



INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH

Department of Health Research – Ministry of Health & Family
Welfare Government of India

Media report “Former DG ICMR Dr. C Gopalan passes away at 101”

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Preface

The PR Unit/PRO office of ICMR since last one and half years have reached from (where is ICMR located) to (everyday mention of ICMR and DG ICMR in National Media). This change from where to why signifies the media visibility and importance of our organization within this stipulated time duration.

Every week Indian Council of Medical Research and Director General ICMR are mentioned by dozens of daily news papers, periodicals and magazines including online editions.

This report regarding “Former DG ICMR Dr. C Gopalan passes away at 101” features the media/news coverage provided to the project by major national news papers of the country such as The Hindu, Hindustan Times, The New Indian Express among others.

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HEADLINES (As it is)



Doyen of Nutrition research Colathur Gopalan no more

03 October 2019/The Hindu Business Line

Ex-DG of ICMR Dr C. Gopalan passes away at 101

03 October 2019/Drug Today

Obituary: Coluthur Gopalan (1918-2019)

03 October 2019/Down to Earth

Legendary nutrition scientist Dr C Gopalan passes away

03 October 2019/nuffoods spectrum

Nutrition scientist Gopalan no more

04 October 2019/The Hindu

Legendary medical scientist Dr. Coluthur Gopalan passes away

04 October 2019/Telangana Today

C Gopalan, who championed India's public health programme, dies

04 October 2019/Hindustan Times

Dr C Gopalan, Former DG ICMR, Eminent Nutritionist passes away at 101

04 October 2019/Medical Dialogues

Father of nutrition science in India passes away

04 October 2019/Bio Voice

Ex-NIN director passes away

04 October 2019/The Hindu

Doyen of Nutrition research Colathur Gopalan no more

03 October 2019/The Hindu Business Line

Colathur Gopalan, the doyen of nutrition research in India, who lived a hundred years with remarkable contributions, passed away on Thursday morning in Chennai. In a strange coincidence, Gopalan and the Hyderabad-based National Institute of Nutrition (NIN), of which he was the founder director, celebrated their centenary in 2018. Born on November 29, 1918 in Salem, Tamil Nadu Gopalan is survived by his son, Sharath Gopalan, and daughter Malini, with whom he was staying the last few years. He breathed his last following age-related complications in the early hours of Thursday. Gopalan, who hailed from a middle-class family, studied at the Madras Christian College School. His father was in the Police service. After earning an MBBS from Madras Medical College and MD from Madras University, he began his career with the Nutrition Research Laboratory (NRL), which started as a small laboratory in Coonoor in 1918 as part of the Pasteur Institute. NRL was moved to Hyderabad in the late 1950s and Gopalan became its first Director in 1962. In 1969, as part of its golden jubilee, it was renamed as NIN.

Under his stewardship, NIN grew in repute, expanded and flourished. Many facilities such as the animal lab, museum, research, toxicology, training etc were established. Gopalan rose to become the Director General of the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** from 1973-79. During this period, he was instrumental in the launch of three national institutes — Malaria, Leprosy and Vector Control research. He left a lasting impression on the NIN, which he led from 1962-73.

Ex-DG of ICMR Dr C. Gopalan passes away at 101

03 October 2019/Drug Today

During his seven decades active research career, Dr. C Gopalan served in many prestigious positions. He served as the Director of National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad, from 1961 to 1974 and as Director General of **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, New Delhi, from 1974-79. He was awarded the Padma Shri in 1970 and Padma Bhushan in 2003. Dr. C Gopalan was a scientist of international eminence and spearheaded the cause of nutrition science for several decades. His contribution towards the betterment of nutrition of the population benefited not only India but also other developing countries, especially Southeast Asian countries. His contribution helped to strengthen and inspire movements for the eradication of under-nutrition in many Third World countries. Under his leadership as Director NIN, Hyderabad, a wealth of information was generated to tackle problems such as Protein Energy Malnutrition, Vitamin A deficiency, Phrynoderma, Lathyrism, Fluorosis and Pellagra. The National Nutrition Monitoring Bureau (NNMB) was also started by him. During his tenure as the Director-General of ICMR, Dr. C Gopalan is credited with envisioning and helping build three national institutes for research on Leprosy, Malaria and Vector Control under ICMR. “NIN today bears testimony to his genius as an architect and father of nutrition sciences in India. Research under his leadership formed the basis of major national nutrition programmes initiated in the 1970s - ICDS, Massive Dose Vitamin-A and Iron supplementation. His contributions are invaluable and the loss due to his departure is irreparable”, said Dr. R Hemalatha, Director NIN, Hyderabad.

Legendary nutrition scientist Dr C Gopalan passes away

03 October 2019/nuffoods spectrum



Dr Coluthur Gopalan, a scientist of international eminence, who had spearheaded the cause of nutrition science for over four decades in India, passed away in Chennai. He had his doctoral degree in medicine. He was the first Asian to be elected the President of International Union of Nutrition Sciences (IUNS). He had been on several WHO expert panels. The National Institute of Nutrition was nurtured by Dr Gopalan when he was its Director for 14 years. He was also actively involved in initiating Asian Congress of Nutrition. He created Nutrition Foundation of India which has a wide interdisciplinary research network in the country. Dr Gopalan's professional career in nutrition research started at the Nutrition Research Laboratory (NRL), founded by Robert McCarrison under the British Empire. In the late 1950s, NRL moved to Hyderabad, and Gopalan took over as Director in 1962. The Indian Dietetic Association (IDA) was also founded in 1962 by Prof Kalyan Bagchi as Secretary and Dr Gopalan as the president in Kolkata. In 1969 during its Golden Jubilee, NRL was designated as 'National Institute of Nutrition' (NIN). In 1973, Gopalan moved to New Delhi to take over as the Director-General of **ICMR**. During his tenure (1974–1979), he promoted research in communicable diseases and modernized several of the ICMR research institutions. Dr Gopalan retired from government service in 1979, but not from service to the nation. In 1980 he set up the Nutrition Foundation of India (NFI) in New Delhi.

Obituary: Coluthur Gopalan (1918-2019)

03 October 2019/Down to Earth

Coluthur Gopalan, widely considered the father of nutrition research in India, died. He was responsible for initiating nutrition research in independent India, leading to a number of interventions such as the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), the midday meal scheme for school children, goiter prevention programme, etc.

Gopalan, decorated with top civilian honours and several professional awards, would have turned 101 on November 28 this year. He died in Chennai early October 3, 2019.

He was the director of the Hyderabad-based National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) from 1960 to 1974 and the director-general of the **Indian Council of Medical Research** from 1974 to 1979. He later founded the National Nutrition Foundation and served as its chairman until the end.

Starting his professional career in nutrition research at the Nutrition Research Laboratory (NRL) during the British period, he continued his journey over the next six decades. In the late 1950s, when NRL moved to Hyderabad and turned to NIN, Gopalan took over as director and expanded research to several key areas.

Since nutrition is a multi-disciplinary subject, he set up divisions for clinical research, biochemistry, bio-physics, endocrinology, analytical chemistry, food toxicology and the field units.

At NIN, he laid the foundation for research to tackle problems such as protein energy malnutrition, Vitamin A deficiency, Phrynoderma, Lathyrism, fluorosis and Pellagra. The National Nutrition Monitoring Bureau (NNMB) was also a result of his labour.

[Nutrition scientist Gopalan no more](#)

04 October 2019/The Hindu

Padma Bhushan Coluthur Gopalan, eminent nutrition scientist and former Director General of Indian Council of Medical Research, who was widely regarded as a father-figure in nutrition science in India, died here on Thursday due to age-related ailments. He turned 100, last November.

Malini Seshadri, his daughter, said he was hospitalised for chest infection.

Dr. Gopalan, born in a traditional household in Tamil Nadu in 1918, went on to obtain a doctorate from University of London in 1949 and subsequently headed the National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad, from 1961 to 1974.

He was awarded Padmashri in 1970. He served as the Director General of **Indian Council of Medical Research** from 1974 to 1979. Among his achievements while heading ICMR was the setting up of Vector Control Research Centre in Puducherry.

A statement by ICMR on his demise said that his research brought to fore the different aspects of nutrition, including public health, agriculture, and socio-economic factors, especially with respect to under-privileged sections. It said that the research under his leadership contributed to initiation of major nutrition programmes like the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS). Sarath Gopalan, a physician and son of Dr. Gopalan, said the latter's book 'Nutritive Value of Indian Foods' is still considered a Bible among nutrition scientists in India.

[Legendary medical scientist Dr. Coluthur Gopalan passes away](#)

04 October 2019/Telangana Today

Legendary medical scientist and father-figure of nutrition research in India Dr. Coluthur Gopalan has passed away in the early hours of Thursday at his residence in Chennai after a brief spell of illness. Dr. Gopalan was born in 1918 and celebrated his 100th birthday last year. The scientist was widely regarded and held in high esteem for promoting the concept of nutrition in India. During his seven decades of active research career, Dr. Gopalan occupied many prestigious positions. He served as the Director of National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad from 1961 to 1974 and as Director General of **Indian Council of Medical Research** (ICMR), New Delhi from 1974-79. He was awarded the Padma Shri in 1970 and Padma Bhushan in 2003 by Government of India.

[C Gopalan, who championed India's public health programme, dies](#)

04 October 2019/Hindustan Times

Dr Coluthur Gopalan passed away on Thursday at his Chennai home over a month before his 101st birthday on November 28. A former director of the National Institute of Nutrition (NIN), director general (DG) of **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, and the founder-president of the Nutrition Foundation of India (NFI), he is widely regarded as the Father of Nutrition Science in India. Dr Gopalan's research on the nutrition status of the Indian population laid the foundations for several national nutrition programmes, including those for anaemia control, vitamin A supplementation, integrated child development services (ICDS), the goitre control through universal salt iodisation. He was awarded Padma Bhushan in 2002, recognised as a Living legend in nutrition by the International Union of Nutrition Sciences in 2013 and the Federation of Asian Nutrition Societies in 2018. Born in Salem in Tamil Nadu, Dr Gopalan completed his MD from Madras Medical College in 1943 and did his PhD in nutrition in the UK in 1949. He began his career in nutrition at the Nutrition Research Laboratory in Coonoor, which soon shifted to Hyderabad, where Dr Gopalan took over as the director in 1962. Under his leadership, NRL evolved from an institute with just six scientists into the National Institute of Nutrition (NIN), which has become India's nodal institute for scientific research on nutrition and allied sciences.

I first met Dr Gopalan when he was the DG of ICMR and I was a senior research officer. He asked me to move from ICRM Delhi to NIN Hyderabad to look after the clinical component of a WHO-ICMR collaborative study on the impact of hormonal contraceptives on

undernourished women. I told Dr Gopalan that while I had experience in clinical trials of contraceptives, all I knew about nutrition was what I learned as an undergraduate in medical college. He said, “NIN needs a person with experience in clinical trials; you will initially get help in the nutritional aspects, but you’ll have to quickly acquire expertise in nutrition.”

Dr C Gopalan, Former DG ICMR, Eminent Nutritionist passes away at 101

04 October 2019/Medical Dialogues

Former Director-General of **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** and father-figure of Nutrition research in India Dr Coluthur Gopalan passed away on October 3rd 2019 at his residence in Chennai after suffering a brief illness. Dr C Gopalan was born in 1918.

During his seven decades of active research career, Dr C Gopalan occupied many prestigious positions. He served as the Director National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad from 1961 to 1974 and as Director General of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), New Delhi from 1974-79. He was awarded the Padma Shri in 1970 and Padma Bhushan in 2003.

Dr C Gopalan was a scientist of international eminence and has spearheaded the cause of Nutrition science for several decades. His contribution towards the betterment of nutrition of population has benefited not only India but also other developing countries especially Southeast Asian. His contribution has helped to strengthen and inspire movements for the eradication of under-nutrition in many other Third World countries.

Under his leadership as Director NIN, Hyderabad a wealth of information was generated to tackle problems such as Protein Energy Malnutrition, Vitamin A deficiency, Phrynoderma, Lathyrism, Fluorosis and Pellagra. The National Nutrition Monitoring Bureau (NNMB) was also started by him.

During his tenure, as the Director-General of ICMR Dr C Gopalan is credited with envisioning and helping build three national institutes for research on Leprosy, Malaria and Vector Control under ICMR.

Father of nutrition science in India passes away

04 October 2019/Bio Voice

Dr Coluthur Gopalan, widely considered as the father of nutrition research in India, is no more. He was responsible for initiating nutrition research in independent India leading to a number of interventions such as the Integrated Child Development Services, midday meal scheme for school children, goiter prevention programme. Dr Gopalan, decorated with top civilian honours and several professional awards, would have turned 101 on November 28 this year. He passed away in Chennai early today. He was the director of the Hyderabad-based National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) from 1960 to 1974 and Director General of the **Indian Council of Medical Research** from 1974 to 1979. He later founded the National Nutrition Foundation and served as its Chairman till the end. Starting his professional career in nutrition research at the Nutrition Research Laboratory (NRL) during the British period, he continued his journey over the next six decades. In the late 1950s, NRL moved to Hyderabad and became NIN, Gopalan took over as Director and expanded research to several key areas. Since nutrition is a multi-disciplinary subject, he set up divisions for clinical research, biochemistry, bio-physics, endocrinology, analytical chemistry, food toxicology and the field units. At NIN, he laid the foundation for research to tackle problems such as protein energy malnutrition, Vitamin A deficiency, Phrynoderma, Lathyrism, fluorosis and Pellagra. The National Nutrition Monitoring Bureau (NNMB) was also a result of his labour. Under his leadership, ICMR expanded research into neglected communicable diseases and modernized the working of the council. Three new institutes – Malaria Research Institute; Vector Control Research Institute and Leprosy Research Institute were established to develop and implement preventive and management strategies for these diseases.

Ex-NIN director passes away

04 October 2019/The Hindu

Noted scientist, father-figure of nutrition research in India, and ex-Director of National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) Dr. Coluthur Gopalan passed away in the early hours of Thursday at his residence in Chennai after a brief illness.

Dr. Goplan was born in 1918 and celebrated his 100th birthday last year. He served as the Director of NIN from 1961 to 1974 and as DG of **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, New Delhi, from 1974-79.

He was awarded the Padma Shri in 1970 and Padma Bhushan in 2003. A scientist of international eminence, he spearheaded the cause of nutrition science for several decades -- contributing towards betterment of nutrition of population in India and other developing countries, especially in south-east Asian countries.

With regards,

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