

# NOSTALGIA OF THE FRENCH IN YANAM

**J. Chalapathi Rao**

Assistant Professor, Department of History,  
Kasthurba College for women,  
Villianur, Puducherry- 605110.  
Email:janjalichalapathirao@gmail.com

## A b s t r a c t

Many European countries came to India for trading purpose. Among them the Portuguese were the first followed by the Dutch, the Danes, the English and the French. The French was the last of the west European power to reach the Indian shores during the second half of the seventeenth century. The French established their settlements on the western as well as on the eastern coasts of India. One such eastern coast settlement was Yanam which is the smallest enclave of the French in India. It is a part of Andhra Pradesh geographically and ethnically but politically and administratively was part of Pondicherry and Paris. As a colony of France the visible remnants of the French presence in Yanam are the St. Ann's Catholic Church built in 1846, the cemetery with tombs of French nationals, the Administrator's building, the Court building and Maniam Kankaya's palatial residence. French was taught as one of the subjects in Sri Tanguturi Prakasam Pantulu Junior College till recently. There was a lecturer from Pondicherry in this college teaching French but after his death French was not taught here. According to a natives of Yanam, called that "Yanam is a small France". After merger it was forgotten and abandoned by France. Local people are very proud to say that they had a French past. Recently Union territory of Pondicherry in an effort to strengthen its French connection is erecting a replica of Eiffel Tower of Paris at Yanam. In this connection the present paper focuses on the visible remnants of the French presence in Yanam on the Coromandel Coast of Peninsular India considering its historical connections.

**Key words:** Eiffel Tower, Coromandel Coast, remnants, Portuguese, the Dutch, the Danes,