

Covid's minorities impact

THE UK on Tuesday (16) launched a survey to study the impact of Covid and the lockdown on the lives of 17,000 ethnic and religious minority people.

The Evidence for Equality National Survey (EVENS) will run for three months until May. It will be led by the Centre on the Dynamics of Ethnicity (CoDE) in partnership with the universities of Manchester, St Andrews and Sussex.

The impact of the pandemic on people's employment, finance, education, economic wellbeing, health, housing, policing, identity and experiences of discrimination and racism will be covered under the survey, a statement said.

The 30-minute survey, which has been translated into 13 lan-

guages, will be conducted by Ipsos MORI.

Professor James Nazroo, deputy director of CoDE and EVENS's co-lead, said: "This ground-breaking survey will help shift the narrative on ethnic and religious inequalities in modern Britain."

The virtual press launch of EVENS was chaired by Professor Gary Younge.

Among those who took part were Molly Rosenberg, director, the Royal Society of Literature; Sir Simon Woolley, director, Operation Black Vote; Claire Rice, community engagement worker, GATEHerts and Dr Dharmi Kapadia, lead researcher, CoDE; Zara Mohammed, the new secretary general of the Muslim Council of Britain; and Professor Nazroo.

Tributes paid to Bristol Labs director PM Raju

PHARMA COMPANY'S CO-FOUNDER WAS A GREAT SOUL WHO WILL BE MISSED BY ALL, SAY FRIENDS

THE co-founder and a senior director of Bristol Laboratories, one of the country's leading generic medicine manufacturers, died last Sunday (14) after contracting coronavirus.

PM Raju was admitted to the Royal Brompton Hospital in London last month after his condition deteriorated following the Covid infection.

He succumbed to complications from the virus, having been in the intensive care unit of the hospital for a month. He was 63 and is survived by his wife, two sons and a daughter-in-law.

Raju helped found Bristol Laboratories and played a key role in its meteoric growth over the past decade. He was a close friend and associate of T Ramachandran, the founder and chairman and managing director of the company.

The two friends started the business from a small office in Harrow, north London in 1997. It soon grew to be an enterprise spanning the UK and Europe.

Ramachandran said: "I can never forget 40 years of unconditional partnership with him being by my side and with my family in happiness and sorrow."

"He was a brother to me and my wife Sreedevi and a beloved uncle to my daughters. Words will never do justice for the greatness of one soul who touched the lives of everyone he met."

Both entrepreneurs formed a close association while working for several years at IPCA Laboratories - a large pharmaceutical company based in India.

In 1997, Raju moved to the UK to help Ramachandran set up Bristol Laboratories. He had since been overseeing all aspects of the company's growth as its "second in command".

In a statement, Bristol Laboratories said, "His passion, drive and loyalty towards the business was not just a professional one but a personal commitment to serve and excel in the field."

"He was a caring father, a passionate leader and always a phone call away when you needed him. He never said no to anyone and has left a void in our hearts forever."

Raju was a respected and popular member of British pharma industry who did much to push innovation and develop new territories for Bristol Laboratories.

A regular presence at industry events, he built strong relationships with wholesalers and community pharmacists who came to rely on Bristol Laboratories' extensive product portfolio.



FOND MEMORIES: PM Raju; and (right) with Diocesan Bishop Dr Mathews Mar Thimothios Metropolitan



Paying tribute, Sigma Pharmaceuticals's Bharat Shah said, "I have known Raju for more than 20 years. I have seen him transform from an export executive in India with IPCA to becoming a very powerful executive with Bristol Labs in the UK."

"He was instrumental in developing Bristol Laboratories to one of the leading generic medicine manufacturers in the UK. He would help everyone in the most polite and effective manner. He will be greatly missed not only in the generics industry in the UK, but also by people who knew him."

Born in Adoor, in India's southern state of Kerala, Raju completed his graduation in commerce from Kerala University.

He was the founder and a dedicated member of the Indian Or-

thodox Church in Hemel Hempstead, serving as the council member of the Diocese of UK-Europe and Africa for several years.

Diocesan Bishop Dr Mathews Mar Thimothios Metropolitan of the Indian Orthodox Church said: "He always stood as a pillar on my right side for all my missions of the diocese."

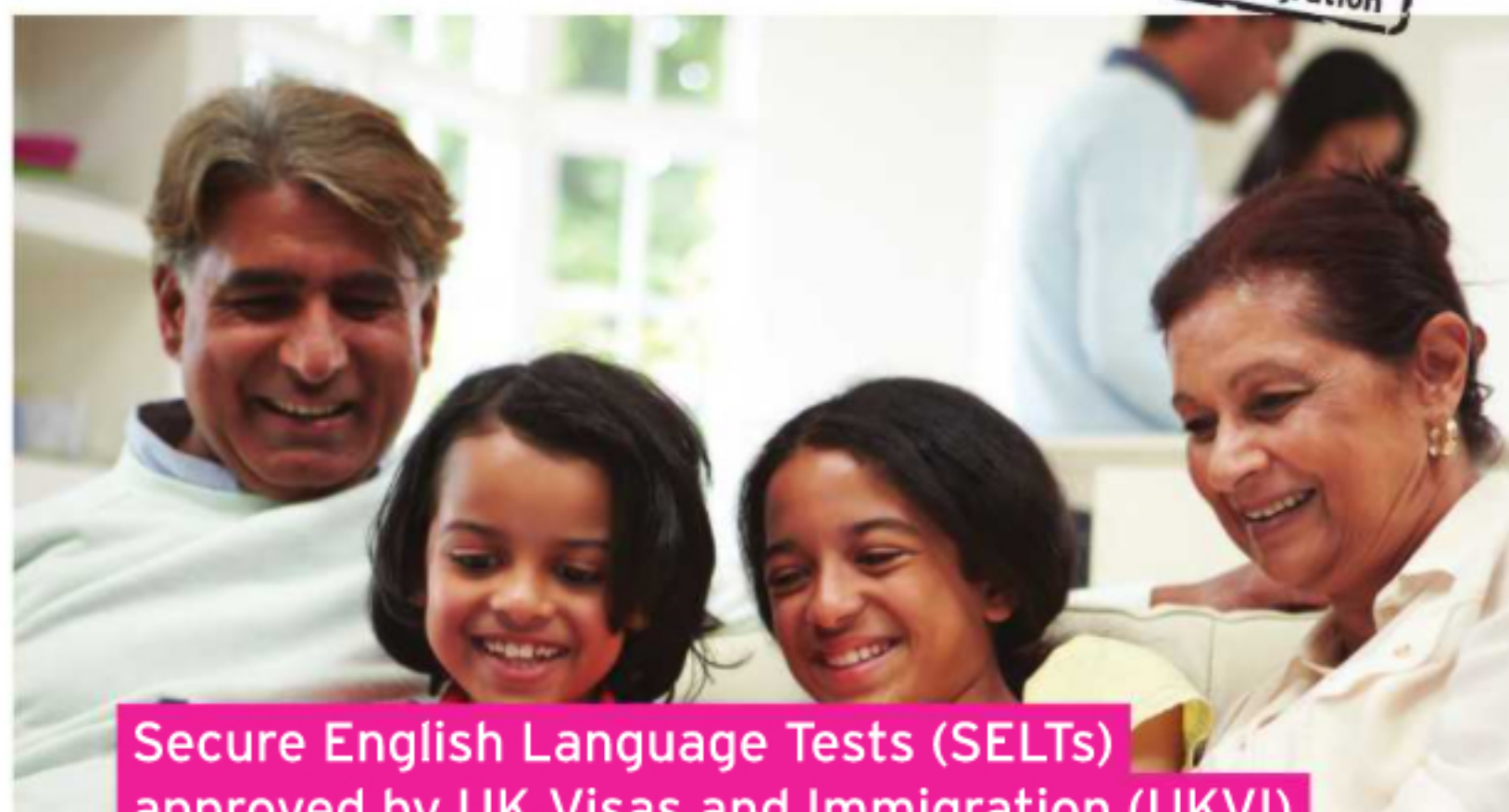
Raju also played an important role in helping to establish a Malayalee Christian community in north London.

A religious leader who knew Raju described how he helped members of the community.

"When people (from Kerala) landed in the UK, whoever got in touch with him would always get plenty of help - anything from finding accommodation to finding a job," he said.

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