

The percentage of persons born within the region of enumeration varies from 62.8 per cent. in Yanam to 79.1 per cent. in Pondicherry. The percentage of immigrants from other states in India varies from 30.5 per cent in Yanam region to 19.4 per cent. in Pondicherry region. In Karaikal it is 25.5 per cent. Pondicherry and Karaikal regions show 0.8 per cent. of their total population as persons born outside India. This is because of the close connections of Pondicherry and Karaikal with other French and British colonies and mainland France.

Migrants to the urban areas from within the Territory, both from the district of enumeration and other districts of the Territory, form only 6.7 per cent. of the urban population. Males form 6.8 per cent. and females 6.6 per cent. Not much of a disparity is observed between male and female migrants. Pondicherry (urban) has 8 per cent. which is the highest. The lowest is that of Yanam which is 3 per cent. Karaikal and Mahe hold the second and third position.

All areas except Karaikal have attracted more male immigrants. The immigrants in Mahe and Yanam are below the Territorial average both for males and females. Pondicherry region shows more immigrants in both sexes than the Territorial average, while in Karaikal females are more than the males. This may mean that in Karaikal more women move to the town by marriage from other parts of Thanjavur District. Pondicherry has a higher male population and it can be explained by the fact that males who go in search of employment do not bring in their family unless they are permanently settled. The second and the largest contributor to the immigrants in urban areas are the other states in India. In all 27 per cent. of the urban population are immigrants from other states. Yanam has the highest percentage of 34.4 per cent. while Karaikal has the lowest with 24.2 per cent. 24

II. Language

The Territory has a very interesting language composition. This is primarily due to the scattered location of the regions in three different linguistic areas—Yanam surrounded by Andhra Pradesh where Telugu is the dominant language, Mahe surrounded by Kerala where Malayalam is dominant, Pondicherry and Karaikal being surrounded by Tamil Nadu where the dominant language is Tamil.

The fact that several other languages are spoken in the areas which comprise the Union Territory today has another historical explanation. The south of India witnessed waves of immigrants of various races, castes and communities from the north at different periods. Members of such castes as Reddiars, Cavarais etc., migrated from the Telugu country during the Vijayanagar days. Members of such communities as Seniers, who migrated from Karnataka speak Kannada. Because of Pondicherry's long and close relations with Chandernagore and the existence of Sri Aurobindo Ashram, a good number of Bengalis have settled down in Pondicherry town. The close association of Pondicherry with the Mahratta and Muslim rulers since XVII century introduced Urdu and Marathi into the Territory. Marathi speaking families especially engaged in cloth weaving came to settle in the Territory in the heyday of Pondicherry's textile exports.

The Malaye, Burmese and Vietnamese languages also find speakers in the Territory because of the Territory's migratory contacts with Malaya, Burma and Indó-China. Contacts with France and British India have been instrumental in some people adopting those languages as their mother-tongue.

Tamil was perhaps the oldest language of the people in areas around Pondicherry and Karaikal. The Brahmi inscriptions found on some of the pottery sherds discovered at Arikamedu near Ariyankuppam is said to be one of the earliest forms of Tamil script that flourished in this part of the country. The temple inscriptions in and around Pondicherry are in Sanskrit, Grantha and Tamil. The earliest of them is in Sanskrit. The inscriptions of subsequent periods are mostly in Grantha, being an admixture of Tamil and Sanskrit. Later inscriptions are all in Tamil. Some inscriptions in Villianur temple are in Telugu which assumed some importance during the Vijayanagar days.

That Pondicherry saw the confluence of a cross-section of language groups for more than two centuries is confirmed by the Diary of Anandarangapillai. It is of some interest that he chose Tamil to write his famous diary wherein he frequently quotes Valluvar's precepts. Administrative correspondence during his time was carried on in French. Correspondence with the Kingdom of Travancore was, however, maintained in Tamil. But whenever necessary, translations in Persian and Telugu were also made available. ²⁵ For example, a letter to the Commandant of Sendamangalam Fort was written in Telugu. ²⁶ A musical performance held in the house of Anandarangapillai in the year 1746 was rendered in Telugu. ²⁷ There were also Gujarati and Armenian businessmen in the town in those days.

An interesting feature of the 1961 census was that as many as fifty-five Indian and foreign languages were returned as the mother-tongue of the people of this small Territory. Apart from all the fifteen languages recognised by the Indian Constitution, languages such as Bhojpuri, Coorgi, Gorkhali, Konkani, Marwari, Parsi, Nepali and European languages such as French, Portuguese, Irish, Polish, Flemish and German have also been returned as the mother-tongue of the population. In recent years, Sri Aurobindo Ashram and its affiliated institutions have attracted people not only from various parts of India but also from foreign countries, thus widening the language spectrum of the Territory.

Language composition of the population:

The major languages spoken in the Territory are Tamil, Malayalam and Telugu. Tamil is the predominant language in Pondicherry and Karaikal regions. Malayalam is predominant in Mahe region and Telugu in Yanam region. This is in accordance with their geographical location. The Telugu spoken nowadays in Pondicherry is a mixture of Tamil and Telugu. The other major languages spoken are Urdu, French, Kannada, Hindi, Gujarati, English and Marathi. The table below shows the language composition in the Territory per 10,000 of the population (1961 census) :

<i>Language</i>	<i>No. per 10,000 of the population</i>	<i>Language</i>	<i>No. per 10,000 of the population</i>
<i>South Indian Languages.</i>		<i>North Indian Languages.</i>	
1. Tamil	8,829	1. Urdu	70
2. Telugu	440	2. Bengali	14
3. Malayalam	561	3. Hindi	12
4. Kannada	12	4. Gujarati	10
5. Sourashtra	2	5. Marathi	6
6. Konkani	1	6. Hindustani	1
7. Korava	1	7. Nepali	1
8. Tulu	1	8. Punjabi	1
		9. Sindhi	1
		10. Sanskrit	1
		11. Marwari	1
		Languages of other Asian countries.	3
		Languages of other countries	32

At the state level 88.29 per cent. of the population returned Tamil, 4.40 per cent. Telugu and 5.61 per cent. Malayalam as their mother-tongue. Among the other Indian languages, Urdu was returned by 0.70 per cent. of the population as their mother-tongue. Bengali, Hindi, Kannada, Gujarati and Marathi have been returned by 0.14, 0.12, 0.12, 0.10 and 0.06 per cent. respectively of the total population. The rest of the Indian languages spoken as mother-tongue account for 0.10 per cent. of the total population. Languages of other Asian countries account for the mother-tongue of 0.03 per cent. of the population. Annamese, Malaye and Vietnamese contribute 0.01 per cent each. Mother-tongue languages of other continents have recorded 0.32 per cent. French contributing 0.26 per cent. and English 0.06 per cent.

Languages in the four regions :

The table below presents the distribution of 1000 population by major mother-tongues in the four regions of the Territory :

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of language</i>	<i>Pondicherry</i>	<i>Karaikal</i>	<i>Mahe</i>	<i>Yanam</i>
1.	Tamil	.. 941	982	3	4
2.	Telugu	.. 34	10	1	953
3.	Malayalam	.. 4	3	995	1
4.	Urdu	.. 9	1	N	40
5.	Bengali	.. 2	N	0	1
6.	Hindi	.. 2	N	0	N
7.	Kannada	.. 1	3	1	N
8.	Gujarati	.. 1	0	0	0
9.	Marathi	.. 1	1	0	1
10.	French	.. 4	N	0	N
11.	English	.. 1	0	N	0

N= Negligible.

Tamil, the Territory's predominant language, is significant in Pondicherry and Karaikal regions with 94 per cent. and 98 per cent. respectively of the total population speaking that language as mother-tongue. In Mahe and Yanam, Tamil records only 0.3 per cent. and 0.4 per cent. respectively. Telugu which has recorded a percentage of 4.4 in the Territory shows a high proportion in Yanam region. Pondicherry and Karaikal regions show 3.4 per cent. and 1.0 per cent. of the total population against this language. It is as low as 0.1 per cent. in Mahe region. Malayalam which shows 5.6 per cent. at the Territorial level rises to a huge proportion of 99.5 per cent. in Mahe region. Pondicherry and Karaikal regions have recorded only 0.4 and 0.3 per cent. against this mother-tongue respectively. The percentage is very low in Yanam region (0.1 per cent.).

Among the other Indian languages, Urdu has a considerable proportion with 0.7 per cent. of the total population returning it as mother-tongue at the Territorial level. The percentage ranges from 4.0 per cent. in Yanam to 0.1 per cent. in Karaikal. Urdu is mainly spoken by Muslims of the former Hyderabad areas and Upper India. Presumably, Yanam has Muslims settled there migrating from Hyderabad and North India and ex-Hyderabad territory for purposes of trade and commerce. Even though Muslims are in good number in Mahe and Karaikal regions, they do not generally belong to the stock who speak Urdu or Persian. They belong to an indigenous stock and have Malayalam in Mahe and Tamil in Karaikal as their mother-tongue. Bengali has recorded 0.2 per cent. in the Territory concentrated almost entirely in Pondicherry region. This language has not been returned in Mahe while the percentage is negligible in Karaikal. Yanam shows 0.1 per cent. under this language. It is natural to find Bengalis in Pondicherry area. The Ashram founded by Sri Aurobindo in Pondicherry town has a number of Bengalis. Hindi speakers constitute 0.1 per cent. in the Territory and 0.2 in Pondicherry region. The speakers of this language as mother-tongue are totally absent in Mahe and are found in negligible proportion in Yanam and Karaikal regions. Karaikal records 0.3 per cent. for Kannada, while in Pondicherry and Mahe, it is 0.1 each, the percentage being the same as that of the Territory. Gujarati is spoken only in Pondicherry region. The percentage of Marathi speaking people form 0.1 per cent. at the Territorial level. French, the state language during the French regime, has shown 0.3 per cent. at the Territorial level and 0.4 per cent. in Pondicherry region. Yanam and Karaikal regions have shown negligible figures while Mahe has no return

for this mother-tongue. Pondicherry region having Pondicherry town as its headquarters, had naturally more administrative offices where French was used for public purposes. The percentage of English mother-tongue speakers is 0.1 per cent. in Pondicherry region and in the Territory. It is absent in Karaikal and it is almost negligible in Mahe and Yanam regions.

Bilingualism in the Territory :

The population knowing languages other than their mother-tongue is dependent on the major mother-tongue in the locality and the language used for official purposes.

In all about 35,606 i.e., 9.65 per cent. of the population in the Territory know some other language or languages besides their own mother-tongue. Of them 23,779 are males and 11,827 females. The percentage of the bilingual population in Pondicherry region is 10.48. Mahe region records the highest percentage of 11.94. For Karaikal region it is 6.54. Yanam records 9.95.

Among those with Tamil as their mother-tongue, English, French and Telugu are the three important subsidiary languages known. Among Malayalam speakers, English is the chief subsidiary language spoken (10.14 per cent). French and Tamil are known to 2.36 per cent. and 2.32 per cent. of the Tamil speakers. Tamil, English and French are, in decreasing proportion, the three major subsidiary languages known to those whose mother-tongue is Telugu in the Territory. A good number of people whose mother-tongue is Urdu is said to know any one of the three subsidiary languages of Tamil, Telugu or English. Among French speakers, Tamil, English and Annamese are the three important subsidiary languages spoken. In the case of Bengali speakers, English and French are the two important subsidiary languages spoken. A small percentage speak Tamil or Hindi besides their mother-tongue. English is the most commonly spoken subsidiary language among those whose mother-tongue is Hindi. Tamil and French follow second and third. Among speakers of Kannada, nearly 80.73 per cent. know one subsidiary language or other with Tamil taking the first position, English and French taking the second and third positions. Gujarati speakers in the Territory are concentrated in Pondicherry region. In all 65.61 per cent. of the Gujarati speakers know one or other subsidiary languages, viz. 51.06 per cent. know English, 8.20 per cent. know Hindi and 4.76 per cent. know French. Among those whose mother-tongue is English, Tamil, French and Hindi form in the same order the three major subsidiary languages spoken in the Territory. As for those whose mother-tongue is Marathi, the three major subsidiary languages known are Tamil, English and Hindi in the same order of importance.