

Over 3 lakh 78,000 people recover from COVID-19 infection in country in last 24 hours

Agency
New Delhi, May 17:

Over 3 lakh 78 thousand people have either been discharged from hospitals or are reported to have been completely cured since yesterday. So far, over 2 crore 11 lakh people have recovered from the COVID-19 infection in the country. Ten States including Maharashtra, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat & Kerala continue to be the major hotspots of the viral pandemic. Nearly 75 per cent of the new cases are reported from these 10 states. The Health Ministry has informed that four thousand 106 COVID related deaths were reported in the last 24 hours taking the cumulative toll to 2 lakh 74 thousand 390.

In the last 24 hours, the nation registered 2 lakh 81 thousand 386 new COVID cases.

Despite 32 centers in 16 district, Covid-19 vaccination done in just 16 centers; many irked

IT News
Imphal, May 17:

Even as the state Health Directorate had announced to begin Covihied vaccination for people above 18 years to 44 years from today at 32 centers in 16 district of the state, Vaccination was done only in 16 centers one each at the respective district.

As per memorandum issued by the Directorate of Family Welfare Services, Manipur on May 14 and 15, a total of 39780 doses of the vaccines have been allotted, and this means at least a total of 39,780 people in between 18 years to 44 years should be vaccinated. As only one center at each district has been open for vaccination, obviously half the number will not get vaccination today.

Reason for the vaccination at only one center at each district is not let known to the people. Is it because the state does not have adequate quantity of vaccine stock or is it because those in the department

keeping some stock for the VVIPs or the VIPs demand, these are lot of questioned comes from various sections as the state authority is reluctant to put in public the exact number of vaccines in stock.

"They (health department) are simply trying to show that vaccination is going on and not with a dedication to safe the people", said Premjit, a social worker while interacting to Imphal Times.

Meanwhile, what shocks the people is the circulation of information by the Covid-19 Common Control Room and the Chart for vaccination report issued by the concern health department authority. In the Chart it has been reported that 1st dose vaccination done from January 16 till May 16, 6 pm is 3,09,896 people above 45 years. And the total number of people above years who got 2nd dose is 79,113.

However, in the pre-statement issued by the Covid-19 common control room, the total number of persons (above 45

"What shocks the people is the circulation of information by the Covid-19 Common Control Room and the Chart for vaccination report issued by the concern health department authority"

years) vaccinated is 3,09,596. A difference of 300 people. And there is no mention of the total people who got 2nd dose in the press statement. Such error cause by dereliction duty or perhaps due to lack of qualifications causes confuse and people sometimes wonder on which information to rely on. Because both are government establishment.

Voice of Imphal Times

Fighting the Covid-19 Pandemic: Is the Manipur Govt. on the right track ?

IT Desk

Every one is talking about Covid-19 today. Almost all citizen who have some knowledge of the virus and those who had felt the hit of the pandemic after one of their near and dear one or themselves have been, now prefer staying at home. The government of Manipur understanding the possible catastrophe, which the society of Manipur is almost at the stage have also been trying everything. The last couple of day show almost all authority of the government including the law makers and the ministers working out to fulfill the demand of oxygen. Many have been procured from the neighbouring Assam, even as the state too have been severely hit by the pandemic. More individuals have also comes up and started donating medical oxygen cylinders to the needy and some have started donating Oxygen concentrators. Dr. Elangbam Bishwajit and his team have already started donating oxygen cylinders to major hospitals and a young environmentalist Lucipriya Kangujam also is donating oxygen concentrators to the needy across the country including Manipur. Lok Sabha MP of the Inner Manipur Parliamentary constituency have even appealed the government to donate to Chief Ministers Covid-19 relief fund for procuring oxygen and also for providing assistance to the victims of the Covid-19 Pandemic. Moreover, MLA Joykishan of Thangmeiband Assembly constituency had openly announced to spend Rs. 20lakhs for procuring oxygen from his local area development fund and MLA RK Imo have started donating Oxygen concentrators to JNIM hospitals.

Now, it has been informed that in addition to the two private Cryogenic medical oxygen plant in the state one more oxygen plant have been started commissioning at Shija Hospital and Research Institute and as per the Managing Director of the Institute, the oxygen generation plant open has the capacity of producing 250 D-type Medical Oxygen Cylinder. With the procured cylinders from outside the state as well as with the in-

crease in the number of medical oxygen generation in the state, it is obvious that hospitals in the state – including private and government should have some relieved

Now the question is – there seems no change to the order issued by Principal Secretary Health & Family Welfare dated May 1, 2021 Ref. No. MED-1706/15/2021 –HS-Health in connection with the allocations of medical oxygen Cylinders. As per the order RIMS which need at an average of around 270 D-type Oxygen Cylinders have been allocated 120-D type Cylinder and the same has been also allotted to fulfill the demand of oxygen. Many have been procured from the neighbouring Assam, even as the state too have been severely hit by the pandemic. More individuals have also comes up and started donating medical oxygen cylinders to the needy and some have started donating Oxygen concentrators. Dr. Elangbam Bishwajit and his team have already started donating oxygen cylinders to major hospitals and a young environmentalist Lucipriya Kangujam also is donating oxygen concentrators to the needy across the country including Manipur. Lok Sabha MP of the Inner Manipur Parliamentary constituency have even appealed the government to donate to Chief Ministers Covid-19 relief fund for procuring oxygen and also for providing assistance to the victims of the Covid-19 Pandemic. Moreover, MLA Joykishan of Thangmeiband Assembly constituency had openly announced to spend Rs. 20lakhs for procuring oxygen from his local area development fund and MLA RK Imo have started donating Oxygen concentrators to JNIM hospitals.

So far the state of Manipur recorded a total of 39,729 covid-19 positive cases since the beginning of its pandemic since March 2020. As per official statement from the Covid-19 Common Control Room the number of death so far is 578. The total number of positive cases of Covid-19 so far is 32,729. And the total active cases of Covid-19 stands at 6477. One good news is that the recovery rate is told to be 82.24%. But the rise of the Covid positive cases in the last 15 days is alarming. Starting from May 2 till May 14 the total number of people tested positive is and the total number of people succumbed to Covid-19 is This report is based on the official statement released by the Covid-19 Common Control room. However as per medical experts the number of casualty due to Covid-19 cases may have been more than the number provided by the government authorities, as there are report of many died during this period without coming to the hospital or without having tested.

Now with the spike of the positive cases and the rise in the death toll the government had open 14 (fourteen) Covid Care centers at some districts. The CCC open by the government are at BalBhan in Imphal East, National Sports University, Lamboikhongnangkong KKK in Imphal West, RD Wing in Imphal West, Lanva

TD Block in Churachandpur district, Government College in Churachandpur district, Jiribam, DIET in Kangpokpi, TML Hr. Secondary School in Tamenglong district, Th. Tengkhohang in Noney district, GNM Hostel in Thoubal district, Kakching Higher Secondary school in Kakching district and Transit Hostel in Ukhrul district. Beside these, some of the Community Care center has also been open at various assembly constituency under the supervision of the respective MLAs of each constituency as directed by the Chief Minister of Manipur.

Now many people as well as MLAs and Ministers have spared no pains to procure oxygen as the state is in need of oxygen. The CCC open by the government has been reportedly empty with few people only. As per a social media post uploaded by Dr. Ranjan Sapam, who is also the health advisor there are 1094 beds available vacant in all the 14 government opened CCC.

According to the government statement 1488 D type oxygen cylinders and 568 B type oxygen cylinders have been made available to different Health Institutions. If this is true and if the news about the procurement of oxygen from outside the state is true, than definitely the state authority can now arrange some oxygen cylinders to at least the those 14 CCC opened by the government. Besides, the State health authority should assigned some health workers by providing proper PPE kits for emergency calls at each centers. In addition to this, the government can spare some money from the Chief Minister's Covid Care Fund for at least two meals to these centers or else the government can organized fund drive separately for those inmates at CCC.

With all the facts, the government is nearing on the right track but due to lack of something which the common people cannot expressed something still is not on the right track.

We suggest the government hand this matter to Dr. Sapam Ranan and let him start planning with the help of experts to make sure that the CCC open by the government serves the people.

Mizoram Government going two steps ahead of Manipur in dealing COVID-19 issues

IT News
Imphal, May 17:

The state of Mizoram seems to be a step or two ahead from Manipur Government when it comes to the preparation of containing the Covid 19 pandemic. The state which have just one medical college have decided to form a research team comprising medical experts and scientists to conduct a scientific study on the second wave of COVID-19. This was officially announced by the Mizoram Government authority last Saturday. Mizoram have one medical college called Zoram Medical College headed by former Director of RIMS Dr. Fimate.

The College has very new and few facilities. The VRDL was established just last year. However, scholars from the Biotechnology Dept, of Mizoram University trained the medical staffs in RTPCR and other logistics, said professor Robert Thangjam of the Mizoram University.

Manipur which have two major medical Institute – JNIMS run by a society established by the Manipur Government and RIMS, one of the premier institute of the North East India with all facilities including well equipped pathology departments and the recently opened Virology department are being occupied on testing of COVIS -19 suspects and slow pace of vaccinations be-

sides running here and there for getting oxygen support, no initiative for study of the wide spread of the 2nd wave of the Covid-19 has been started.

On the other hand, the Mizoram government in a meeting of officials from health, disaster management, and rehabilitation departments, police officers, and representatives of Zoram Medical College (ZMC), Indian Medical Association (IMA), and Non-Government Hospital Association presided over by Health Minister Dr. Lalthangliana decided to form the team has taken a decision to form a research team comprising medical experts and scientists to conduct a scientific study on the second wave

of COVID-19.

According to a report given by the Mizoram police contact tracing team, COVID-19 positive cases were reported from 65 villages or localities in all 11 districts between May 1 and May 14.

The infection rate was highest among persons in the age group of 21-30 years as at least 587 people in this bracket were found infected with COVID-19 during May 1 and May 14, it said.

Besides, 249 children below 10 years, 13 elderly people above 80 years, 113 people in the age group of 61-80 years, and 352 in the age group of 11-20 years have also tested positive for COVID-19 during the same period, it said.

Killing 18 bulky animals by lightning an absurd argument: Assam engineers' forum

IT Correspondent
Guwahati, May 17:

Tragic death of 18 wild Asiatic elephants due to electrocution by lightning within seconds can be justified only with an absurd argument, asserted All Assam Engineer's Association (AAEA), demanding a high-level scientific investigation into the Nagaon incident that took reportedly place on 12 May night. The forum of engineering graduates termed it as a matter of concern (caveat) for the wildlife and entire human race, if such a massive thunderbolt hit the planet.

As the State government in Dispur, precisely the forest minister and the preliminary

findings of a probe committee, claimed that it might be a thunderbolt that killed all 18 bulky animals within seconds, the debate needs to focus on the essential volume of energy to strike on the jumbos at a time. Even if, it is assumed that the animals were close to each other during the incident, they needed more than 100 square-meter area to accommodate themselves (means the area of impact), pointed out the AAEA statement.

Engineering science narrates that a lightning strike, created by the electrical discharges due to imbalances caused between the Earth and storm-clouds (or sometimes within the clouds), can produce 40 Kilovolt to 120 kV

and 5 Kiloampere to 200 kA. Hence in an average a lightning bolt (from cloud to ground) may generate around 1,000,000,000 Watt (around one billion volts of electricity) and it can heat the surrounding air to 53000° Fahrenheit (5 times hotter than the Sun's surface).

When the cloud-to-ground lightning hit an animal, it creates sudden disturbances to the internal electric signals of a living being, which is necessary for functioning of organs like heart, lungs and the nervous system. Normally the affected animal faces a cardiac arrest, brain injuries, spinal cord damages or even severe burns and subsequently it succumbs to wounds. Worldwide around 2,000 people are

killed every year by the incidents of lightning, where of course many survive with long lasting injuries.

"Hammering all the elephants within seconds demands a huge volume of energy that could have generated a massive thunder and light. Hence the news of such a thunderbolt in the Nagaon locality could have preceded the actual happening," claimed AAEA president Er Kailash Sarma, working president Er Nava J Thakuria and secretary Er Inamul Hye, adding that there was no major burns on the site and none in the locality admitted that they heard such a massive sound of thundering during the last few days.

Assam Rifles busts militant hideout in jungles of Tengnoupal

IT News
Imphal, May 17:

Tengnoupal Battalion under the aegis of IGAR (South) busted a militant hideout near Leibi Village in Tengnoupal, Manipur in the early hours of May 16.

Based of a specific intelligence, Assam Rifles troops launched an operation in the jungle area close to Leibi. During the operation, the troops uncovered a militant hideout and recovered one M-16 assault rifle and one Lathod launcher alongwith ammuni-

tion and other warlike stores. 5000 Myanmar Kyats were also recovered from the hideout.

The recovered weapons and warlike stores were handed over to Police Station, Tengnoupal for further action.

How to protect rural areas from second wave of coronavirus



By: Vijay GarG

The guidelines issued by the central government to prevent the spread of corona infection in villages are not enough. He will have to see whether the state governments and local administrations are working in accordance with these guidelines. States need to do more urgently to prevent corona infection in resource-poor rural areas. Not only is the health infrastructure in the villages weak but there is also a shortage of trained health workers. In the last one year, these employees should have been trained to deal with corona, but this does not seem to have happened and so the Union Ministry of Health had to ask the community health center officials to train them for rapid antigen testing. This has to be done with immediate effect on a war footing as time is short. Corona infection has not only reached the villages but is also wreaking havoc. There are some rural areas of the country where the impact of the infection is more visible than in the cities. It is true that the central government is constantly pushing for door-to-door testing in high-risk areas but the problem is that the required testing kits are not available. At least for now, the shortage of testing kits should be addressed on a priority basis. It is a difficult task but it has to be done because it can save the villages from the wrath of Corona. It is also important for the state governments to work hard to empower the underprivileged and the deficient health infrastructure. In most rural areas, the primary health centers and community health centers are in poor condition. All such centers are run in rented buildings and the employees working in them are also hired on contract basis. The state governments cannot blame anyone but themselves for this situation. They will know that health is a matter of their jurisdiction. This needs a lot of attention now. The states also have to be proactive because even after the arrival of vaccines, the required number of vaccines are not being given in rural areas. This is due to reluctance to get vaccinated due to ignorance, superstition and rumors. It would be better for the state governments to launch a renewed awareness campaign on immunization in the villages and to eradicate anti-vaccination elements.

We need to mobilize our entire population, all influential people - politicians, actors, athletes, admirable medical professionals and administrators - to launch a massive propaganda campaign. Every Indian language TV channel should take these messages over and over again during prime time to get the message home. Public education should be the responsibility of district administrations, gram panchayats, health care workers, civil society leaders, teachers, NGOs and charitable organizations. Mobile phones, which have wide reach in rural India, can be used to spread messages and short educational video clips about covid-prevention strategies in regional languages. This step will have a big impact.

The rural masses need solid and decentralization of appropriate and efficient immunizations by Gram Panchayats. They should actively involve all stakeholders - health care workers, civil society leaders, industry, teachers, voluntary and charitable organizations. Immunization camps should be set up in every village as soon as possible. While the governments (state and central) are tasked with supplying vaccines for this huge undertaking, every village panchayat must ensure that the immunization program runs smoothly without wasting any time.

Hard days lie ahead but only if we act quickly and on a war footing can we reduce the impact of a major medical disaster in rural areas.

Assam Rifles promotes Covid appropriate behaviour in Tengnoupal

IT News
Imphal, May 17:

Tengnoupal Battalion under the aegis of IGAR(South) along with 165 TA promoted covid appropriate behaviour at Khongkhang Village on yesterday.

Due to the increasing cases of COVID-19 across the country, the significance of social distancing, proper sanitisation, maintaining hygiene and prompt actions to be taken during emergencies were explained to the villagers.

The event culminated with distribution of sanitizers, masks and ration to villagers. The village chief highly appreciated the efforts made by Assam Rifles and also requested to continue such assistance in the future.

RIMS Condole

IT News
Imphal, May 17:

Regional Institute of Medical Science (RIMS) Media Advisor N Phillip in a press release stated that a condolence meeting on the sudden demise of Late Dr Jodhachandra, Former Head of Department of ENT, RIMS, Imphal and Late Dr Kyoduwu Richard Duomai Former Student of RIMS who was working as a Senior Resident at the Department of Surgery JNIMS was held at RIMS Jubilee Hall under the chairmanship of Prof A Santa Director RIMS. In the meantime, United People's Front (UPF) Manipur mourned the death of Professor Dr Jodhachandra Sanasam was a well known medical professional and eminent writer. He participated as Medical Chairman of 11 Mega Marathon Manipur and contributed a series of articles of Monthly Journal Elkhoigi Panthung which is published by UPF Manipur. UPF Manipur observed two minute silence and prayer the grief and pain of the family members.

Sheikh Sheirang Sheipang Sengat Lup (SEIPAL) also condole the demise of Late Dr Jodhachandra, Former Head of Department of ENT, RIMS, Imphal.

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Is it really a small thing?

Heisnam Lakshwar Singh
Head (Academic & Admin), JCRE Global College Babupara, Imphal

Today I went to a stationary store and saw a very common practice happening around. I saw a guy manipulating the bill of purchase with the sales person. He looks gentle with nice attire and age must be around 40. He seems matured and working in an organization, maybe government or an NGO or a private organization - I don't know. He was taking print out of some documents and also taking some stationary items for his office work. The total bill came around Rs. 400/-. I was waiting for my turn; I had to take out few photo copies. And while waiting I became a witness of a crime, which is considered as small or most often not considered as crime at all. The store owner asked, whether he requires a cash memo or bill of purchase, the gentleman re-

plied, yes he requires but he stops him to write the exact amount. In front of me, he was instructing the store owner to write the bill with fictitious data, he was taking only one rim of A4 paper, but he was letting the store owner to write 4 rims, like that he increased the Rs.400/- bill to Rs.1200/- bill. He didn't have any shame on his face and the store owner's facial expression was very normal, as this incident is already understood incident and they have some common understanding on this. Most of us never thought on this, considering it is a small practice, and it becomes so common that people started thinking it as kind of socially and morally acceptable behaviour.

You must be thinking what am I talking and why I am putting my

head on this small matter? The amount is small; therefore often we are ignorant of such matter. But it is not a small matter, how come compromising our personal value because of few bugs can be a small matter? He compromised his integrity (personal) for only Rs. 800/-, how cheap he becomes and I am sure there are thousands of us doing this thinking the amount is small. I happened to hear people giving excuses mentioning their hard labour for doing such cheap things, but that is just excuse, he was hired and given salary for his work.

There are stories, one example - my late Grand Mother once told me, before the govt. employees' salary was given through bank, they had to collect the cash by standing in the front of cash counter with their

penion book. The authority didn't tell them to stand in queue; the reason is they give first priority to the penion book which consists of few bugs inside. Therefore they used to insert few amount to the penion book while giving it for processing, it becomes so understanding that they don't have to speak a single word in such transaction.

There are so many such small cases happening around, and we are always ignorant of it. The biggest problem with the majority people living in our society is their self-worth is very cheap; they sold their personal value in few notes. Because of this winning an election in such society is not difficult, they can buy most of them with money. The only matter is money, whether you have it or not.

More News

First batch of DRDO's anti-Covid drug 2-deoxy-D-glucose released

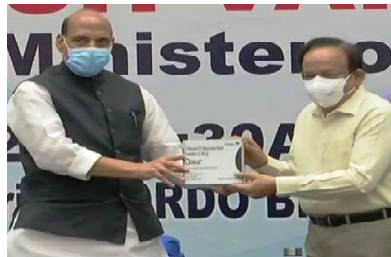
Agency
New Delhi, May 17:

The first batch of the drug 2-deoxy-D-glucose has been released for Covid patients today. The first batch was released by the Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr. Harshvardhan.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr. Harshvardhan appreciated the efforts of the scientists of DRDO and Dr. Reddy's Lab for the development of this anti COVID drug. He said, this medicine is the result of one year of hard work by scientists. He said, this medicine has a huge potential in preventing corona virus growth.

The drug has been developed by the Defence Research and Development Organization, DRDO which recently got the approval for emergency use from the Drugs Controller General of India, DCGI.

All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Dr.Randeep Guleria and Lt Gen Sunil Kant of



Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) More will be handed over to different hospitals across the country for emergency use. An anti-COVID-19 therapeutic application of the drug 2-deoxy-D-glucose (2-DG) has been developed by Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences (INMAS), a lab of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), along

with Dr.Reddy's Laboratories (DRL), Hyderabad.

Speaking on the occasion, the Defence Minister congratulated DRDO and DRL, Hyderabad for manufacturing the drug that will help the COVID patients to reduce oxygen dependency and recover quickly. He described the drug as a perfect example of the country's scientific prowess and a milestone in the

efforts towards self-reliance. "2-DG drug is a new ray of hope in these challenging times," said Rajnath Singh, expressing confidence that the medicine will play a crucial role in winning the fight against COVID-19. He said, the development and production of the drug is a shining example of public-private sector partnership to help the nation in these challenging times. He further said when the situation improves, he would personally like to honour the scientists who played a major role in the development of the drug as they deserve credit for this achievement.

In his address, Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan termed 2-DG as an important development by DRDO and DRL, Hyderabad that will reduce the recovery time & oxygen dependency in COVID-19 patients. He hoped that the drug will go a long way in defeating the virus in not just India but across the globe. He congratulated DRDO and its scientists for playing an important role in the fight against COVID-19.

Open Letter to Chief Minister, Manipur

Submission of the recommendations of Indian Medical Association Manipur State Branch with regard to the second wave of COVID 19 in the state

Respected Sir,

The state is gripped by the second wave of COVID-19 pandemic in an unprecedented manner and Indian Medical Association Manipur State Branch is deeply concerned by the development. In this regard the association in due consultation with the "IMA Manipur COVID Task Force" has come up with certain recommendations to help in the management of COVID-19 in the state. Copy of the recommendations is enclosed herewith for your kind perusal and necessary action.

Further, we would like to stress that Indian Medical Association is the largest association of doctors in the country and the association has contributed much in issues related to health. IMA Manipur State Branch has also contributed much in the health issues of the state. The association has been spearheading in spreading COVID health awareness since the first wave of COVID 19 last year. More than one hundred COVID 19 health awareness programs were organized since May last year. The biggest association of doctors in the state would like to stress upon the necessity of representing well in the State Consultative Committee on COVID 19 in the larger interest of public.

We are hopeful that you will consider our recommendations and subsequently convert them into actions.

Recommendations of the Indian Medical Association Manipur State Branch in regard to the second wave of COVID-19 Pandemic in the state:

- 1) Ideally compulsory COVID 19 testing, either by RAT or RT-PCR on arrival of all passengers at Imphal Airport and all other entry points should be followed otherwise rigorous checking of all RT-PCR test results that the passengers produced on arrival by verifying with ICMR's SRF No should be done.
- 2) A common SOP for admission and treatment of all COVID-19 patients for both private and government hospitals is a must to avoid any confusion in this difficult time. This will help in rational admission, judicious treatment and optimizing the limited resources.

3) Conversion of some hotels to paid COVID Care Centers for the mildly symptomatic cases with good referral system with the higher COVID centers may be considered in the interest of those who can afford it as this will reduce undue pressure for admission of mildly symptomatic cases to Referral COVID Hospitals.

4) Strengthening of infrastructure of the peripheral health centers like the CHCs and DHs to manage the mildly symptomatic with a robust referral system with the Referral COVID Hospitals will reduce the burden on Referral COVID Hospitals.

5) Civil bodies like Local Clubs and Meira paibis may be engaged in enforcing COVID Appropriate Behavior among the general public.

6) Junior Doctors and other Health Care Workers engaged on COVID duties on contractual basis must be well paid as per their regular counterpart. Further, preference should be given to them while seeking for regular government post later. Acknowledging their contribution in this way during this challenging time will boost their morale.

7) Life insurance scheme of the COVID Health Care Workers will also help to boost the morale of those who are risking their life in fighting the pandemic.

8) Guidelines for Home Quarantine, Home Isolation and Community Home Isolation Centers must be available readily to the public with strict monitoring.

9) All long duration indoor meetings should be discouraged in the present situation.

10) Backup workforce of healthcare workers need to be developed at the earliest since the present HCWs are likely to burn out soon due to stress and infection.

With regards,

Yours faithfully,
I. Dr. S. Jugindra, President, IMA
2. Dr. Ngangom Arunkumar Singh, Honorary State Secretary, IMA