

HEALTH

Andaman & Nicobar Islands have a well-developed health infrastructure in the form of 107 Sub-Centres. 19 Primary Health Centres, 4 Community Health Centres, 7 Homoeo Dispensaries and 2 district hospitals in the rural areas and 5 Urban Health Centres, one Homoeo dispensary, one Ayurvedic dispensary and one referral hospital in the town.

The present Birth rate & Death rate is 17.81 & 3.46 per thousand populations respectively. The infant Mortality Rate at present is 17.33 per thousand live births. Couple Protection Rate is 58.16% and total Fertility Rate is 1.9/1000. The percentage of institutional delivery by skilled person is 82%.

The incidence of nutritional deficiency diseases, diarrhea and communicable disease, which were the main causes of mortality and morbidity in the past, has considerably been brought down. It is a unique feature of these islands that all health facilities are provided free of cost including treatment, investigation, medicines and diet. Only in the case of Nursing Home & Special Ward nominal rates are levied as room charges. Unlike mainland, all PHCs in the islands have 10 bedded inpatient facilities, with X-ray Laboratory and diet and all CHCs are 50-70 bedded with OT and other facilities. Further, the expenditure on treatment of serious patients at mainland under BPL category is met out of the fund provided by GOI under National Illness Assistance Fund. A total of 349 patients have benefited under this scheme.

There are 1005 hospital beds in the hospitals, CHCs and PHCs all over the territory. Of these 805 beds are in Andaman District and the remaining 200 are in the Nicobar District. Although tribal population is only 9.5%, 30% of the health institution are in the Southern group of islands.

- The Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee launched the telemedicine project on 3rd July, 2002 being in Delhi linking the G.B.Pant Hospital, Port Blair with Sri Ramachandra Medical College & Research Institute.
- The first mobile dispensary was inaugurated and made functional on 14th August 2002 at PHC, Garacharma.
- The first Nursing School was inaugurated on 12th November, 2001 in the premises of the Old OPD complex in G.B Pant Hospital.
- Unique Laproscopic, Cholestectomy surgery was conducted with the help of Karl Storz-interscope from 18th to 21st July, 2003

National Programmes:

Family Welfare Programme: the performance during the year 2001-2002 & 2002-2003 is as under:

Year	Sterilization		Contraceptives		
	Vasectomy	Tubectomy	OP Cycles	IUD	Condom User
2001-2002	24	2103	100	1145	1581
2002-2003 (upto 11/02)	1840		11884	1485	137998

Universal Immunization Programme (UIP): Due to high level of coverage no case of Diphtheria has been reported during the last 15 years. Similarly, incidence of Whooping Cough has also become negligible. There were only 15 cases of Measles in the last 2 years and no confirmed case of Polio has been detected or reported during the last 6 years.

National Anti Malaria Programme:-

The incidents of Malaria have shown fluctuating trend and seasonal variation in the last 2 years. Of the 2,02,542 blood slides examined 865 were found positive and all were treated during the 2002. One death was confirmed. During recent times personal protection through impregnation of mosquito bed nets and bio-environmental control methods eliminate vector have been encouraged.

National Leprosy Eradication Programme: Multi Drug therapy scheme was started in the UT on 14th Nov, 1991 with Leprosy caseload of 831 cases with a prevalence rate of 29.6 per 10,000 population. The caseload and prevalence rate has come down to 1.65 per 10,000 population. At present there are 59 cases of Leprosy cases which includes 24 Multi Bacillary (MB) and 35 Pauci Bacillary (PB). A total of 55 new cases have been detected and 84 cases made release from treatment during the period from 1-4-2002 to 31-3-2002.

National Blindness Control Programme

Under this programme the state programme cell has been created. A total number of 530 cases of cataract were operated with Intro Ocular Lens against the target of 500 for the year 2002-2003. For the first time micro surgery with IOL implantation

was conducted in the rural and remote islands with the help of a newly purchased sophisticated micro scope.

National Aids Control Programme: The National AIDS Control Programme was launched in the UTT as a 100% centrally sponsored scheme during the year 1992-93. A&N AIDS Control Society was registered under the Chairmanship of Commissioner-cum-Secretary (Health), Director of Health Services as Vice-Chairman and Project Director as member Secretary on 30th Oct, 1998.

Birth & Death Registration: This territory has achieved 100% registration of birth events. Apart from this action is already in hand for registration of marriage. The Urban Birth & Death Registration Centre of this territory has been computerized on 2nd Dec.,2002.