

Health Ministry issues revised guidelines for home isolation of very mild, pre-symptomatic, asymptomatic COVID-19 cases

Agency
New Delhi, July 3:

The Health and Family Welfare Ministry has issued revised guidelines for home isolation of very mild, pre-symptomatic, asymptomatic COVID-19 cases. The guidelines have been extended to asymptomatic positive cases along with very mild and pre-symptomatic cases keeping in view the detection of a large number of asymptomatic cases in the country.

In the revised guidelines, the Ministry said, those patients are eligible for home isolation, who are clinically assigned as a very mild, pre-symptomatic, asymptomatic case by the treating medical officer. It states that such cases should have the requisite facility at their residence for self-isolation and also for quarantining the family contacts. The Ministry also said, patients suffering from immune compromised status like HIV, transplant recipients, cancer therapy are not eligible for home isolation. Elderly patients aged more than 60 years and those with co-morbid conditions shall only be allowed home isolation after proper evaluation by the treating medical officer. The

Ministry suggested, the caregiver and all close contacts of such cases should take Hydroxychloroquine prophylaxis as prescribed by the medical officer.

In case of developing serious signs or symptoms, the Ministry has advised to seek immediate medical attention. These symptoms are difficulty in breathing, dip in oxygen saturation, persistent pain and pressure in the chest, mental confusion, slurred speech,

weakness or numbness in any limb or face and bluish discolorations of lips and face. The guidelines also state that a patient under home isolation will stand discharged after 10 days of symptom onset and no fever for three days. Thereafter, the patient will be advised to isolate at home and self-monitor their health for further seven days and there is no need for testing after the home isolation period is over. The Ministry has laid down

detailed protocol for monitoring of cases under home isolation. It asked the State and District administration to monitor the health status of those under home isolation by the field staff and surveillance teams on a daily basis. The clinical status of each case shall be recorded by the field staff and all family members and close contacts shall be monitored and tested as per protocol.

ICMR to launch indigenous Covid-19 vaccine for public use by August 15 after completion of clinical trials

Agency
Imphal, July 3:

Indian Council of Medical Research, ICMR is planning to launch indigenous Covid-19 vaccine for public use by the 15th of August after completion of all clinical trials. ICMR has partnered with Bharat Biotech International Limited to develop this path breaking, Covid-19 vaccine. ICMR has asked Bharat

Biotech to fast track the clinical trial mechanism and ensure that the subject enrolment is initiated by 7th of July.

AIR correspondent reports that this is the first indigenous vaccine being developed in India and one of the top priority projects of the government. The vaccine is derived from a SARS-COV2 strain isolated by ICMR-National Institute of Virology, Pune. ICMR and

Bharat Biotech are jointly working for the pre-clinical as well as clinical development of this vaccine.

Recently, the Central Drug Standard Control Organisation, the National regulatory body for Indian Pharmaceuticals and medical devices, has granted approval to Bharat Biotech India to conduct human clinical trials for Corona Vaccine called 'Covaxin'.

Covid-19 recovery rate improves to 60.72 % in country

Agency
New Delhi, July 3:

Government today said that a total of three lakh 79 thousand 892 people affected with coronavirus have recovered in the country so far. In the past 24 hours, a record 20 thousand 32 people have recovered from Covid-19 and with this the recovery rate has improved to 60.72 per cent. The Health and Family Welfare Ministry said, 20 thousand 903 new cases of Covid-19 have been reported in the country in the last 24

hours taking the total number of cases to six lakh 25 thousand 544. This is the highest spike in fresh cases since the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic in India. In a single day, 379 deaths have been reported taking the nationwide toll to 18 thousand 213. Presently, the total number of active corona cases in the country is two lakh 27 thousand 439.

Meanwhile, Indian Council of Medical Research, ICMR said that a total of two lakh 41 thousand 576 corona virus tests were conducted by various laboratories in the

country in the last 24 hours. This is the highest number of tests conducted by laboratories since the outbreak of the pandemic in India. So far, 92 lakh 97 thousand 749 tests have been conducted.

ICMR is continuously increasing its testing facilities for Covid-19 by giving approval to government and private laboratories. As of now, a total one thousand 74 laboratories across India have been given approval including 775 government laboratories and 299 private laboratory chains.

Fake news on WhatsApp: No claim of Rs.2000 as Relief Fund

PIB
Guwahati, July 3:

A fake news has been circulating in WhatsApp groups where it is mentioned that the Government has finally approved and have started giving out free Rs. 2000 Relief Fund to each citizen. The message also mentions that to claim the said amount instantly one just needs to click the link: <https://bit.ly/india-relief>. It is further stated that on clicking the link, a survey questionnaire

is posted which is supposed to be filled up to claim the amount. A picture of Lion Capital is also posted with the link to make it look authentic.

It is to be noted that Government has not approved or launched any such Relief Fund. It is completely baseless and misleading information. The Government is not crediting any amount in the above mentioned manner. The use of Lion Capital picture is to only deceive the public. People are requested to restrain from

falling prey to any such news reports which are fake and unauthentic.

Off late social media and whatsapp has become a platform for circulating fake and misleading news which has no official and authenticated authority to back it. Such information can cause great damage in terms of rumour mongering and spread of wrong information. People using these platforms should exercise restraint in forwarding such messages.

JFA condoles untimely demise of printer-publisher Rantu Das

By our correspondent
Guwahati, July 4:

Journalists' Forum Assam (JFA) expresses shock at the demise of Rantu Das, printer-publisher of an Assamese newspaper, who breathed his last this morning (3 July 2020) at a city-based hospital.

The director of frontier publications private limited, which publishes popular daily newspaper Asomiya Khabar, also tested positive for Covid-19.

Das becomes the first victim of novel corona virus infection in northeast India. Days back, another printer-publisher of Hindi newspaper, Nishpaksha Samachar Jyoti, Prahlad Kumar Agarwal tested positive for

Covid-19. Unconfirmed reports claim that around ten media persons working in the city lately turned positive for novel corona virus infection.

Das, 54, was admitted to the hospital few weeks back with various ailments. According to the doctors he dies of heart-failure but later tested positive for Covid-19. Das was a reputed businessman and associated with the newspaper since its inception. He left behind his wife, one son and one daughter with a host of relatives and well-wishers.

"We reiterate our demand for mass Covid-19 screening of all media employees by the respective managements as early as possible," said a statement issued by JFA

president Rupam Barua and secretary Nava Thakuria adding that State health minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma should support the initiative as an honour to scribes, who are playing the role Covid-19 warriors with discriminating necessary information in the time of a pandemic.

Mentionable is that India as a nation lost three scribes to Covid-19 complications till date. Hyderabad based journalist Manoj Kumar, who worked for a popular Telugu news channel, Agra based journalist Pankaj Kulashrestha and Kolkata based photojournalist Ronny Roy earlier succumbed to Covid-19 infections.

JFA insists on mass Covid-19 screening for media employees

By our correspondent
Guwahati, July 3:

Journalists' Forum Assam (JFA), while expressing serious concern over increasing number of city-based media employees infected with novel corona virus in the last few days, urges all media houses to go for mass Covid-19 screening for their employees including the working journalists.

Days back, a printer-publisher of Hindi

newspaper Nishpaksha Samachar Jyoti tested positive for Covid-19. City-based Prahlad Kumar Agarwal thus became the first corona virus infected media person of the State. Unconfirmed reports claim that around ten media employees working in the city lately tested positive for Covid-19.

"We are now worried as our health minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma himself stated in public comment that journalists of two news

channels tested positive for Covid-19," said a statement issued by JFA president Rupam Barua and secretary Nava Thakuria.

The forum also appeals to the State health minister to facilitate all media houses to organize mass screening camps for their valued employees at the earliest. After all, the media persons are playing the role Covid-19 warriors with discriminating necessary information in the time of a pandemic, it concluded.

IT dept refunds over Rs 62,000 cr to more than 20 lakh taxpayers during lockdown

New Delhi, July 3:

Income Tax Department has refunded 62 thousand and 361 crore rupees to more than 20 lakh taxpayers during Covid-19 lockdown days. Central Board of Direct Taxes, CBDT in a statement said, it has issued tax refunds at a speed of 76 cases per minute from 8th April to 30th June.

It said, income tax refunds amounting to over 23 thousand and 453 crore rupees have been issued in more than 19.07 lakh cases and corporate tax refunds amounting to over 38 thousand 908 crore rupees have been issued in more than 1.36 lakh cases to taxpayers during this period. Refunds of this magnitude and numbers have been issued completely electronically and have been directly deposited into the bank accounts of the taxpayers. CBDT reiterated that taxpayers should provide immediate response to emails of the Department so that refunds in their cases too could be processed and issued at the earliest.

COVID-19 patients, people above 65 years, can vote using postal ballot

By IT Correspondent
New Delhi, July 3:

Ahead of the assembly election in Bihar, which is expected to be held in October-November, the Election Commission of India (ECI) on Thursday said coronavirus patients and those above 65 years of age will be allowed to vote using postal ballot.

With activities coming to a juddering halt, due to pandemic, the decision to allow those over 65 years and those infected with coronavirus or suspected of having contracted the infection to vote by postal

ballot has been taken after the government amended the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961. Those who have mild symptoms and are not in any medical facility, but in home quarantine can also vote through postal ballot. Earlier, casting votes through postal ballots was available only to armed forces and officials assigned poll duties.

The people over the age of 65 are vulnerable to the virus, along with pregnant women and those suffering from chronic health conditions including diabetes, hypertension and

kidney ailments. Medical experts and the government have been continuously discouraging such people from venturing out.

"Notification for Conduct of Elections (Amendment) Rules 2020 - for extending Postal Ballot facility for voters above the age of 65 yrs & Covid-19 under home/institutional quarantined, has been issued" ECI spokesperson Sheyphali Sharan said.

In February, Delhi became the first state to experiment with postal ballots, extending the facilities to those with severe disabilities or above the age

of 80 years. The elections to fill 19 vacancies in the Rajya Sabha in nine states scheduled to held in March, were deferred after the outbreak of the pandemic and were held in June. Besides arrangements were made to allow members who were unwilling to vote, through postal ballot.

"At present Bihar has 72,723 polling stations (PS) with nearly 7.18 crore voters. The ECI has directed the chief electoral officer, Bihar, to do a detailed exercise of logistics to ensure that a limit of 1,000 voters per polling station is kept and auxiliary

PS are created wherever required. About 34,000 such auxiliary PS in the same building of an existing polling station or in its vicinity would be required to ensure social distancing. Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora said. ECI will make use of digital and media platforms, including bulk SMS, social media, TV advertising, FM and community radio, NVSP (National Voter Service Portal) and the voter helpline app. Similarly the voters' guide will be updated to incorporate the COVID-19 imperatives."

Arora said. The other measures to ensure the safe election include maintaining social distancing, sanitisation and masks/gloves, training, capacity-building of electoral machinery, and sensitisation of all officials on election duty. ECI has already established mechanisms to monitor digital environment for elections. Hence, with proper monitoring mechanism and shift of campaign to the online mode would not affect the implementation of Model Code of Conduct", Arora added.

★ Editorial

If 'Transparency' is an alien concept?

A one-line statement incorporated with the updated report of COVID-19 cases issued yesterday by the state health department, it is stated that the Health Department has maintained complete transparency on the important facts related to COVID-19 pandemic and the department also re-iterated that there is no concealment of or intention to conceal facts from the public or media.

If this statement from the state health department is related to yesterday's editorial of this newspaper, it is very unfortunate that the authorities in the state health department have failed to understand what actually was this paper revealing about. There are certain reports of the health department authority holding back reports of samples that were tested and releasing only some at the VRDL, for reason known the authority. However, such holding back of tested samples instead of letting the people know about it, as they are anxiously waiting for it, people, particularly the media have reason to believe some false play as details of why such reports are withheld.

Well, as per source the health department authority could announce the result of the tested sample hours before the publication of the evening newspapers as it was earlier done. Remember, the result was announced at 11 am and later at 7 pm a day some days back. Now, as the department has stopped sending out press statements containing the updated report of COVID-19 cases, evening newspaper which has been equally delivering service by joining the war against the COVID pandemic have been left unaccountable.

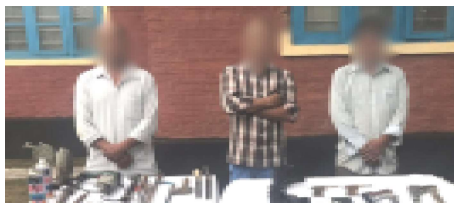
Well, the announcement of the number of COVID-19 positive cases is not only what is required for the public to know. Announcing the numbers and concealing the facts on how the department is taking up in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic cannot be simply coined as 'Transparency' unless and until it is an alien concept.

It is known to every persons, forget about those working with the media, that simply releasing the number and mentioning nothing about who are those persons affected and how they have been contacted with the virus is not what we usually understand by the concept 'Transparency'.

Other than releasing some notes containing the number of people affected by the virus and people who have been recovered, had the state health authority ever convened a press conference or interaction program with the media persons. Had there been any press briefing regarding the development which perhaps should be conducted on daily basis mandatorily.

The manpower utilized for COVID care centers and the amount spent in treatment of those either symptomatic or asymptomatic, has been kept in secret and the Health Dept. said they are maintaining transparency.

Assam Rifles apprehend one USRA cadre in Churachandpur District



IT News
Imphal, July 3:

Troops of Assam Rifles in an operation apprehended an active cadre suspected to be belonging to United Socialist Revolutionary Army (USRA) a SoO group along with two accomplices near in S Kotlian village in Churachandpur district of Manipur on June 30. The apprehended cadre has been identified as SS Secretary (Law, Custom & Culture) Henkhogin @Kaiku Vaiphei age 65 yrs, r/o S Kotlian and the accomplices as Nekhobal Vaiphei, age 42 yrs and

Ginlalmuon age 45 yrs r/o S Kotlian. The apprehended persons are suspected to be involved in the manufacturing/smuggling of illegal weapons. The troops also recovered two 9mm country made Pistols, one 12 Bore country made Rifle with three live rounds, Rs 1.04 lacs cash, three mobile phones and tools for manufacturing weapons.

The apprehended individuals along with recovered items have been handed over to Churachandpur Police Station for further investigations.

Lost

I the undersigned have lost my service liquor card bearing card number LAD5120557917400P01 somewhere while travelling from my home to Sangakpham Bazar on February 1, 2020. Finders are requested to hand over it to the undersigned.

Sd/-

Waikhom Dayananda Singh
Army No. 15687430F, Rank - L/NK

Kontha Ahallup Makha Leikai, Mantripukhri 785002 Imphal East

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Over 20,000 students were taught music within eight weeks online

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, July 3:

Since now it is a time for a digital and virtual revolution, due to the restriction on social contact, following COVID-19, the "Furtados School of Music" (FSM), located at Khar in North West Mumbai and having several branches pan India, has launched all-inclusive "right brain stimulating" online learning platform, titled "FSMBuddy", to provide interactive learning courses across the fields of arts, drama, language and music.

FSM, which has partnered with 143 schools and 15 centres in the country to train nearly 75,000 students, has already taught over 20,000 students online in the last 8 weeks. The school is being run by Tanuja Gomes and Dharini Upadhyaya, co-founders and co-CEOs.

"FSMBuddy", offers training in voice, piano, keyboard, guitar, drums and percussion instruments. It is for the first time that the live and virtual classes are being held, instead of pre-recorded classes. They are designed to follow a pre-decided timeline for all the courses. To make it better for the students to learn at their speed, "FSMBuddy" makes the classes available for the students, almost 2 weeks post their scheduled

classes.

"Every teacher is carefully selected to ensure a great learning experience for students. The aim is to provide quality education also to the students abroad whose roots are still in India. This initiative is in line with our prime minister's vision of being self-reliant and to promote Indians on global map. The platform will also host short term master classes with well accomplished musicians", FSM co-founder and co-CEO Tanuja Gomes said.

"When children are small, their 'right brain' is more active than the 'left brain'. However once a child enters school, the curriculum is focused on sharpening the 'left

brain", due to which the "right brain" slows down over time. By the age of 25, the "right brain" function reduces. It is essential to stimulate the child's "right brain" in the first 15 years of their life to ensure synergy between the two sides and enlarge the whole brain capacity", Dharini Upadhyaya said.

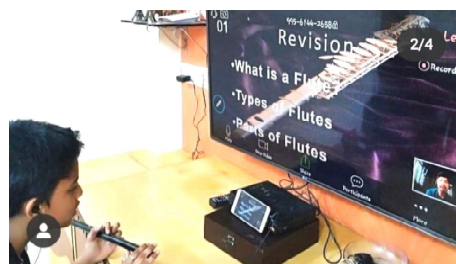
"FSMBuddy" has received testimonials from music industry experts including ace drummer Darshan Doshi, percussionist Taufiq Qureshi, actor Farida Venkat, Chintoo Bhosle (a grandson of Asha Bhosale



Tanuja Gomes, a co-founder and co-CEO of Furtados School of Music

and the founder of "A band of boys") and many musicians, endorsing the need to have such a platform which can lend a hand in shaping the future of the children.

FSM was set up in 2011 and its course is comprehensive and lays an emphasis on music theory and combines modern and effective methods of teaching with traditional elements of learning. FSM seeks to bring in quality and organized music learning to the doorstep of every music aspirant.



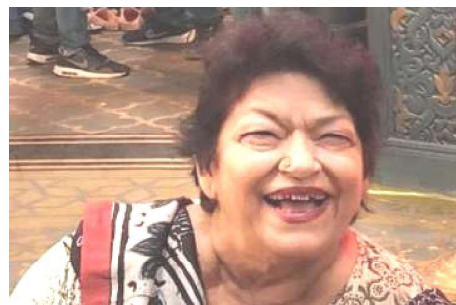
A student in an online learning session

Ace Bollywood choreographer Saroj Khan is no more

IT Correspondent
Mumbai, July 3:

National Award winning choreographer Saroj Khan, who had honed the dancing skills of many actresses including Madhuri Dixit, passed away in the wee hours of 03 July, Friday, following cardiac arrest, at Guru Nanak Hospital at Bandra in North West Mumbai.

She was admitted to the hospital with breathing complaints on 17 June. She also suffered from diabetes. She had tested negative for coronavirus. The death came at 1.52 AM. She was 71 and is survived by her husband B. Sohanlal, son Hamid Khan (choreographer Raju Khan) and daughters Hina Khan and Sukanya Khan. Her mortal remains were taken to the Ahle Sunnat cemetery at Malad in North Mumbai, where her son Raju Khan performed last rites, in presence of family members. Burial took place in the cemetery



near Malad Chowki.

Saroj Khan born as Nirmala Nagpal, joined the Indian film industry as a child artist, playing the younger Shyama in "Nazarana". She eventually became a background dancer in 1950s films like Bimal Roy's "Madhumati" under

the guidance of dance director B. Sohanlal. She married Sohanlal, when she was barely 13 years old and after they separated she tied the knot with Sardar Roshan Khan. After assisting B Sohanlal, as a dance choreographer for a few years, her first independent work

came in "Geeta Mera Naam" (1974). She got noticed after she choreographed for Sridevi in "Mr. India" (1987) (featuring Anil Kapoor and Sridevi) in a song "Hawa Hawa". She worked with Sridevi in films like "Nagina" and "Chandni". This was followed by her long-term partnership with Madhuri Dixit in the 1990s in songs like "Ek Do Teen" (Tezaab) (1988) "Hum Ko Aaj Kal Hai Intezaar" ("Sailaab") (1990), "Tamma Tamma" (Thandaaar) (1990), "Dhak Dhak Karne Laga" (Beta) (1992) and "Choli Ke Peeche Kya Hai" (Khal Nayak) (1993).

In a career spanning forty years, she choreographed nearly 2000 songs. Her most successful collaborations were with actresses Madhuri Dixit and Sridevi. He had also judged dance reality shows like "Nach Baliye", "Ustaadon Ka Ustaad", "Boogie Woogie" and "Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa".

Assam Rifles Apprehends Opium Drug Dealer In Ukhrul

IT News
Imphal, July 3:

Keeping up it's efforts to thwart the contemptible activities of the inimical elements of society, troops of Assam Rifles under the aegis of HQ IGAR (South) apprehended a drug dealer with one kg Opium at TM Kasom in Ukhrul district.

Based on credible inputs received from a reliable source, a team of Assam Rifles under one officer moved towards Yaolen village near TM Kasom, Litan. At around 1100 hrs, the team intercepted a motorbike with registration number MN 01 Z 6893 outside Yaolen village. On checking, the driver Mr Tonglun Khongsai

(age 45), r/o Yaolen was found carrying 1Kg of Opium, worth Lakhs.

The recovered Opium and indl was handed over to Litan Police station. Assam Rifles will continue to check such nefarious activities of illicit drug smuggling in Manipur to protect the youth from the menace of drug addiction.

RIMS opens Ante-natal clinic

IT News
Imphal, July 3:

Ante-natal clinic of the department of Obs. & Gynae, RIMS Hospital will start seeing patient through appointment by mobile number with effect from Monday (July 6), a statement by Medical Superintendent RIMS said. The statement further said that appointment should be taken a day ahead on working days. Appointment can however be taken two day ahead if the following day falls as holiday. Hotline numbers provided by the Superintendent for appointment are 7085406468; 6033849437; 6033855708; 7085406433 and 7085406385. The phone line will be open from 11 am to 3 pm.

State continues to ensure uninterrupted supply of PDS items

DIPR
Imphal, July 3:

State Government continues to ensure uninterrupted supply of food grains, specially rice and dal, to the public during ongoing lockdown in the State to contain outbreak of COVID-19. The Government had been distributing PDS items under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY), National

Food Security Act (NFSA) and Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS) to beneficiaries of 60 Assembly Constituencies (ACs) of the State. In Imphal West, 1,897.85 quintal of rice under NFSA was distributed to the beneficiaries of Langthabal AC and another 3,101.55 quintal of rice under PMGKAY was also distributed to the beneficiaries of Langthabal AC and Sagolband AC. In the District,

there was also report on distribution of 139 quintal of rice and 13.5 quintal of Chana covering 2,780 migrant workers. Imphal East District today reported lifting of 65.44 quintal and 88.57 quintal of dal under PMGKAY for its Keirao AC and Heingang AC respectively. The two ACs had completely lifted their allocated quantities of PMGKAY dal for the month of June.