

Alcoholism : A general health survey of the population in the rural areas, during 1966-67 showed 13 per cent. of the population being addicted to alcohol. But prohibition has never been in force in this Territory and the drinking habit is accepted both socially and culturally.

Peptic ulcer : This is fairly common in Pondicherry region. The peptic ulcer admission rate of 1.8 per cent. is said to be the same as for South India and higher than those reported from other parts of India.⁸⁰ Manual labourers show a highly significant predilection for peptic ulcer.

IV. Public hospitals and dispensaries

A brief account of the medical institutions functioning in the Territory is given below :

General Hospital, Pondicherry : The growth of the hospital since 1853 up to 1954 has already been dealt with.

During the Second Plan period the hospital was equipped with the latest and better medical and surgical instruments. As the facilities at the hospital were not found adequate enough to meet the requirements, a new block with a capacity of 126 beds with separate wards for Medicine, Surgery and Paediatrics was constructed at a cost of Rs. 12.30 lakhs and declared open sometime during 1964-65.⁸¹ A blood bank was also started in 1964.⁸² The Diabetic Clinic went into operation in August 1973. The Leprosy Clinic started functioning from 31 August 1965. The new X-Ray plant was provided with an X-Ray block in 1969. The Filaria Clinic was opened in November 1971. A separate clinic for psychiatric patients started functioning in the General Hospital with effect from 18 January 1974. By 1972, the bed strength of the General Hospital increased to 350 of which 80 were meant for females.⁸³

As the main building of the General Hospital built more than a century ago had become too weak it was decided to demolish the structure and raise instead a five storeyed building. The foundation for the proposed new building was laid on 13 August 1973.

Maternity Hospital, Pondicherry : The facilities at the Maternity Hospital was also found inadequate to meet the growing needs of the population. As part of the first phase, a new maternity block accommodating 40 beds was constructed and occupied during 1964-65. During the Third Plan period, the

hospital was provided with an air-conditioned operation theatre and an X-Ray block.⁸⁴ During the IV Plan period, the Maternity Hospital was further expanded with another 40 beds by adding a new floor over the block constructed in 1964. In 1969 a Maternity and Child Health Services Unit was attached to the hospital. Following the introduction of the Post-partum Scheme for Family Planning, an operation theatre and a 16-bed sterilization ward was attached to the Maternity Hospital in 1972. The total bed strength of the hospital had increased to 216 (Obstetrics and Gynaecology-200 and Post-partum Programme-16).

T.B. Sanatorium, Dhanwantarinagar : The foundation stone having been laid by Shri Jawaharlal Nehru in 1955, the 110-bed sanatorium built at a cost of Rs. 25 lakhs was declared open in December 1963. Situated within a campus of 32.00 Ha. it is a self-contained institution with all amenities. The conversion of the T.B. Clinic into a Chest Clinic where other diseases like cancer, bronchitis and other chest diseases could also be treated was under active consideration.

Mahatma Gandhi Leprosarium, Dubrayapet : The donation made by Desbassyns de Richemont, an ex-governor of Pondicherry to the **Comité de Bienfaisance** of Pondicherry in 1842 led to the establishment of this leprosarium. In 1847 the **Comité de Bienfaisance** of Pondicherry was allotted, free of cost, a site measuring 8,426 sq. metres for the construction of the asylum. Situated amidst a coconut grove and surrounded by a wall, the leprosarium provided accommodation for about 100 inmates. It was also provided with a kitchen, a store and a chapel. In 1918 the leprosarium appears to have undergone some reorganisation the details of which are not however available. In 1924, the asylum came to be called **Hospice Prophylactique** when the emphasis shifted from segregation of lepers to their treatment. The Sanatorium functioned independently of the General Hospital. The **Hospice Prophylactique** was provided with 120 beds but total admission always exceeded by 40 to 50 patients. Cases from outside the territory also used to be admitted here.⁸⁵ There were two separate sections, one for males and another for females. On 2 October 1975, the institution was renamed as Mahatma Gandhi Government Leprosarium.

General Hospital, Karaikal : What began as a **Dispensaire** in 1855 grew into a '**Centre Médical**' with a maternity wing attached to it. After merger, a dental section and an ophthalmic section were opened in the hospital. In due course, the hospital came to be equipped with a pathological laboratory, a building for the V.D. Clinic, a 25-bed isolation ward and an

X-Ray Unit. The hospital complex was further expanded under the III Plan with the construction of nurses' quarters, separate male and female wards, a surgical ward, a kitchen block, a pharmacy, an out-patient department, operation theatre, etc. A blood bank was opened on 6 September 1972.

Maternity Wing, Karaikal : The maternity wing which came to be attached to Karaikal 'Centre Médical' in 1935 saw little progress thereafter. The bed strength remained static at 60 between 1959 and 1967. It was strengthened further with an additional 35-bed block in 1967.

General Hospital, Mahe : The 'Centre Médical' in Mahe saw several improvements after merger. Under the II Plan, a general ward and a T.B. ward of 12 beds each and an X-Ray block were added to the hospital. A 10-bed children's ward started functioning from June 1970. A 10-bed surgical ward was opened in 1970. The Mahe General Hospital was attached with Maternity, Paediatric and T.B. wards in 1969-70. As a result of all the improvements carried out the bed strength stood increased to 100.

General Hospital, Yanam : This hospital which had 19 beds in all at the time of merger was provided with an annexe for the staff and an isolation ward and operation theatre. A 12-bed maternity block was opened on 17 September 1962. The hospital was provided with X-Ray facilities in 1972. The bed strength had since then increased to 40.

JIPMER Hospital, Dhanwantarinagar : The hospital which is attached to the Jawaharlal Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research is run and maintained by the Ministry of Health, Government of India. Equipped with 624 beds, the hospital became operative in April 1966. There are also special air-conditioned as well as A and B class wards accounting for an additional strength of 44 beds. In-patient and out-patient treatment is available in the branches of Medicine, Surgery, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Paediatrics, E.N.T., Ophthalmology, Orthopaedic surgery, Tuberculosis, Dentistry, Psychiatry, V.D. and Dermatology, Radio Diagnosis, Cobalt, Radium and Caesium Therapy, Cardiology and Cardio Surgery.

The Central Resuscitation Unit and the Tetanus Resuscitation Unit were commissioned in 1971. Facilities for radium treatment of cancer was also added the same year. The hospital was provided with a modern respiratory equipment besides radium and caesium needles and tubes. A cobalt-60 equipment donated under the Colombo Plan was fitted in 1971 with a new source of three thousand curies strength fabricated indigenously by the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre.

The following are the special evening clinics conducted on specified days :

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|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Diabetic clinic | 6. Club-Foot clinic |
| 2. Polio clinic | 7. Well-Baby clinic |
| 3. E.N.T. clinic | 8. Cardiac clinic |
| 4. Thoracic clinic | 9. Leprosy clinic |
| 5. Respiratory clinic | |

Besides those mentioned above, follow-up clinics such as child guidance clinic, hand clinic, etc. were started in 1971. The plastic surgery department, Post-Partum Unit and the Urban Family Planning Centre were started in 1973. Facilities are also available to carry out advanced renal and cardiac surgery. The mechanised laundry, central sterilisation, the scientific maintenance of medical records, the central piped system of oxygen and suction to every bed providing quick service in case of emergency are some of the special features of this hospital. Blood transfusion services are also available in the hospital. The Blood Bank Society started in September 1970 is a registered body which encourages the public to resort to voluntary blood donation. It maintains a panel of voluntary blood donors.

Primary Health Centres : All the Primary Health Centres in the Territory were established only after merger. The Government of India in 1957 sanctioned the establishment of three centres in Pondicherry and one in Karaikal. Subsequently however the Government of India, sanctioned as many as 11 Centres for the Territory. There were in all 12 Primary Health Centres in the Territory. Details of all Primary Health Centres are furnished below :

Primary Health Centres	No. of sub-centres attached	No. of medical depots attached	No. of villages benefited	Population covered
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1. Mannadipattu (1962) ..	3	—	20	14,011
2. Mettuppalaiyam (1962) ..	3	—	26	32,160
3. Tavalakuppam (1962) ..	3	—	13	11,500
4. Katterikuppam (1962) ..	3	—	12	10,254
5. Kirumambakkam (1963) ..	3	—	25	14,015

	(1)		(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
6.	Kalapet	(1963) ..	3	1	20	22,531
7.	Karkilambakkam	(1964) ..	3	1	12	10,254
8.	Varachchakudi	(1964)	2	—	11	6,125
9.	Nedungadu	(1965) ..	3	—	28	9,435
10.	Tirunallar	(1965) ..	3	—	22	20,445
11.	Vilidiyur	(1965) ..	2	—	13	5,480

All these Primary Health Centres manned by a male and a lady doctor are provided with vehicles, microscopes, oxygen therapy facilities and refrigerators. They are not only located in government buildings but also are provided with a six-bed in-patient ward each. Treatment in specialities such as tuberculosis, E.N.T. and paediatrics to patients attending the Primary Health Centres located in Pondicherry region is provided through Specialists attached to the General Hospital, Pondicherry who visit the Primary Health Centres once a week. 86

The Ramanathapuram Primary Health Centre, one of the eleven sanctioned in 1958 was transferred to the control of JIPMER in 1965. The Primary Health Centre at Mannadipattu although built originally under the Community Development Programme was handed over to the Medical Services in February 1962.

Sub-Centres : As on 31 December 1972, there were 31 Sub-Centres in the Territory attached to the Primary Health Centres. The list of Sub-Centres and the names of Primary Health Centres to which they are attached are given below :

Sub-Centres (1)	Primary Health Centres to which attached (2)
Pondicherry region :	
1. Kanakachettikulam	} Kalapet
2. Pillaichavadi	
3. Laspettai	
4. Kilur	} Karkilambakkam
5. Aranganur	
6. Manaveli	

(1)	(2)
7. Suttukanni	} Katterikuppam
8. Sellippattu	
9. Kakkalippattu	
10. Manappattu	} Kirumambakkam
11. Koraimedu	
12. Manamedu	
13. Tiruvandarkovil	} Mannadipattu
14. Kalitirtakuppam	
15. Sanyasikuppam	
16. Kadirkamam	} Mettupalaiyam
17. Saram	
18. Kusappalaiyam	
19. Thimmanayakenpalayam	} Tavalakuppam
20. Andiarpalaiyam	
21. Nallavadu	
Karaikal region :	
22. Mel Kasakkudi	} Nedungadu
23. Vadamattam	
24. Kulakudy	
25. Muppattankudi	
26. Karkkankudi	} Tirunallar
27. Pettai	
28. Rayampalaiyam	} Varachchakudi
29. Tiruvettakudi	
30. Akkaravattam	} Vilidiyur
31. Manapet	

In 1956 a 'Dépôt Médical' was opened at Thimmanayakenpalayam in the building provided by a local philanthropist. This was subsequently converted into a Sub-Centre and attached to the Tavalakuppam Primary Health Centre.

Dispensaries : There were as on 31 December 1972 twentyone dispensaries in the Territory,—18 of them rural dispensaries and three urban dispensaries. Details of all dispensaries in the Territory are furnished below :

Dispensaries		No. of beds available	No. of villages benefited	Population served
Pondicherry Region :				
1.	Ariyankuppam (1957)	.. 4	7	16,931
2.	Bahur (1957)	.. 5	11	11,637
3.	Odiansalai (Jean Mermoz)	.. —	Urban	12,112
4.	Karaiyamputtur (1964)	.. —	2	3,764
5.	Madukkarai (1958)	.. 2	7	4,739
6.	Mudaliyarpettai	.. —	18	35,055
7.	Muttialupettai (1956)	.. —	20	25,000
8.	Nettappakkam (1953)	.. 5	13	9,522
9.	Reddiyarpalaiyam (1936)	.. 5	21	20,684
10.	Sorappattu (1968)	.. 6	8	1,673
11.	Tirubhuvanai (1940)	.. 4	6	12,634
12.	Tirukkanur	.. —	—	1,707
13.	Villiyannur (1952)	.. 4	28	26,279
Karaikal Region :				
14.	Ambagarattur (1967)	.. —	3	3,697
15.	Kottuchcheri (1957)	.. 4	8	5,200
16.	Nallambal	.. 2	10	8,000
17.	Nallattur (1970)	.. —	5	970
18.	Niravi (1957)	.. 4	12	6,307
19.	T.R. Pattinam (1956)	.. 10	13	12,360
Mahe Region :				
20.	Pallur	.. 22	4	9,850
21.	Pandakkal	.. —	1	3,853

In 1956, a Maternity Centre was opened at Puranasingapalayam in a building offered by the villagers.

To begin with, Ambagarattur and Pandakkal were provided with only a **Dépôt Médical**. They were upgraded into dispensaries in June 1967. Apart from these two dispensaries and those at Nallattur and Sorappattu all the other dispensaries were opened prior to merger. The Nallattur Dispensary started functioning in 1967 in a rented building.

As part of the Pallur Dispensary, a 20-bed maternity ward was opened in December 1970 to cope up with the large number of maternity cases. Thus it could accommodate in all only 22 patients. In order to cope up with the rush for admissions, a proposal to add a 25-bed complex to the dispensary was under consideration.

Medical Depots : As on 31 December 1972, there were six Medical Depots in the Territory located at (1) Uruvaiyar, (2) Sultanpettai, (3) Alankuppam, (4) Embalam in Pondicherry and (5) Karaikalmedu and Karaikovilpattu in Karaikal region. The Uruvaiyar and Sultanpettai Depots are attached to the Villiyannur Dispensary. The Alankuppam Medical Depot is attached to the Kalapet Primary Health Centre.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres : The three Maternity and Child Welfare Centres sponsored by the Government of India were established so as to form part of the Reddiarpalayam and Nettappakkam Dispensaries in Pondicherry region and the Nedungadu Primary Health Centre in Karaika region.

V. Private hospitals and dispensaries

Clinique St. Joseph : In 1855, only two years after the opening of the new **Hôpital Colonial**, the sisters of the Congregation of St. Joseph de Cluny were called in to assist in running the hospital. They worked there until their services were dispensed with during the laicisation. They were reinstated in 1923 but left on New Year's Day 1961, to set up their own Maternity Clinic and Dispensary. Later a Medical Block and a Creche were added. The maternity and medical wards consist of more than 100 beds.

In 1898 two sisters of this Congregation went to work in the Leprosarium at the request of the administration. Although they withdrew from there at the time of the laicisation in 1904, they returned in August 1936 and continued to work there.