

## First COVID-19 fatality in Manipur; 56 years old died

IT News  
Imphal, July 29:

A 56-year-old man from Khonghng succumbed to COVID-19 at the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) COVID Care Centre in Imphal on Wednesday at around 2:30 am. The deceased is the first COVID-19 fatality in the state. He was admitted to RIMS on May 5 and was found to be positive of COVID-19 on July 26. The deceased was suffering from multiple ailments, including chronic kidney disease and diabetes. In addition, the deceased had multiple sessions of dialysis, Prof Ch. Arunkumar Singh,

Medical superintendent of RIMS said.

According to Prof Ch. Arunkumar, the cause of death is Chronic Kidney disease, respiratory tract infection, COVID-19, Type-2 Diabetes Mellitus and Hypertension. Meanwhile, mass testing of staffs of RIMS has been done today. Earlier the MS of the RIMS had stated that RIMS will be closed till July 29 even though emergency service and some others still remain open, the MS said as testing of the staffs could not be completed as of today the RIMS has decided to open its OPD by August 1. "We worried that the virus contracted to

patients and attendants who visited RIMS, so we shut down some department including the OPD for some time to make sure that the virus don't spread to patients attending the hospital", Prof. Arun said. He however added that emergency services, ante natal and other department are still open. The MS further opine to have a separate COVID-19 hospital as other patients could be provided proper health care amidst COVID time. "We will be checking all non-covid patient attending the hospital using equipments which will not take more than 10 minutes, the MS added.

## Recoveries from COVID-19 to touch 10 lakh mark; fatality rate dips to 2.23%

Agency  
New Delhi, July 29:

Total recoveries from COVID-19 in the country today inched closer to touch the one million mark. A total of nine lakh 88 thousand 29 people have recovered in the country so far and 35 thousand 286 recoveries were reported during the last 24 hours. With this, the recovery rate improved to 64.51 per cent in the country. The case fatality rate has further declined to 2.23 per cent.

The Health Ministry said, 48 thousand 513 new cases of COVID-19 were registered in the country in one day taking the total number of cases to 15 lakh 31 thousand 669. Presently, the total

number of active Corona cases in the country is five lakh nine thousand 447. In a single day, 768 deaths were reported taking the toll to 34 thousand 193. Meanwhile, Indian Council of Medical Research said that a record four lakh eight thousand 855 tests were conducted by various laboratories in the last 24 hours. So far, one crore 77 lakh 43 thousand 740 tests have been conducted and at present, one thousand 316 laboratories across India are conducting the tests that include 906 government laboratories and 410 private laboratory chains. AIR correspondent reports that Delhi stands at top position with 88.83 per cent recovery rate. Ladakh, Haryana,

Assam and Telangana are other top performing States and Union Territories wherein the recovery rate is above 73 per cent. Nearly, 16 States and Union Territories have better recovery rates than the national average of 64.51 per cent. Maximum number of people have recovered in Maharashtra followed by Tamil Nadu, Delhi and Andhra Pradesh. In terms of fatality rate, there are 29 States and Union Territories which have lower fatality rates than the national average. In the total active cases, around 70 per cent caseloads are from Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

## AMCTA joins country-wide protest on July 29

IT News  
Imphal, July 29:

All Manipur College Teachers' Association (AMCTA) today joined the country wide protest demanding the withdrawal of the undemocratic UGC guidelines dated 6th July, 2020 which is giving mandate to the universities to conduct and complete the term end examination of UG and PG by September, 2020. The "Joint Forum of Movement on Education (JFME)" which composed of AIFUCTO; Federation of Central University & College Teachers' Associations, All India Federation of Retired University & College teachers' Organisations; All India

Confederation of University & College Non-Teaching Employees; All India Federation of Elementary Teachers' Organisations; All India Forum For Right to Education along with Students' Organisations and Parents' Associations College teachers under the banner of AMCTA (All Manipur College Teachers' Association) staged the country-wide protest on demanding the withdrawal of the undemocratic UGC guidelines dated 6th July, 2020 which is giving mandate to the universities to conduct and complete the term end examination of UG and PG by September, 2020 and urging the MHRD and UGC to frame an alternative mode of

examinations" a statement said. "In view of ever expanding Corona danger in the larger part of the country, keeping in view, the life of the students JFME & AIFUCTO have demanded withdrawal of the guidelines and also suggested alternative mode of evaluation. But MHRD and UGC is adamant and adhering to its position. Student community across the country is worried due to the adamant attitude of the MHRD & UGC. AIFUCTO is firm to stand with students. In this regard, JFME had organised a webinar of all concerned on the issue to sensitise the public opinion", a statement by the teachers' body said.

## NSCN -K leadership crisis ; Lt. Gen.(Rtd.) Nyemlang Konyak elected as new President; Yung Aung group expels 3

IT News  
Imphal, July 29:

Dissatisfied over the leadership of Yung Aung as the president/chairman of the NSCN-K, Lt. Gen.(Rtd.) Nyemlang Konyak of the organization has been appointed as the new president of the rebel group which had abrogated that cease fire with the government of India.

While the Yung Aung group said that the newly elected president has been expelled along with two others from the NSCN-K for anti party activities.

A statement by the MIP (in-Charge) of NSCN/GRPN Nikato Pilot Sumi said that a plenary session of the NSCN GRPN was held on July 28, chaired by the pro-tem Speaker Lt. Gen.Niki Sumi unanimously came to a decision to appoint Lt. Gen.(Rtd.) Nyemlang Konyak as the Chairman/President of NSCN/GRPN and Inno. Starson lamkang as General Secretary/Ato Kilonser of NSCN/GRPN respectively. This appointment was mandated and necessitated by the void created and the unbecoming of a president by the former president Yung Aung who

has been found in direct contravention of the provisions of the Yehzabo on various account. The plenary session was attended by all the concerned members in NSCN-GPRN, it added. The statement stated that the reason for the replacement of the leadership as follows -

1. The former president Yung Aung in violation of the very fundamental tenets of the Yehzabo and the conventions of NSCN/GPRN, acted alone without the knowledge or consulting any members of NSCN/GPRN and tried to change the official seal of the GPRN by dispatching a newly self designed seal to be used officially, which once received was rejected outright by all the officials of NSCN/GPRN.

2. The former President Yung Aung, yet again without any consultation or meetings with concerned officials of NSCN/GPRN, clandestinely established relationship and connived with Nscn(IM) in trying to subvert and undermine Naga Sovereign Rights; who have categorically stated in no uncertain terms and signed the 2015 accord to be included under the ambit of Indian constitution, which is a direct challenge to the mandate of

the Naga people as NSCN/GPRN is mandated by Nagas for the very objective of defending and achieving our inherent Sovereign Political Rights and thus, the former president has lost all mandate of the Nagas.

The statement of the MIP / GPRN further added that despite, the grave watertight charges against the former president Yung Aung, the NSCN/GPRN patiently waited nearly 2 years, for the former President Yung Aung to come to his senses and do right by the Naga people but sadly, on his own Volation, deserted NSCN/GPRN and unofficially defected to NSCN (IM) and since then has been doing the bidding of Nscn(IM) under the directive of Indian government to sabotage and suppress our Sovereign Political Rights.

"On all counts, the former President Yung Aung has been found guilty of serious dereliction of duty and conniving with elements trying to derail our sovereign Political rights. Once again, NSCN/GPRN reiterates and places its faith and confidence in the wisdom of the Naga People's mandate and in the leadership of President Lt.Gen.(Rtd.)

Nyemlang Konyak Naga to lead the Nagas towards our Goal.NSCN/GPRN will follow in the footsteps and visions of Our Great leader late. SS Khaplang in fulfilling the Nagas' aspirations of achieving our inherent Sovereign Political Rights and continue to give support and solidarity to all Nations who are wrongfully oppressed in their struggle for freedom", the statement said.

Meanwhile, another press statement by the MIP / GPRN has stated that the outfit has expelled Lt. Gen. Niki Sumi, Dy. C-in-C Naga Army, Mr. Starson / Kilonser, NSCN.GPRN and Lt. Gen. Nyemlang Genrak Staff officer-I, Defence Naga Army for anti-party activities with immediate effect, that is July 29, 2020.

The statement said that the three had been expelled for organizing illegal meetings without authorization from the party. Other reasons stated for the expelling them are 1) failing to report to Council Headquarters even after repeated callings, Heavy misappropriation of party fund and encouraging the spreading of "ISM" and divisive policies within the party

## Distribution of food grains under PMGKAY-II started; Total 33.40 LMT food grains picked up by the States/UTs till now

PIB News  
Delhi, July 29:

After successful implementation of Prime Minister Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana (PMGKAY) from April to June 2020, the Government of India extended this scheme for another 5 months from July to November 2020. About 81 crore beneficiaries covered under National Food Security Act (NFSA) and Antyodaya Ann Yojana (AAY) are being provided 5 Kgs of Rice/wheat free of cost under this scheme. The total allocation for PMGKAY II from July to November 2020 is 200.19 LMT (91.33 LMT Wheat and 109.96 LMT rice). There has been very enthusiastic response from the

state governments as well as beneficiaries to this scheme. The scheme was rolled out on 08.07.20 and till 27.07.20, a quantity of 33.40 LMT food grains (13.42 LMT wheat and 19.98 LMT rice) has already been handed over to state governments across the country for further distribution to the beneficiaries, which is about 83% of the allocation for the month of July 2020.

Including the additional allocation of 200.19 LMT for PMGKAY II, the total quantity of food grains that will be distributed by Government of India to the vulnerable sections of the society during the 5 months will be about 455 LMT. Every beneficiary under NFSA and AAY shall receive 5

Kg of wheat or rice totally free of cost in addition to their regular quota of food grain at subsidized prices.

Extensive and detailed logistical planning has already been done by Food Corporation of India (FCI) to ensure that food grain stocks reach every part of the country as per the allocation over these 5 months. This is a huge challenge as it is double the normal allocation and the existing warehousing capacities and transportation systems are based on the regular allocations. However, FCI is fully geared up for the challenge and its ability to deliver in the most trying circumstances has already been demonstrated during the

lockdown period when new records were set in terms of logistical operations. It will be ensured that food grains reach every corner of the country as per allocations and the stated objective of the government that no poor person will have to remain hungry for want of food will be achieved.

FCI has already wound up the procurement operations for the current season and has set new records in procurement of both wheat and rice. A total of 389.76 LMT wheat and 504.91 LMT rice has been procured in the just concluded crop season. Going by the present trend of progress of monsoon, the coming Kharif season of 2020-21 is also expected to be a good one.

## Lifting of PDS rice continues amid lockdown

DIPR  
Imphal, July 29

In continuation of the state government's initiative to ensure availability of foodgrains to all concerned during the ongoing lockdown, several assembly constituencies of the state continued with the lifting of PDS rice from certain godowns located in various parts of the state.

In Imphal West district, 1431.3 quintal of rice under PMGKAY for Sagolband AC and another 1259.35 quintal for Singamei AC have been lifted on July 28. The two ACs had completely lifted it's allocated PMGKAY rice for July, 2020. Mao AC of Senapati district lifted 1347.30 quintal of rice under PMGKAY and 1470.10 quintal under NFSA for the month of August on July 28. Jiribam AC of Jiribam district

had reported lifting of 927.66460 quintal of rice under NFSA for the month of August on July 28 from FCI Godown, Jiribam.

With the lifting of 709.54 quintal of rice under NFSA in respect of Churachandpur AC of CPUR district on July 28, the AC had fully lifted it's allocated quota of NFSA rice for the month of July. Meanwhile, Saikot AC of the same district too reported lifting of 1604.95

quintal under PMGKAY for July on July 28, 2020.

In respect of Thoubal district, Lilong AC lifted 2290.45 quintal under NFSA while Wangjing Tenthra AC lifted 2051.30 quintal under PMGKAY for August on July 28, 2020.

Wabagai AC of Kakching district had fully lifted it's allocated quota of 1959.55 quintal under PMGKAY for the month July on July 27, 2020.

# ★ Editorial

## Checking corruption: the greatest joke of the in Manipur

It is now no rumours, there are video evidences of a central government employee asking money for 'chai pani' that too to an advocate in return for a service that he has been paid by the peoples' money. And still there is no action.

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh's war on corruption, which inspired the citizen of Manipur finally seems to have lost faith in him as those fighting against corruption today face dead threat from persons who claimed to be party of those involved in corruption. Not only that those inspired by the chief minister to stand up against corruption, fails to get protection from the state authority by taking up action against those intimidating the whistle blowers of the corrupt practice of some officials, but are being victimized by arresting them on charges which the court finds it as unfounded allegations.

Transparency - a global movement with the vision to free the world of corruption and having chapters in more than 100 countries leading the fight against corruption describes 'Corruption' as the abuse of power for private gain. It is a global phenomenon and is pervasive in almost every society the world over.

Corruption, especially in a state such as ours where strife and unrest is a part of our everyday life, is a consequence of the parasitic nexus between Bureaucrats, politicians and criminals.

Its reach and chronicity can perhaps be gauged by the very fact that at one time, bribe was paid for getting wrong things done but now bribe is being paid for getting right things done at right time.

With yesterday event at which an advocate who had exposed the corrupt practice of an government official arrested on counter charge by leaving aside the complaint lodged by the advocate for death threat, the big question is: Is it possible to contain corruption in our society?

To fully answer the question, it would be crucial to understand certain perceptions and myths such as: Corruption is a way of life and nothing can be done about it, or that only people from underdeveloped or developing countries are prone to corruption. This is being stated with the irresponsible nature of the state machineries. Well, they have limitation to encroach at a central office but the law says that a citizen should be protected from death threat even if the person is a central government employee as it is now a law and order problem which is a state subject.

## Digital Agriculture for Viable Food



By: Sanjenbam Jugeshwor Singh

Digital Agriculture, according to Burno Basso, Professor in the College of Natural Science at Michigan State University is where agriculture Science policy and education intersect. Putting that data to use, requires an effective balancing of competing economic and social interests while minimizing trade-offs. Technologies like genetic modification and crop production automation help produce more food than we need to survive. And while the modern food system is a monument to human ingenuity and innovation, it is not without problems. Agriculture's contributions to greenhouse gas emissions, water pollution and Biodiversity loss show that major agricultural system are on a largely unsustainable trajectory. And as the population increase energy demands and pollution scale accordingly. There are too many barriers, too many competing interests. We need to bring people to the table and design a system that works for everyone-farmers, lawmakers, and society and future generations.

Digital Agriculture is the use of new and advanced technologies, integrated into one system, to enable farmers and other stakeholders within the agriculture value chain to improve food production. Most of today's farmers make decisions such as, how much fertilisers to apply based on a combination of rough measurements, experiences and

recommendations. Once a course of action is decided, it is implemented but the result are normally not seen until harvest time. In contrast , a digital agriculture system gathers data more frequently and accurately offer combined with external resource ( such as weather information).The resulting combined data is analysed and interpreted so that farmer can make more informed and appropriate decisions. These decisions can then be quickly implemented with greater accuracy through robotic and advanced machinery and farmers can get real-time feedback on the impact their actions.

Emerging digital technologies have the potential to change farming beyond recognition. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations has referred to this change as a revolutions "a digital agriculture revolutions" will be the newest shift which could help ensure agriculture meets the needs of the global population into the future. Digital agriculture technologies have the potential to address negative side effects of the Green Revolution. In some ways, the Digital Agriculture Revolution follows patterns of previous agricultural revolutions. In the other ways, the Digital Agriculture Revolution is distinct from its predecessors. First, digital technologies will affect all parts of agricultural value chain, including off-farms segments. This differs from the first three agricultural revolutions which primarily impacted production techniques and on-farm technologies. Second, a farmer's role will require more data analysis skills and less physical interaction with livestock/ fields. Third, although farming has always relied on empirical evidence, the volume of data and the methods of analysis will undergo drastic changes in the digital revolution.

Finally, increased reliance on big data may increase the power differential between farmers and information service providers or between farmers and large value chain actors.

Digital agriculture encompasses a wide range of technologies, most of which have multiple applications along the agricultural value chain. These technologies include but are not limited to: cloud computing/ big data analysis tool ;Artificial Intelligence (AI); distributed ledger technologies including block chain and smart contracts ;the internet of things ;digital communication technologies like mobile phones ;digital platforms, such as e-commerce platforms, agro-advisory apps or e-extension websites. Each one of these brings something valuable to farming from data collection through the management and processing as well guidance and direction. This integrated system offers new insight that enhances the ability to make decisions and subsequently implement them. On the other hand precision agriculture technologies includes : sensors, including food sensors and soil sensors, guidance and tracking system ;variable -rate input technologies ; automatic section control ; advanced imaging technologies, including satellite and drone imagery to look at temperature gradients and anomalies in field ; automatic machinery and agricultural robots. The FAO estimates the world will need to produce 56% more foods (as compared to 2010, under business as usual growth) to feed over 9 billion in 2050. Furthermore, the world faces increasing challenges like malnutrition, climate change, food waste and changing diets. To produce a sustainable food future "the world must increase food production" which will cut down GHG emission and maintaining (or

reducing) the land used in agriculture. Digital agriculture could address these challenges by making the agricultural value chain more efficient, equitable and environmentally sustainable.

Digital technology changes economic activity by lowering the costs of replicating; transporting; tracking verifying and searching for data. Due to these falling costs, digital technology will improve efficiency throughout the agricultural value chain. Digital agriculture can improve the allocative efficiency of physical capital within and between farms. Often touted as 'uber for tractors' equipment sharing platforms like-Hello Tractor, WeFarmup, machinery link solutions, TroTro Tractors and Tringo facilitates farmers' rental of expensive machinery. Digital agriculture improve labour productivity through improve farmers knowledge. E-extension allows for farming knowledge and skills to diffuse at low cost. Finally, digital agriculture improve labour productivity through decreased labour requirements. Automation, inherent in precision agriculture - from 'milking robots on dairy farms to greenhouse with automated climate control can make crop and livestock management efficient by reducing labour. Digital agriculture has the potentials to make agriculture more productive, more consistent and to use time and resources more efficiently. This brings critical advantages for farmers and wider social benefits around the world. It also enables organisations across traditional industry boundaries to open up new, disruptive opportunities. But, when such opportunities will arrive in our state with full of dishonest leaders and stackholders?

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By- Rabin Prasad Kalita

## A true story: "Blessed to save them"

As the ground became rock hard dry, therefore it was not easy to find forage for them. I made a habit of keeping a large tray of water, bread crumbs, and food grains daily for my visiting birds. The crazy birds played in the water with elation because there was no freshwater or open marsh nearby. I stood noiseless daily at a fixed time, to look upon a crowd of various birds while pecking grains. It pleased me seeing their shrieking at each other and also got entertained looking at their fights silently. They were trying to dominate over one another. A pair of waterhen was always in my notice while scavenging dawn to dusk. Both kept on moving around my courtyard over and over again until their tummy got full. During the entire winter, I made my backyard as a feeding ground for various birds', especially white-breasted waterhens. For not finding any nearby water

body, a pair of waterhen started roosting in a bamboo sack close to my house. Otherwise, they love to relax perching on a low tree or shrubs. Their high pitched croaking sound woke up all my neighborhoods. One way, it was a kind of signal for me to provide food for them. Even at night, their towering metallic sounds like "quack-quack" go high when they get startled from any other animals.

"It is always darkest before the dawn". Now it's down pouring heavily almost for a fortnight after a prolonged interlude of low rainfall around. Standing on my terrace, roughly I saw many pools of water all over. Still tends to inflate the level of water due to the never-ending threads of rain. After a couple of days, the continuous croaking uproars of frogs and toads, the noisy buzzing of cicadas, chirping of various birds became ear soothing gradually. Varieties of jubilant insects came out easily by breaking its tender soil for fresh air. Gray field turned green became a refuge for those insects. Happy days arrived once again for scavenger birds to catch them easily.

My old gray and depressed by-lane rose with blocks this time. All potholes got repaired and made smooth as bridal facilitated. Like any other day, I was walking back and forth along with my wife through our hundred and ten

meters long jogging track in the first daylight.

Suddenly I was overjoyed seeing six little cute chicks of waterhen roaming confidently with their petite tail held up along with their proud parents. A petty cup-shaped nest was built in the middle of the floating vegetation of the puddle.

As soon as I saw them, they got alarmed and went inside the nest in no time. It was like they had been trained shortly after coming out of their shells. Parents were busy foraging worms for them happily keeping a continuous vigil on predatory birds. Seeing their family growing, my mind was filled with happiness.

Last night they were sounding high with mixed tone for a long time. Certainly, the croaking made by them was not a normal sound. It was akin to a displeasing call. Though I tried closing my eyes once again, my attention was mostly on the wellbeing of their young ones.

On my way in the morning, I was shocked to spot only four chicks out of six, with their disheartened parents. So, it didn't take much time for me to realize why they were crying their heart out last night.

That saddened me too, therefore; I kept on observing them time and again. Parents were looking for insects staying closest to their chicks. The chicks were getting trained running behind their parents. They seemed like fluffy black balls with their tiny legs. Though it was a matter of amusement I was more concerned about their safety. Before sundown, they changed



the place of their night halt on a weed mass in a different location. They may be doing so sneakily for fear of losing their chicks once again. As the night progressed, they began to settle down. The night went by with no much high pitched sound created by them. The next day morning, my mind was rushing to know about the wellbeing of the residual chicks. Suddenly my sight stared on a weed mound.

Oh no! There were only two chicks remained scared in between their parents. They might be crying their heart out for their missing members. The grief of losing four chicks in two consecutive days and the fear of saving the remaining two were harassing their parents.

I thought of a plan to catch both chicks before they got missing that night. But it was a hard task to grab hold of them easily because they could sprint fast. I called upon a village fisherman with his throw fishnet. We were waiting for an opportunity when they go inside

their nest so that the net could be thrown around them to grab.

Exactly at one point of time, they went inside for roosting. Soon they were in; both got caught by the net. Brought them home and initially, I kept in a cardboard box for a day. The next day, a protective cage was made on priority to keep them there.

During the day, the cage was kept in the backyard, so that their parents can see them alive. As far as possible, regardless of all the trouble I had, I tried to provide them with their favourite forage.

In a couple of weeks, they developed with an ashy coloured body. Thereafter a patch of white feathers covered along the neck to the belly. Later on, a hue of the greenish beak with a feathery tail tinted with rusty red was seen notably. Finally, their long yellowish legs along with long toes made them more graceful. What a change I could witness being with them for weeks! I saw them transforming from furry black balls to almost full-grown

waterhen with so much of amazing change throughout.

Now they are strong enough to protect themselves from predators and become adequately capable to manage their forage. Hence with great sadness, I decided to open the door of the cage once for all for letting them free to join their parents.

I did it in front of their parents while they were hunting their prey nearby. It was simply an aesthetic sight to witness. This union was not less than a pilgrimage for me. After letting them go, though it pained me, but was equally glad that they got their parents back physically after a long time. Yes, the wretched parents got their chicks back with hale and hearty. Now they all started perching together in the same bamboo sack. They all walk around quivering their tail held up in the vicinity of my backyard. Love to see them enjoy the fun of hunting together.

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## Kumkum a real girl living next door....

By Raju Vernekar



**V**eteran Bollywood actress Kumkum, (22 April 1934-28 July 2020) who regaled cine lovers in the 50s and 60s, with her superb dance skill, vivid performance suited to every character she played, finally took exit from this world on Tuesday

The actress who was off the screen for nearly three decades, revived memories of past films, especially the films of black and white era, when the technology was not much advanced, yet the films left lasting impression on viewers' mind.

Kumkum, who was introduced to Hindi films by legendary actor-filmmaker Guru Dutt in the 50s, passed away at her residence at Bandra in North West Mumbai, after battling age related ailments on 28 July 2020. She was 86.

Kumkum, who looked like a real girl living next door, starred in over 100 films during a career spanning over two decades. She was given a break by Guru Dutt in "Aar Paar" (1954) as a dancer in the song "Kabhi Aar, Kabhi Paar". She also played a small role in Guru Dutt's 1957 movie "Pyaasa".

She was best known for her roles in Mother India (1957), Naya Daur (1957), Ujala (1959), Kali Topi Lal Rimal (1959), Kohinoor (1960), Son Of India (1962), Ganga Ki Lahren (1964), Shreeman Funtooosh (1965), Ek Sapera Ek Lutera (1965), Raja Aur Runk (1968), Ankhen (1968), Geet (1970) and Lalkar (1972).

She featured in popular songs such as "Yeh Hai Bombay Meri Jaan" from 1956 film C.I.D (starring Dev Anand, Shakila, Waheeda Rehman), "Madhuban Mein

Radhika Nache Re" from 1960 film "Kohinoor" (She worked with Dilip Kumar in that film) and "Mere Mehboob Qayamat Hogi" from 1964 movie "Mr X In Bombay". Kumkum co-starred with Shammi Kapoor in a brief role in 1956 film "Mem Saheb" and played the female lead opposite Shammi Kapoor in 1959 movie "Char Dil Char Raahin". She also starred in a few Bhojpuri movies - 1963's "Ganga Maiyya Tohe Piyari Chadhaibo" was her first. She was last seen in 1973 film "Ek Kunwari Ek Kunwara".

She was trained in Kathak by the famous Pandit Shambhu Maharaj. She showed her dancing talents in the film "Kohinoor". She was paired opposite Vinod Khanna in "Dhamkee" in 1973 and the duet song "Chand Kya Hai Roop Ka Darpan" became hugely popular. She was paired opposite Pran in the comedy film "Ek Kunwara Ek Kunwari", directed by Prakash Mehra, which was a blockbuster.

She was born as Zaibunissa on April 22, 1934, in Hussainabad, Sheikhpura district, Bihar. She was the daughter of Nawab Manzoor Hassan Khan, a landlord in Hussainabad, Patna. Before her birth, her father accepted Islam. Her sister Radhika was also an actress.

Kumkum was married to Sajjad Akbar Khan, who was from Lucknow. After marriage she shifted to Saudi Arabia with her husband and stayed there for nearly 23 years. The couple had two children—Andaleeb Akbar Khan (daughter) and Hadi Ali Abrar (son) (film director). She returned to India in 1995. She came to prominence when she launched the first ever Bhojpuri film magazine in 2006.

## Rafale's land at Ambala air station

IT Correspondent  
New Delhi, July 29:

Five Rafale jets from France landed in Haryana's Ambala Air Force Station escorted by two Su-30MKIs on Tuesday. The fleet was received by Air Chief Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhaduraj. Defence minister Rajnath Singh in a tweet welcomed 'Golden Arrows' Rafale jets as it landed in IAF's Ambala station, escorted by two Su-30MKIs. Singh said that the touch down of the five fighter aircraft mark the 'beginning of new era in our

country's military history. "I congratulate the IAF on a professionally executed ferry. I am sure that 17 Squadrons, the Golden Arrows, will continue to live up to their motto of "Udayam Ajasram". I am extremely happy that IAF's combat capability has got a timely boost," Singh said. The fighter aircrafts are part of a Rs 58,000 crore deal with France to procure 36 Rafale fighter jets, inked between India and France in 2016. Out of five aircrafts, two will be retained for training, while

the rest are expected to be deployed at an Advance Landing Ground (ALG) at Vijaynagar, Arunachal Pradesh. The aircraft are capable of carrying a range of potent weapons and missiles and are equipped to carry out the air to surface attacks. They joined the Air Force fleet today. The formal induction ceremony of the aircraft would be held later. The last foreign fighters inducted into the Air Force were the Sukhoi-30s from Russia which have now become the mainstay of the Air Force after multiple orders in view of delays in placing orders for new western aircraft.

A part of security tightening measure and prohibitory orders, the Ambala district administration has barred people from flying private drones within the three-km radius of the air base. Roads leading to the Air Force Station have also been sealed till 5 pm on Wednesday. Section 144 has been imposed in four villages closer to the air base, an official said, adding that gathering of people on roofs and photography during landing is strictly prohibited.

## Open letter to the Prime Minister

### 'A serious & suggestive proposals in the indian economy and other development with the human resources'

Honourable Sir,

I, the undersigned, on behalf of the Organization, have the honour to state that our organization is a Social, Non-Profit Making, Non-Religious, Non-Community, Voluntary, Active, Non-Individual & Non-Political Organization working in different fields like Social Developmental Activities, Health, Education, SHGs, Vocational Training Courses, Trainings for Youths & Students, Empowerment of Women Groups, Old Aged Persons, Disaster & Natural Calamities, Micro Finance, Skill Development, Income Generating Activities, Cleanliness, Agriculture & Horticulture, Tourism & Industry & Elimination of Poverty of the Nation since its inception (1988 - 89) without any discrimination of Sex, Cast, Race & Religion etc. and our Organization had been working since last 30 years with a spirit of Voluntarism and we are full time workers for the welfare of Weaker Sections of the Society without any funding from the Government since the beginning of our Activities due to political influences that during the last 30 years, before setting up your Government in Manipur, we were totally victimized/ harassed by some politicians in Manipur. So we did not have a good connection with the then Government at any cause. Because we are not keeping in touch with any political party or politician as on date .

Our organization namely **D-CACUS-EDUCATION CENTRE (DCEC)** known as DCEC is a reputed NGO registered under the Manipur Societies Registration Act-1989( Act. No. 1 of 1990 ). Again, Our organization is registered under Section 12AA & 80G of Income Tax Act-1961, FCRA ( No. 194190014 ) under Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India & NITI AAYOG ( NGO DARPAN ). Our organization , DCEC are engaged in various social service projects in the grass root level and we are working in the National & International Level.

In the current situation of COVID19, where so many Poor people, Migrant Workers, Stranded Persons and no income groups require immediate support of Ration, other Food items, Financial Support, Medical Equipments & Materials & Emergency Supports including Hospital & Good Quarantine Facilities etc. for them and their family survival due to spread of COVID-19 virus in the entire world, the lock down is under the continual process.

So, under the supervision of our office bearers and with the help of hundreds

of volunteers, we have been serving the people by providing different essential Goods, Items , Foods etc. since the beginning of Pandemic COVID-19 in different parts of Manipur including Delhi/ NCR.

Further, Our organization has received a circular about Covid-19 from NITI Aayog, Govt. of India and we would like to continue our Services related to COVID-19 under the Guidance of NITI Aayog and Governmental related issues & orders from time to time.

In this regard, We are submitting herewith some suggestive proposals in the interest of the whole Society and Humankind related to Indian National Economy and Human resources with a special request to consider / discuss the proposals for the Country. Because this pandemic disease will be continued without any time limit. People need help & support without any limitation. We would like to extend the same till the life of common people are in a stable stage.

#### S U G G E S T I V E PROPOSALS:

**A. ABOUT COVID-19**  
1. Awareness start Campaigns/ Awareness physically from person to person, House to House, remote areas, Villages, Public places and Markets etc. through Press/ Media, leaflets, Posters, Loud speakers about the seriousness of COVID-19 with the involvement of various NGOs/ CSOs etc.

2. Please take a step for Mass Community Testing of COVID-19, if possible.  
3. We can conduct the process of Sanitization to Houses, Markets, Public places and different village areas with the help of Volunteers .

#### B. HEALTH & SANITATION

1. After the pandemic of COVID-19, everyone acknowledged about the requirements, deficiencies and precautionary measures in the sector of Health, Sanitation & Hygiene etc. It requires to construct proper pucca Latrines in every Houses, Good, Purified and Clean Drinking Water, Good Electricity, Good Drainage System of every Houses & small adjacent Roads, Water Ponds, Reservoirs, Cleanliness of Rivers and its maintenance etc.

2. In this Health and Sanitation Programme, we can mobilize the CSR Funds, Foreign Fund and other crowd Funding Sources through Government, NGOs, Private Funding etc.

3. We would like to start Campaigns/ Awareness of Health & Sanitation Programmes/ Systems/ Policies/ Models through NGOs/ CSOs in different Models especially related to COVID-19 and for the long term Future.

#### C. LIVELIHOOD, ECONOMY & INDUSTRY

1. We sincerely know the problems of Livelihood, Economy and Seriousness of Establishment of different types Industries in the country as a resource of Individual Incomes and development of National Economy. In this process, we need to start the Campaigns/ Awareness in the rural Areas, remote Areas and semi Urban Communities with the Governmental Guidelines.

2. Now we acknowledge about the Schemes of MSME, START-UP, MUDRA LOANS and many more in the Governmental Sectors. All these Schemes are needed for highlighting through Social Media, Leaflets, Posters etc. by translating to their local languages for a wide publicity in the Country.

3. Now we have to set up/ Establish different Small, Medium and Micro Industries / Enterprises in the Individual/ Group Level through Local resources or using their Skill Level for generating Incomes. In this regard , we are facing different problems/ difficulties in the Governmental Sector like lengthy Process, different documents, sparing of long time in the Process, contacting from Table to table, Person to person, seeking permission for meeting the officers etc. We would like to solve all these problems and uncertainties in the Governmental sector. Please try to avoid all these difficulties by regulating new methods, Norms, Laws and process like processing within a short and specific period, least Documents, contacting a single officer if possible for all permissions, Acceptance etc.

4. Please give them permissions for starting/ establishing the Industries before taking all permissions from the Government in advance and instruct them to take permission after the establishment within a period of three Months.

5. Regarding the Land utilization, it is required to grant permission for unused Lands, Wet Lands, Khas Lands and some parts of Agricultural Lands ( In some specific Condition ) to set up Industries with easy processing without any involvement of Corruption.

#### D. HEALTH SECTOR

1. Nowadays, we need to establish More Hospitals, Clinics, Institutes, Paramedical Courses/ Institutes in different small states in India. Because most of the students & Patients are going to different states for study and treatment. Going to outside is a difficult task now. So the systems of permission has to be changed for speedy of permissions in all sectors.

2. We must conduct more awareness / Campaign for different diseases like Cancer, Diabetes , Heart Problem, Arthritis, TB etc in different models for a

healthy living of all humankind in the Country.

**E. EDUCATION SECTOR**  
1. We need to establish more Educational Institutes including Technical, Professional Courses in small states to study the students themselves in their Region/ State . In this regard, the procedures of permissions are required to maintain in an easy methods for smooth functioning of the Institutes.

2. Different states have different Rules and Regulations. Sometimes it is very difficult to process or follow the rules & Regulations. In this case, please discuss for a simple proceedings of permissions.

#### F. AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

1. Now Agricultural sector is a very Important sector in the Indian Economy. We need to produce more products in the Agricultural Sector. So all kinds of Agricultural related Activities have to developed from the Government with big Schemes/ Plans in terms of Irrigation, water Supply, Marketing, Cold storages and Techniques of producing of different Products.

#### G. TOURISM & HOSPITALITY

1. Tourism and Hospitality are also main sectors now in the Country to create a mass employment both in Government and Private Sectors. Especially in Manipur, we have different Schemes of Hospitality and Tourism.

2. In Manipur, Our Loktak lake is a very beautiful lake . It has to be developed very soon for creation of Employment and Income generating.

3. In Manipur and other neighbouring States of North Eastern States, we can develop the hilly areas for Tourism and Hospitality by constructing good Roads and other Communicable facilities for creation of Income and employability.

#### H. INDIAN ECONOMY AND VILLAGE ECONOMY

1. We have to discuss a lot in different Economical Sectors that general public especially who are under below poverty line groups are suffering a lot due to bad economy in the Country. Sometimes they have the tendencies of Suicide due to Financial Problems. We have different measures to be discussed to make a financial progress of Citizens in the ground Level. This is our Humble submission and please discuss/ consider our proposals for a long term vision of the Country and developmental Progress of the Human resources.

Kindly guide us about the various Assistance/ Services that our Nation is seeking. Thanking You

With regards  
(Dr.I.S. Konthoujam)  
CMD, DCEC, Manipur

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# MFrance donates ventilators, test kits to India India, Israel kick-start anti-COVID-19 operations

IT Correspondent  
New Delhi, July 29:

French Ambassador to India Emmanuel Lenain handed over ventilators, test kits and other medical equipments to the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) as part of its assistance in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, at the Palam Air Force Station, New Delhi, after the assistance material was flown here on board a French Air Force aircraft, on Tuesday.

“Delighted to hand over COVID-19 medical equipment from France to IRCS Secretary RK Jain, Lenain tweeted along with pictures of the handover. France earlier has granted 200 million euros in financial aid to India through AFD, a French development agency. French companies, too, have contributed to relief efforts in India,” he said.

President Emmanuel Macron had recently announced the donation of medical equipment to India, as well as provision of technical



expertise, according to a statement by the French embassy.

The material being provided by France includes 50 pieces of Osiris 3 ventilators, 70 pieces of Yuwell 830 ventilators with BIPAP mode, 50,000 serological tests (IgM/IgG Duo test kits by Biosensor) and 50,000 nose and throat swabs. The Yuwell 830 ventilators have bi-level positive airway pressure (BiPAP) — a non-invasive technique to supply oxygen to the lungs without

intubation. These high-quality ventilators meet the needs of Indian hospitals, the embassy said.

While the ventilators were handed over to IRCS, the test kits will be received by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). France has sent India crucial medical equipment supplies around the same time the Rafale jets are set to arrive.

In the meanwhile, India and Israel have kickstarted an anti-coronavirus cooperative operation led by Israel’s

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and India’s Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Health. A special flight from Tel Aviv landed in New Delhi, carrying a high-level Israeli delegation which has been working with India’s chief scientist and Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) to develop rapid testing kits for coronavirus which can give the result within seconds. Dozens of sophisticated ventilators also arrived on board the special flight. Apart

from mechanical ventilators, that were brought by special permission from Israel for India, the Israeli team has also brought along hi-tech artificial intelligence respirators that will be given as grant to AIIMS, Delhi.

The unique cooperation between Israel and India will enable the Israeli delegation to collect tens of thousands of samples in only 10 days, and to analyse them using computer systems based on artificial intelligence, a statement issued by Israel’s defence and foreign affairs ministries said.

Israel’s Ambassador to India Ron Malka said if the testing kit is developed, it could be a “game-changer” in the battle against coronavirus. The Israeli defence ministry research and development team has been working with India’s chief scientist K Vijay Raghavan and DRDO to develop rapid testing for coronavirus in less than 30 seconds, the Israeli Embassy said.

## Sports News

### In football’s absence, Amarjit Singh Kiyam burns calories at his village paddy field in Manipur

Agency  
Imphal, July 29:

With no outdoor training and competitions allowed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, India’s 2017 FIFA U-17 World Cup captain Amarjit Singh Kiyam is helping his parents in paddy cultivation in his native village in Manipur. The 19-year-old midfielder, who has already graduated to the senior national team, joined his father in the transplantation of the paddy seedlings in the fields made muddy by monsoon rains. The piece of land belongs to his family.

“I was helping my family in the paddy field to do farming. There’s no shame in going back to your roots and help your family on the paddy fields,” Amarjit said. “My family has been farming for generations. But I myself have not paid much attention to farming since I was a kid. I was always too much into football,” he added.

For the youngster who mostly remained outside the state to play matches, it was an opportunity to reconnect to the roots. “Normally, I don’t get to be home for a long time. Even when the season is over, we have been going on some exposure tour or the other with the junior national teams. So when I do eventually get to

**The 19-year-old midfielder, who has already graduated to the senior national team, joined his father in the transplantation of the paddy seedlings in the fields made muddy by monsoon rains. The piece of land belongs to his family**

come home for a few weeks, it’s generally not the season for cultivation.

“Now I have got the time to actually go out there and reconnect with my roots. I feel proud. I’ve learnt the different aspects of farming, and I can tell you it’s quite a draining activity,” he was quoted as saying in an AIFF release.

He said coming out of home and doing some activity in the open was “quite refreshing”. “It’s always nice to have some sort of activity as a hobby — something that helps keep your mind off football for a couple of hours every day. I think farming has done that for me. I’m really enjoying this activity,” he said.

### Olympics during a pandemic: 1920 Antwerp Games haunted by war & flu

Agency  
New Delhi, July 29

When the Olympic Games resumed after World War I, the event was not designed to escape the horrors of war. The Antwerp Games were used to remember.

Belgium hosted after being a battleground two years before. Many athletes were veterans. The opening ceremony celebrated the military might as much as peace.

On their way into Antwerp’s Beerschot Stadium, attendees walked past a statue of a Belgian soldier throwing a grenade, then heard artillery salutes punctuate the ceremony. The Belgian fencer who took the Olympic oath to compete “in a spirit of chivalry, for the honor of our country and for the glory of sport” was Victor Boin, an air force pilot, flanked by two soldiers.

Many Olympians from the last games in 1912 had been killed or wounded during the war when amateur gentleman athletes flocked to serve as military officers. Yet more athletes were killed by the Spanish Flu pandemic that ravaged the world soon after. In Antwerp, a new generation of athletes came to the fore. The Olympics were still very much centered on white, male athletes from privileged backgrounds, but times were

slowly changing. Female athletes overcame social disapproval and resistance from some Olympic officials to compete, and Japan won the first medals for an independent Asian nation.

**LENGLÉNCHUNK** Of the approximately 2,600 athletes, only about 60 were women. But French tennis player Suzanne Lenglen transcended the Olympics as an international star.

Nicknamed “La Divine,” she was a national hero and a household name around the world. The women’s trophy at the French Open and the second-largest court both bear her name.

In Antwerp, Lenglen didn’t drop a game in her first three singles matches and didn’t drop a set all tournament in her run to the gold medal. She added gold in the mixed doubles and bronze in the women’s doubles. Illness meant Lenglen couldn’t defend her title on home soil at the next Olympics in Paris in 1924, the last time the sport would be on the program until 1988.

Tennis in Antwerp was also a breakthrough for diversity, as Japan won its first medals. Ichih Kumagae won silver in men’s singles and added a doubles silver with Seichiro Kashio. No independent Asian country had won a medal before, though India had won two silvers in 1900 under British rule.

## Tetso College conducted a webinar on “Covid-19: Emergence, Outbreak and Management”

IT News  
Dimapur, July 29:

As the media swarms the coronavirus story, lost in the shuffle are the important public health insights about how viruses work and humans respond. To help improve

understanding of the outbreak’s complex dynamics, Tetso College has reached out to some of the world’s most respected global health experts for their quick “reality checks” on key issues. The college invited internationally recognized, world

renowned, one of the most celebrated Microbiologist Prof (Dr) Amar P Garg, Vice Chancellor of Shobhit University to speak on “Covid-19: Emergence, Outbreak and Management” in a Webinar on 28th July, 2020. The talk was facilitated and

moderated by Dr. Aniruddha Babar, a Political Scientist and an expert in International Law. The speaker — Prof Amar P Garg and the participants began to assess the current level of knowledge about the new COVID-19 disease, identify gaps and work together to accelerate and fund priority research needed to help stop this outbreak and prepare for any future outbreaks. From insomnia and stress management to the effect of COVID-19 on the eyes and the kidneys, in this Webinar series, the speaker addressed a host of concerns regarding physical and mental health.

Prof Garg spoke about the origin and the emergence of the Covid-19, which came from China. He discussed in the detail the clinical symptoms of COVID-19, which are bit similar to other respiratory viruses. “This outbreak is a test of solidarity — political, financial and scientific. We need to come together to fight a common enemy that does not respect borders, ensure that we have the resources necessary to bring this outbreak to an end and bring our best science to the forefront to find shared answers to shared problems. Research is an integral part of the outbreak response,” said Prof Garg.

Prof Garg believes that COVID-19 has a capacity for human-to-human transmission, the public has no hard immunity against it, a high mortality rate, which makes it suitable agents for pandemic potential and the modern transport system also helps in its rapid expansion. “Easy mode of transmission, nature of the virus, population density, environmental condition,

social culture (like handshaking, etc.) are major contributors to its rapid spreading,” he said. Prof Garg made comparative analysis of the Covid -19 and the earlier diseases like SARS, MERS, Swine Flu and Ebola Viruses.

The speaker stressed the need for the Central Government, State governments as also district administrations to develop an ownership-based mechanism to disseminate information to the community and use it in their governance and development activity. Prof Garg believes that the government has not managed the situation of Covid-19 in a proper way. The speaker and the participants discussed all aspects of the outbreak and ways to control it including: the natural history of the virus, its transmission and diagnosis; animal and environmental research on the origin of the virus, including management measures at the human-animal interface; epidemiological studies; clinical characterization and management of disease caused by the virus; infection prevention and control, including best ways to protect health care workers; research and development for candidate therapeutics and vaccines; ethical considerations for research; and integration of social sciences into the outbreak response.

The speaker and the participants virtually agreed on a set of global research priorities. They also outlined mechanisms for continuing scientific interactions and collaborations beyond the meeting which will be coordinated and facilitated by WHO.

## A medical device that can neutralize coronavirus

By IT Correspondent  
New Delhi, July 29:

A Bengaluru-based organisation has received approvals from the US Food and Drug Administration and the European Union for a device that can contain the spread of novel coronavirus. The device named “Shycocan” — Scalene Hypercharge Corona Canon, is a small drum-like device, which can be fixed in offices, schools, malls, hotels, airports or any closed area for disinfecting surfaces. The device has been proven 99.9 per cent effective in neutralising the Spike-Protein or S-protein that are present in this virus, thus completely cutting off its transmission from one person to another, chairman of the Bengaluru-based Organisation- “De Scalene India”, Dr Rajah Vijay Kumar said and added that the approval for manufacturing the device came last week.

It does not cure an infected person but is highly efficient in containing the spread of deadly viruses in public areas, especially indoor spaces. “We have given a ‘humanitarian’ licence to a few companies in India and abroad to manufacture this,” Dr Kumar said. Europe, Mexico and the US-based companies have also approached for licences and we would be giving



The device “Shycocan”

permission to manufacturers allowing the production of the device in large numbers as the demand will spike in coming days, Kumar said and added that three Indian companies have already entered into a licensing agreement.

“We have done studies on how it performs — it neutralises the Spike protein or the S protein that is basic to the novel-coronavirus’ structure. So if you deploy this device everywhere, possibly there will be global containment of the virus,” Dr Kumar added. The device was first shipped to the United States in March for its due testing. And lab tests have shown that that one device can cover about 10000 cubic metres area. The device floods a room or any indoor place with hundreds of electrons — even if an infected person comes

into such a place, the electrons in the air would neutralise the potency of the virus in the aerosols caused by sneezing, cough, etc. It further neutralises the viruses that stick to surfaces. Thus drastically reducing the transmission via surface- or airborne transmission.

“We have got clearance from the US FDA agency under an enforcement directive for Covid-19 health emergencies. For the European Union too, we have got the certificate of conformity for which the Shycocan was put through nearly 26 tests — such as safety, efficacy, whether it has any harmful effects, whether it interferes with the working of other devices, or whether other devices deployed in any place would interfere with the performance of this device. It has been cleared through all this,” Dr Kumar said.