJ
Hon'ble Home Minister

- **Home**
- **Health and Family Welfare**
- **Law**
- **Port**

- **Jail**

- **Industries and Commerce**

- Science, Technology and Environment
- Vigilance and Anti-Corruption
Sainik Welfare Department

Thiru. M.O.H.F. SHAJAHAN
Hon'ble Public Works Minister

- Public Works
- Information and Technology
- Transport
- Collegiate Education
- Art & Culture
- Government Automobile Workshop
- Wakf Board
- Minority

Thiru. MALLADI KRISHNA RAO
Hon'ble Revenue Minister

- Revenue
- Excise
- Fisheries
- Tourism
- Civil Aviation
- Sports and Youth Affairs

Thiru. M.Kandasamy
Hon'ble Welfare and Co-Operation Minister

- Social Welfare
- Women and Child Welfare
- Adi - Dravidar Welfare
- Backward Class Welfare
- Co-operation
- Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs
Labour and Employment

Thiru. A. NAMASSIVAYAM
Hon'ble Public Health Minister

- Public Health Division(P. W. D.)
- Local Administration
- Community Development

- **D.R.D.A.**
- **Urban Basic Services**
- **Fire Services**
- **Housing**
- **Town and Country Planning including Planning Authorities**
- **Animal Husbandry**
- **Economic and Statistics**
- **Stationery and Printing**

Geography

All four areas of the territory are seaside tourist resorts. The city of Puducherry is divided into two parts by a canal, and all the main streets, running parallel to one another, lead to the open roadstead offshore. The port of Puducherry does not have a harbour, and ships are forced to lie about 1 to 2 miles (1.5 to 3 km) offshore, but its roadstead was once considered the best on the Coromandel Coast. There are a promenade, a landing place for cargo, and a pier. In and around the city are artesian wells that supply a large quantity of water for irrigation, the chief local crops being rice, sugarcane, cotton, and peanuts (groundnuts). The main industries are food processing and the manufacture of electrical appliances, textiles, paper, and lumber. The Puducherry area has about 300 villages and hamlets.

The Karaikal sector, south of the Puducherry sector, is in the fertile Kaveri River delta, in one of the most important rice-producing areas of India. The exceptional fertility of the region is to some extent reflected in the unusually high density of its rural population. The town is on the Mayavaram-Peralam route, a branchline of the southern railway.

The Mahe sector consists of two parts: the quaint picturesque town of Mahe, with its buildings situated on the left bank of the Mahe River close to its mouth; and the isolated tract known as Naluthrara, on the right bank, comprising the four villages of Chambara, Chalakara, Palour, and Pandaquel. Rice is the chief crop grown in the sector.

Yanam is a small town on the bank of a branch of the Godavari River, about 400 miles (650 km) north of the city of Chennai (Madras), near Kakinada.

The major languages spoken in the areas are Tamil, Malayalam, and Telugu. Tamil is predominant in the southern settlements of Puducherry and Karaikal; Malayalam is predominant in Mahe; and Telugu is spoken mainly in Yanam. Other significant languages in the territory include Urdu, French, Kannada, Hindi, Gujarati, English, and Marathi.

Hindus form the majority in all four regions; Muslims are an important minority in Karaikal, Mahe, and Yanam; and Christians are numerous in Puducherry. There are also a few Sikhs, Buddhists, and Jains.

There are no heavy industries or mining in the union territory; it purchases its entire power requirement from nearby states. Puducherry is governed by a lieutenant governor who is advised by a chief minister and a Council of Ministers. The jurisdiction of the Madras High Court extends over the union territory.

Puducherry contains the Hindu ashram (religious retreat) of the philosopher Sri Aurobindo (1872–1950), as well as Auroville, the international township and study centre that was named for him. The Romain Rolland Public Library houses some rare French volumes. A medical college, a law college, an engineering college, and several other colleges for general education are affiliated with the University of Madras.

History

The French East India Company (formed by Jean-Baptiste Colbert in 1666) established a settlement in 1668 at Surat and another in 1674 at Pondicherry (now Puducherry). The company's director, François Martin, made Pondicherry the capital of the French posts. Mahe was founded in 1725, followed by Yanam in 1731 and Karaikal in 1739. French concerns multiplied in Bengal, with Chandernagore (Chandannagar) as centre, especially after 1730 under the direction of Joseph-François Dupleix, who in 1742 was appointed general director.

From 1763 the French establishments in India, which were under the authority of the king after the abolition of the company in 1769, comprised—apart from a few small posts (loges)—no more than five settlements of moderate size: Chandernagore in Bengal, Yanam at the mouth of the Godavara River, Pondicherry and Karaikal on the Coromandel Coast, and Mahe on the Malabar Coast. The English conquest of India lessened the commercial activity of the French settlements. They were occupied by the English in 1778 and again in 1793, but in 1816 they were returned to France. The Second Republic of France granted them local government and representation in the French parliament. Under the Second Empire of France, commercial liberalism and Anglo-French understanding gave these settlements a fleeting moment of prosperity.

In 1947 the loges were given back to independent India. Chandernagore was finally transferred in 1951. De facto transfer of the four remaining French possessions to the Union of India took place on Nov. 1, 1954, and de jure transfer was completed on May 28, 1956. Instruments of ratification were signed on Aug. 16, 1962, from which date Pondicherry, consisting of the four enclaves, became a union territory. The territory formally took the name Puducherry in 2006.
