

**Public Relations Department, Chandigarh Administration**  
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**Press Release**

**Chandigarh, December 31:- Holding many firsts in healthcare in its fold for the Union Territory of Chandigarh, 2009 has ended on a good note. Thanks to the slew of first-time initiatives taken by the Health Department of the UT Administration, health indices in Chandigarh made the ascending graph in the year we have left behind.**

**This is despite the fact that besides providing healthcare facilities to its denizens, Chandigarh also caters to the medical needs of the three neighbouring states of Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh. This puts added pressure on its infrastructure and healthcare facilities and the UT Administration has to factor in all this while drawing up any plans on this front.**

**"Healthcare is one field where even adequate is not enough. Pressures and demands on its infrastructure notwithstanding, the Health Department of the UT Administration succeeded in notching up many firsts in 2009. Chandigarh topped the states and UTs in blood transfusion services; joined the band of leprosy-free cities/states in the country; achieved the total fertility rate of 'two children per couple'; set up the first dental implant centre of its kind in the public sector which has attracted universal acclaim and applaud; and has been adjudged the second best in the country for achieving 100 per cent birth and death registration", said Dr M. S. Bains, Director, Health Services and Family Welfare, UT Administration.**

**The major achievement of the UT Administration on healthcare front in 2009 was elimination of leprosy which means the prevalence rate being less than one per 10,000. "In 2008-09 it was 0.28 and now it is 0.24. The annual case detection rate in 2008-09 was 3.25 which decreased to 1.36 up to October, 2009", Dr Swami Dass Mehta, in charge, Skin Department, GMSH-16 and State Leprosy Officer, said.**

**Chandigarh has shown the way in population control, leaving others way behind. In what amounts to a pat on the back of the Health Department, Chandigarh has achieved the total fertility rate (TFR) of 'two children per couple', the target set by the Union Government well before the deadline.**

**"The first-of-its-kind ultra-modern centre in the state sector with advanced dental implant facilities, set up in Sector 45 by the UT Administration, aims at making dental implant affordable for the common man. The charges here being much less than in the private sector, it is attracting people from far and wide", Dr Bains added. Besides, Chandigarh has done its villages proud. It has scored 100**

per cent in extending healthcare facilities to its villagers by making these available to them under the NRHM. All the 13 villages of UT now enjoy access to health sub-centres within a distance of three kms. Two mobile units are covering all villages and slums on weekly/ fortnightly basis providing eye/ gynecand dental facilities under NRHM.

What's more, Chandigarh has established two new-born care services at two community health centres. It has total immunization covering age of 73 per cent; measles and DPT coverage of 88.7 per cent and BCG 96.2%. According to an official of the Health Department, in October 2009, 1,27,567; November 1,30,507 and in December 1,29,075 children in the age group of 0-5 years were covered under the polio campaign.

In TB control programme, UT has been ranked among the top five performing states. It has total case detection rate of 243 per lakh of population against the national level of 257 per lakh; new sputum positive case detection rate 84 per cent against 70 per cent; sputum conversion rate in new cases at three months 92 per cent against national 90 per cent; cure rate in new cases 88 per cent against 85 and default rate of three per cent against more than five per cent.

All this could not have been achieved without massive spending on healthcare. Up to October, 2009, the Health Department had spent Rs 17.55 lakh on the vector-borne disease control programme; Rs 17.78 lakh on IDSP; Rs 69.52 lakh on RCH-II; Rs 1.33 lakh on immunization programme; Rs 3.84 lakh on iodine deficiency control programme; Rs 12 lakh on control of blindness; Rs 4.1 lakh on control of deafness; Rs 30.75 lakh on tuberculosis control programme; Rs 4.75 lakh on leprosy eradication programme and Rs 72.52 lakh on mission flexi pool.

Come 2010 and Chandigarh will have the facility of telemedicine. The Central Government has approved a project for setting up Telemedicine facility in Chandigarh. "For this purpose, Rs 25 lakh has been released by the Centre. Since the project is of technical nature, the Society for Promotion of Information Technology (SPIC) may be allotted the work", Dr Bains added.