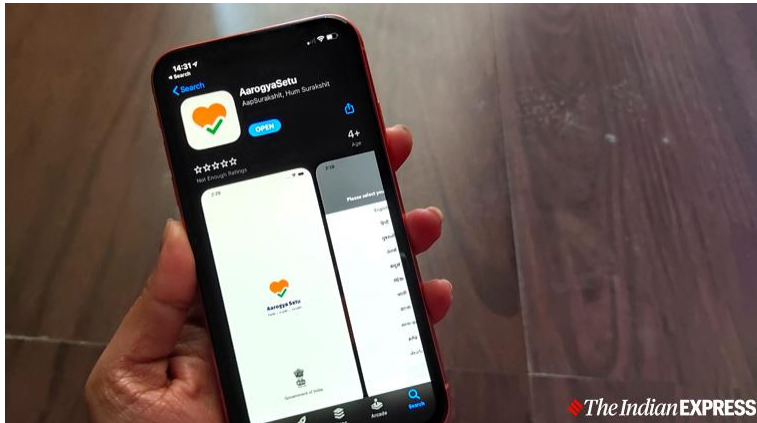


N1. Aarogya Setu: This app launched by Indian government will help you track COVID-19 cases. *The Indian Express- 03 April 2020*

Govt app to track if you have been near a Covid +ve person . Times of India-03 April 2020

*The government of India has launched its own tracking app called Aarogya Setu. It is available for both Android and iOS. Here's how to use. Aarogya Setu is developed by **National Informatics Centre**. With this application the Indian government wants to help connect essential health services with the ...*



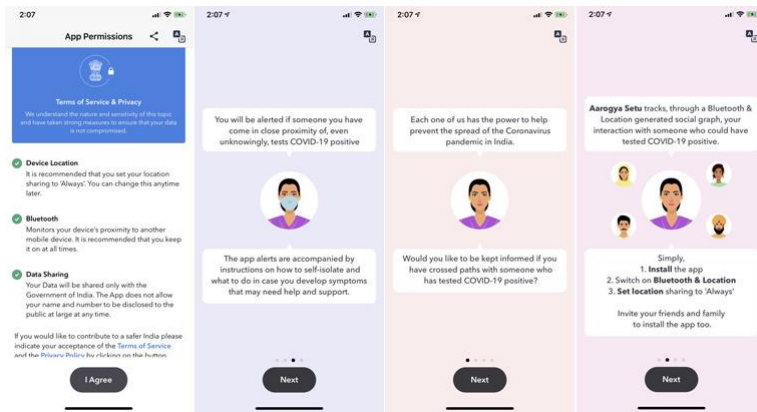
The government of India has been working on a [coronavirus tracking](#) app for over a week now. The app is now finally available on [iOS](#) and [Android](#) platforms. To recall, it was earlier called Corona Kavach but now, the official name of it is Aarogya Setu.

Aarogya Setu is developed by National Informatics Centre. With this application the Indian government wants to help connect essential health services with the people while India is under lockdown until April 14. “The App is aimed at augmenting the initiatives of the Government of India, particularly the Department of Health, in proactively reaching out to and informing the users of the app regarding risks, best practices and relevant advisories pertaining to the containment of [COVID-19](#),” the app description noted.

Aarogya Setu uses your location as well as Bluetooth data to notify when you are near a person who’s under quarantine or tested positive. To use the application first head over to either [Apple](#) App store or [Google](#) Play store and download it. Ensure to connect your smartphone to a stable WiFi network before starting the download process.

After the app has been successfully installed in the phone open it and set location sharing to ‘Allow’. You will also need to turn on the Bluetooth and GPS option for the app to work efficiently. The Aarogya Setu app is available in 11 Indian languages including English.

The Aarogya Setu app will alert if someone you have come in close proximity of, even unknowingly, tests COVID-19 positive. In addition, the app also provides instructions on how to self-isolate and what to do in case you develop symptoms that may need medical help.



How to use Aarogya Setu app

First download and install the app on your Android or iOS phone

Second open the app and allow location sharing. Read all that the app can do.

Select your preferred language

Click on Register Now option

The app will then show the terms of service and policy page. It mentions the Aarogya Setu app uses device location, Bluetooth and data sharing. It is suggested that you keep the location sharing and Bluetooth option on at all times. With the help of Bluetooth the app monitors your smartphone's proximity to another mobile device. The app also notes that your data will be shared only with the Government of India. The app doesn't allow your name and number to be disclosed to the public at larger at any time.

News Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/technology/tech-news-technology/indian-government-coronavirus-tracking-app-aarogyasetu-how-to-use-6343768/>

N2. Ministry of Civil Aviation ready with war room to fight against Covid-19

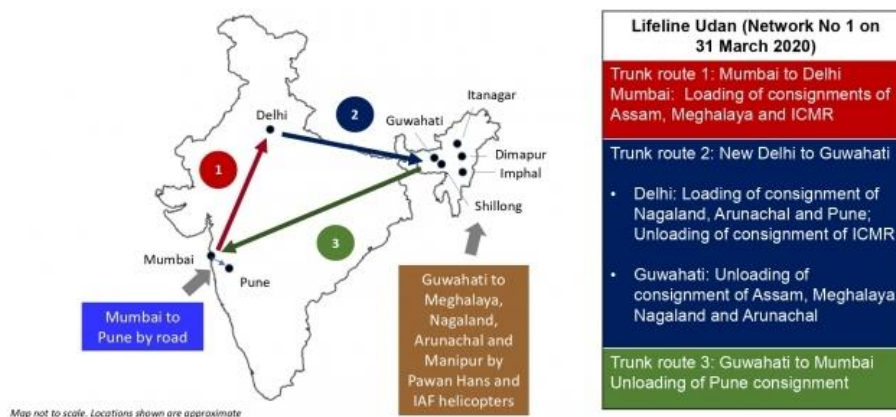
Indian Transport and Logistics News. 03 April 2020

How Lifeline Udan flights are supporting India's war against the novel Coronavirus. Financial Express. 03 April 2020

*To enable seamless coordination between various agencies, the **National Informatics Centre** and **Ministry of Civil Aviation** had developed a website ...The war room is also running a Lifeline Udan portal developed by **National Informatics Centre (NIC)** in just three days. The easy to use and navigate portal helps ...*



Complexities of the last mile connection



April 3, 2020: Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) has set up a war room to control the movement of critical and essential medical goods across the country to fight against Covid-19 pandemic under the Lifeline Udan programme.

Till April 1, within seven days the war room facilitated the movement of 76 tonnes cargo using 85 flights covering 93,000 km across the country. The ministry used 62 flights of Air India & Alliance Air and 15 of Indian Air Force (IAF) with a particular focus on northeastern states, islands and hilly areas in the country, where other modes of transport may fail to reach on time.

A typical day in the war room

MoCA coordinates with state governments, Airport Authority of India, airports, airlines, IAF and private helicopters to move these vital cargoes. A typical day in the war room involves stocktaking video conference at 8 am, listing consignment requirements of states for the next day till 2 pm, network planning through video conference at 3 pm, finalising the flight schedules with airlines at 5 pm and final adjustments & progress update till 8 pm.

Challenges during the war

The ministry also reports challenges including the light density of cargo, production delays, restriction in movement of staff, difficult weather conditions, changes in flight schedules and lack of local coordination.

Online portal to connect

The war room is also running a Lifeline Udan portal developed by National Informatics Centre (NIC)

in just three days. The easy to use and navigate portal helps states and UTs to upload required consignment data, airlines to fill flight options available, MoCA to plan and coordinate the network and simultaneously produce daily updates for the public.

The hub and spoke model network

The war room has adopted a hub and spoke model where metros like Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru and Hyderabad used as hubs while state capitals and remote regions as spokes.

As of now, the network has fixed three trunk routes between these hubs and spokes for easy movement of goods.

Trunk route 1 is from Mumbai to Delhi, for which the financial capital is used for loading consignments for Assam, Meghalaya and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

Trunk route 2 is from Delhi to Guwahati. On this path, the hub in Delhi loads consignments for Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and Pune while also unloading the goods for ICMR. Guwahati, which provides last-mile connectivity using IAF and Pawan Hans helicopters, unload cargoes for Assam Meghalaya, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh.

Trunk route 3 is from Guwahati to Mumbai as a passage for the consignments to Pune.

News Source: <https://www.itln.in/ministry-of-civil-aviation-ready-with-war-room-to-fight-against-covid19>

N3. Employees' Committee welcomes electronic payment of salary bills

Rising Kashmir. 03 April 2020

*... successful consultation with the **National Informatics Centre** for making online payments . Fayaz thanked LG of Union Territory G C Murmu, Advisors ...*

President of Employees Coordination Committee Shah Fayaz has hailed the decision of the government to implement JKPAYSYS, an electronic payment framework. Fayaz said, “This was a most awaited and long pending demand of the employees of J&K, that there should be a smooth, hassle-free, and time saving mechanism for the payment of bills in online mode.” He said there were perpetual complaints made by the employees from different corners of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir regarding frequent delay in payment of salary bills. “To ensure efficiency , transparency and smooth functioning, now Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs) can furnish e-bills to the treasuries along with all prerequisites and documents mandated as per the treasury code. This will pave the way for making payments through an online system only. Not only shall it result in hassles free payments from the State treasuries but complaints of different nature including willful delays with certain motives too shall be over.” “This is a welcome step taken by the State Finance Department to have ‘Electronic Payment Framework known as ‘JK Pay Sys’ in the State after successful consultation with the National Informatics Centre for making online payments . Fayaz thanked LG of Union Territory G C Murmu, Advisors to LG j&k Chief secretary BVR Subramaniam, Arun Kumar Mehta Principal secretary to Government, Finance department, and all other officers who made this possible.

News Source: <http://www.risingkashmir.com/news/employees-committee-welcomes-electronic-payment-of-salary-bills->

N4. Rajasthan jail inmates can now communicate with family members through video call

Outlook India. 01 April 2020

"We collected the data of visitors and worked out the project in the last three months with technical support from NIC (National Informatics Centre).

Jaipur, Apr 1 (PTI) Amid a nationwide lockdown to end the spread of novel coronavirus, the Rajasthan Prisons Department has introduced an initiative to enable jail inmates in the state communicate with their family members through video call.

The department introduced the e-Mulakat initiative on Wednesday to facilitate family members of the inmates seek appointment online for physical meeting as well as for a video call.

The project was launched early in view of lockdown so that the prisoners can see and talk to their family members through video call at a time when there cannot be any physical meeting.

"We launched the project initially in nine central jails of the state, including Jaipur. In the next few days, this facility will be available for district jails as well," DIG, Jail, Vikas Kumar told PTI.

"We collected the data of visitors and worked out the project in the last three months with technical support from NIC (National Informatics Centre). There are nearly 20,000 inmates and the average of visitors for each prisoner is 10. This way, nearly 2 lakh people are likely to be benefitted with this initiative," he said.

Kumar said registered visitors will have to submit a form, fill certain details on the website of jail department and after verification, a notification about date and time of the video call and a link will be sent to the email-id of the visitor.

"By opening the link on the given date and time, a video call with the prisoner can be made," he said, adding appointment for physical meeting in jails can also be fixed through this system.

"Since there is lockdown at present, this initiative will help jail inmates and their family members to see and talk to each other through video call," the DIG added. PTI SDA NSD

News Source: <https://www.outlookindia.com/newscroll/rajasthan-jail-inmates-can-now-communicate-with-family-members-through-video-call/1788095>

M1. COVID-19: CERT-In says spurt in cyberattacks on personal comps since 'work from home' protocol began

Economic Times. 02 April 2020

With most employees working from home, the agency said, enterprise VPN servers have now become paramount to a company's backbone, and their security and availability must be the focus for IT (information technology) teams.

New Delhi: There has been an increase in the number of [cyberattacks](#) on personal computer networks and routers since professionals were asked to work from home in the wake of the [COVID-19](#) outbreak in the country, the national cyber security agency said on Friday.

"Cyber criminals are exploiting the COVID-19 outbreak as an opportunity to send phishing emails claiming to have important updates or encouraging donations, impersonating trustworthy organisations," the [CERT-In](#) said in its latest advisory to [internet](#) users.

The Computer Emergency Response Team of India (CERT-In) said the phenomenon has been witnessed as many organisations have asked their staff to work from home to help stop the spread of the [coronavirus](#) that has claimed thousands of lives worldwide and infected millions.

"Switching to remote working because of the COVID-19 can create cyber security problems for employers and employees.

"There is an increase in the number of cyberattacks on computers, routers and unprotected home networks used by employees who have switched to remote working due to the spread of COVID-19," it said.

With most employees working from home, the agency said, enterprise VPN servers have now become paramount to a company's backbone, and their security and availability must be the focus for IT (information technology) teams.

"It is important that the VPN service is patched and up-to-date because there will be way more scrutiny against these services," it added.

The CERT-In also suggested some countermeasures and best security practices in this context: Change default passwords of your home Wi-Fi router to prevent hackers from accessing your network; use strong and unique passwords on every account and device and use two-factor authentication (2FA).

Some other countermeasures include: Not allowing sharing of work computers and other devices. When employees bring work devices home, those devices should not be shared with or used by anyone else in the home, it said.

"This reduces the risk of unauthorised or inadvertent access to protected company information," the

advisory stated.

It asked users to update VPNs, network infrastructure devices, and devices being used to remote into work environments with the latest software patches and security configurations.

"Only use software your company would typically use to share files and refrain from using your personal email or 3rd party services unless reliably informed otherwise," it added.

It is recommended that even remote user activity is covered by the organisation's perimeter security tools, the advisory said.

"Ensure that remote sessions automatically time out after a specified period of inactivity and that they require re-authentication to gain access," the CERT-In said.

It also urged IT teams of the organisations to remind employees of the types of information that they need to safeguard.

"This often includes information such as confidential business information, trade secrets, protected intellectual property and other personal information," the advisory said.

"Also, 'remember password' functions should always be turned off when employees are logging into company information systems and applications from their personal devices," it said.

A specific suggestion for IT teams was to "consider [Mobile Device Management](#) (MDM) and Mobile Application Management (MAM)."

"These tools can allow organisations to remotely implement a number of security measures, including data encryption, malware scans, and wiping data on stolen devices," it said.

The CERT-In is the country's nodal agency to combat cyberattacks like hacking and phishing and is also mandated to fortify the security of the country's internet domain.

News Source: <https://telecom.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/covid-19-cert-in-says-spurt-in-cyberattacks-on-personal-comps-since-work-from-home-protocol-began/74858356>

M2. C-DOT and Telecom Service Providers develop COVID Quarantine Alert System

APN News- 02 April 2020

Ministry of *Electronics and Information Technology* has encouraged state government agencies to use the COVID Quarantine Alert system. A Standard ...

The Department of Telecommunication and C-DOT in coordination with Telecom Service Providers have developed and tested an application which automatically triggers an email or SMS if any identified corona positive person moves away from their quarantine location.

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has encouraged state government agencies to use the COVID Quarantine Alert system.

A Standard Operating Procedure for location based monitoring of potential cases from the telecom network data has been established. Large number of requests from state agencies are already coming in from Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Haryana, and Bihar.

The system would send triggers to the identified monitoring agencies for any potential violations from the quarantined location subject to network availability and triangulation limitations.

News Source: <https://www.apnnews.com/c-dot-and-telecom-service-providers-develop-covid-quarantine-alert-system/>

M3. Centre sanctions project to UIET in Panjab University

The Tribune-03 April 2020

The Ministry of *Electronics & Information Technology* has sanctioned a research project, 'Multi-Modal Framework for Monitoring Active Fire Locations (AFL) and ...

Chandigarh: The Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology has sanctioned a research project, 'Multi-Modal Framework for Monitoring Active Fire Locations (AFL) and Precision in Allied Agricultural Activities using Communication Technologies', with an outlay of Rs 81.25 lakh for two years (2020-2022) to a team from the University Institute of Engineering and Technology (UIET) in Panjab University.

The team is looking forward to rope in Punjab and Haryana as the user agency as stubble-burning is one of the major problems being faced by citizens in northern India. It is a precursor to various respiratory disorders such as asthma, skin and eye-related diseases and low breathing air quality. Despite Centre's initiatives to increase awareness about the evil, there has been a tremendous increase in the number of such incidents every year.

News Source: <https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/chandigarh/centre-sanctions-project-to-uiet-in-panjab-university-64877>

M4. NASSCOM CoE Incubated Startups Develop Solutions to Combat Challenges Posed By COVID-19

Express Computer-31-Mar-2020

... an initiative of the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) & NASSCOM are supporting ongoing efforts to curb the spread of COVID19.

DronaMaps from CoE Gurugram has developed a Live Dashboard to track COVID19 patients & their activities; working with Haryana and Punjab Governments BlinkIn from CoE Bangalore has provided remote tech support to install Air Handling Units at the COVID19 field hospital in Wuhan at a time when the city was locked down

Two start-ups incubated at the NASSCOM Centre of Excellence IoT & AI, an initiative of the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) & NASSCOM are supporting ongoing efforts to curb the spread of COVID19. DronaMaps is working with Haryana and Punjab Government, while BlinkIn is providing services to Wuhan Hospital in China.

Ajai Kumar Garg, Senior Director, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), “We are happy to see the excellent job being done by NASSCOM CoE incubated start-ups. They are working in line with the Government to tackle the pandemic. When these young startups help fight a pandemic by using the latest technologies, we realize that the efforts of NASSCOMCoE towards Digital India are moving in the right direction. I would like to congratulate the team of DronaMaps and BlinkIn for their products that are helping in tracking the cases.”

Sophisticated tracking and communication tools are helping in executing a response, Utkarsh Singh, co-founder of DronaMaps, which is incubated at NASSCOM CoE, Gurugram, said, “At DronaMaps, we hold expertise in drone-based mapping and AI analytics.

Looking at the capabilities of the solution developed by DronaMaps, Shri Ankur Gupta, IAS, Principal Secretary DITECH, Haryana recommended them to the Health Department, Haryana and connected them with ACS Health & concerned officials. “The infrastructure in Haryana was already very mature, with multiple groups of servers which were handling all GIS requirements of the state. We immediately published the public dashboards, and is now working toward making the admin dashboards live by Monday (March 30, 2020),” said Utkarsh.

Utkarsh also said that we were in Punjab when the state was designing its policy to tackle the spread of Coronavirus with one positive case already present in Amritsar. We volunteered to contribute to their efforts by providing a reliable dashboard that sourced data released by official sources like the Ministry of Health and Family Affairs to monitor the situation.”

There are two parts to DronaMaps COVID-19 tracking Initiative. First, a user-facing public dashboard that is built to provide reliable information pooled from official sources for citizens at large. The second is an administrative dashboard with more advanced features like location tracking, geofencing, and predictive analytics. “To flatten the curve of the number of cases with the disease, it is important to track the positive cases, suspected cases, quarantined individuals, hospitalised cases, etc. To give an example, all suspected cases are constantly monitored through social media or VLR (call records). This ensures officials are aware of the places they could have visited and by detecting the mobile phones close to the patient’s phone, the people who have been in close physical proximity with the patient. In addition, predictive spatial analysis based on granular spatial and temporal data can be used to estimate which areas would need additional resources,” Utkarsh added.

Appreciating the efforts of these startups, Mr. Ajay Tomer, IAS, Addl. Secretary, DITECH, said, “Everyone has to come together to fight the Corona scare and technology is playing a major role in this.

News Source: <https://www.expresscomputer.in/news/covid-19/nasscom-coe-incubated-startups-develop-solutions-to-combat-challenges-posed-by-covid-19/51856/>

M5. Indore: IIT Indore gets grant for Artificial Intelligence

Free Press Journal-27-Mar-2020

... under the Consortium project on "Development of Application oriented Artificial Intelligent Systems" from Ministry of *Electronics & Information Technology*.

Under this Consortium, there are four partner institutions. IIT Indore is partnering as co-principal investigator with IIT Jodhpur & IIIT Allahabad and CSIR CEERI Pilani as chief principal investigator.

Indian Institute of Technology Indore will be working on "Resource Constrained Artificial Intelligence", one of the 10 projects, which have been approved under the Consortium project on "Development of Application oriented Artificial Intelligent Systems" from Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology.

Dr Aruna Tiwari, associate professor in the Discipline of Computer and Science Engineering who is leading this project, said that this is the first consortium project for IIT Indore in the area of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Under this Consortium, there are four partner institutions. IIT Indore is partnering as co-principal investigator with IIT Jodhpur & IIIT Allahabad and CSIR CEERI Pilani as chief principal investigator.

The aim of the project is to develop two technology solutions i.e. Novel optimized resource constrained implementation schemes for emerging deep learning architectures and Development of optimal edge analytics platform to facilitate embedded implementations for emerging deep learning architectures.

"The project addresses major challenges in the development of resource constrained algorithms and hardware architectures for optimizing power, bandwidth, latency, and memory for AI systems in Internet of Things (IOT) space, as IOT applications are being increasingly impacted by the infusion of AI algorithms and architectures," said Tiwari.

The total cost of the project is Rs 2.44 crore and the timeline is 3 years.

News Source: <https://www.freepressjournal.in/indore/indore-iit-indore-gets-grant-for-artificial-intelligence>