N1. Now, drones to keep watch on lockdown rule violators

The Hindu- 03 April 2020

*The Centre has also launched an app called AarogyaSetu developed by the **National Informatics Centre** that uses device location and bluetooth connectivity to ...*

Surveillance cameras, radiometric thermal imaging sensor, sky speaker tested

The Cyberabad Police on Thursday tested out drones for surveillance and to enforce the lockdown to stop the spread of COVID-19.

Among the drones tested were surveillance cameras, radiometric thermal imaging sensor and sky speaker. Telangana police officials have been caught off guard by people violating the curfew norms and loitering on streets.

"The radiometric thermal imaging sensor can get accurate temperature of a human body when it is 10-15 metres from the site. The other sky speaker mounted on a drone can broadcast an announcement that can be heard in a radius of one kilometre," said G. Naveen of Cyient Technologies, which provided the technology for the police. Health officials have been using thermal scanners to find the body temperature of suspected patients affected by COVID-19.

"The surveillance drone camera has a 30X optical zoom and 6X digital zoom giving it a capacity for 180X enhancement of an image," informed Mr. Naveen. Commercially, similar drones are deployed to check the safety of wind turbines and cellphone towers.

China, which was first impacted by COVID-19, has used similar drones to track people who have been quarantined in the country along with other surveillance tools like CCTV cameras, location data from cellphones and credit card transaction information. Other countries like Singapore and South Korea have also deployed similar technologies to enforce quarantine norms among their citizens.

On Wednesday, Health Minister Eatala Rajendar tweeted: "Govt of Telangana to track over 25,000 people placed under home quarantine by tracking their Geo location

in Realtime with the help of COVID-19 monitoring system (sic)." The Centre has also launched an app called AarogyaSetu developed by the National Informatics Centre that uses device location and bluetooth connectivity to track people.

News Source: https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Hyderabad/now-drones-to-keep-watch-on-lockdown-rule-violators/article31252262.ece

N2. Govt launches 'AarogyaSetu' app to answer people's query on Coronavirus
ABP Live-02-Apr-2020
*According to **Neeta Verma who Director General of NIC**, the Aarogya Setu app is in 11 languages and can answer the questions of the general public about ...*

The government on Thursday launched a mobile app to help people assess themselves the risk of catching coronavirus infection and alert authorities if they have come in close contact with a person infected with the deadly virus. According to Neeta Verma who Director General of NIC, the Aarogya Setu app is in 11 languages and can answer the questions of the general public about Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

News Source: https://news.abplive.com/videos/news/india-govt-launches-aarogyasetu-app-to-answer-peoples-query-on-coronavirus-1188071

N3. Maharashtra government launches online COVID-19, self-assessment tool
Economic Times. 03 April 2020

The mobile application, developed by the National Informatics Centre under the ministry of *electronics and information technology*, is available on Google Play ...

With over 400 people testing positive for coronavirus in Maharashtra, the state government has now taken the fight against the pandemic online, by launching a COVID-19 self-assessment tool.

Mumbai: With over 400 people testing positive for coronavirus in Maharashtra, the state government has now taken the fight against the pandemic online, by launching a COVID-19 self-assessment tool.

The government has created a digital platform, wherein citizens can assess their symptoms from the comfort of their homes and later contact authorities if they have any doubts about their condition, an official release stated.

The state government has collaborated with Apollo 24x7 and launched an online tool, which is available at https://covid-19.maharashtra.gov.in/, to help people assess their symptoms at home.

Immediate medical advice and other relevant contact information are also available on this link.

As per the guidelines issued by the WHO and Government of India, persons experiencing mild symptoms associated with coronavirus infection are required to self-quarantine or report to a hospital if their condition worsens.

The online self-assessment tool allows the authorities to have a real-time dashboard and helps them keep track of people with strong coronavirus symptoms who have used the tool.

Apart from this, the platform also has dos and don'ts, helpline numbers and other information about the pandemic.

The authorities also plan to upgrade the tool with a facility to avail healthcare advice over phone or video calls from doctors, it was stated.

News Source: https://health.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/diagnostics/maharashtra-government-launches-online-covid-19-self-assessment-tool/74964972

M1. Indian govt developing Citizen App, a common app for all things related to COVID-19

MediaNama.com- 04 April 2020

The committee will receive secretarial support from the Ministry of *Electronics and Information Technology* (MEITY) and "further" assistance from Manharsinh ...

The Indian government has created a committee of experts to work on a Citizen App that will onboard all citizens to "combat the COVID-19 pandemic" and "evaluate and converge related technology solutions and suggestions" through a public-private partnership (PPP). The committee has to complete its work within 3 months. The notice, dated April 3, has been issued by the Government of India, Rashtrapati Bhawan and the Cabinet Secretariat. The committee will receive secretarial support from the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY) and "further" assistance from Manharsinh Yadav, Deputy Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office.

Members of the committee are:

1. R. S. Sharma, Chairperson, TRAI
2. Prof. K. Vijay Raghavan, Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India
3. Ajay Prakash Sawhnet, Secretary, MEITY
4. Anshu Prakash, Secretary, Depart of Telecommunications
5. Anand Mahindra, Chairperson, Mahindra & Mahindra
6. N. Chandrasekaran, Chairperson, Tata Sons
7. Prof. V. Kamakoti, Member, National Security Advisory Board (NSAB) and IIT Madras

Prof. Kamakoti confirmed the authenticity of the notice and the creation of the committee to MediaNama.

This comes at a time when multiple apps have been created in the last two weeks to contain the COVID-19 pandemic in India, both at national and state level. This includes contact tracing apps such as Aarogya Setu and Corona Kavach; apps to ensure compliance with quarantine orders such as CoBuddy in Tamil Nadu, facial recognition app in Karnataka; and apps and websites to issue passes for movement during the lockdown. Apart from apps, governments (Delhi, Karnataka, Mumbai) are also using call data records and geofencing to monitor quarantined people's compliance with orders. Multiple governments (Central, Delhi, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Kerala) have also created WhatsApp chatbots to fight misinformation about the pandemic and offer updates.

The Department of Science and Technology (DST), had also set up a COVID-19 task force to fund market-ready solutions including, among other things, data analytics for tracking, monitoring, and controlling the spread of coronavirus through AI and IoT based solutions.

In such a scenario, "developing a single nation-wide technology platform on-boarding all citizens can be a powerful tool in combating the pandemic". It is not clear what this "on-boarding" would entail. It is also not clear what will happen to all the other apps that have been released by different ministries and state governments.

News Source: https://www.medianama.com/2020/04/223-citizen-app-indian-government-coronavirus/

Telangana Today-12 hours ago

Response Team (CERT-In) of the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. *CERT-In has tracked the following fake UPI IDs which have been .*

Upload contact numbers online, dupe customers promising to deliver liquor

Hyderabad: Talk about exploiting the coronavirus lockdown, and a few cyber fraudsters in Hyderabad and across the country are proving to be brilliant criminal minds. An advisory put out on Friday by the Cyber Crimes Police Station of the Hyderabad City Police indicates the extent to which they go to cheat people.

In a short tweet on Friday, the Cyber Crimes PS warned citizens that fraudsters were uploading their mobile numbers on different platforms in the name of some wine shops. Once someone, who is desperate for a liquor bottle with all other options closed due to the ongoing lockdown, calls on those numbers, the fraudsters seize upon the chance and assure door delivery of the liquor of your choice. The catch is that you have to make the payment online. And there, the police say, is where they lay the trap.

"They will obtain your debit card information and may dupe you. So be aware and be cautious," says the tweet. "Dear citizens, the fraudsters uploaded their mobile numbers in the name of specified wine shops. If you call them, they will assure to supply wines at your door and obtain your debit card information and may dupe you. So be aware and be cautious," the tweet said.

Fake UPI IDs

In another tweet, the Cyber Crime PS also warned of fake UPI IDs that have been floated by cyber crooks to dupe people donating to the 'PM Cares' campaign. The fake IDs were tracked by the Indian Computer Emergency
Response Team (CERT-In) of the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

The IDs tracked by CERT-In are pmcares@pnb, pmcares@hdfcbank, pmcare@yesbank, pmcare@ybl, pmcare@upi, pmcare@sbi and pmcares@icici. The genuine UPI ID is pmcares@sbi.

"Cyber Crimes PS Hyd City Police (@CyberCrimeshyd):

CERT-In has tracked the following fake UPI IDs which have been observed:
pmcares@pnb

pmcares@hdfcbank

pmcare@yesbank

pmcare@ybl

pmcare@upi

pmcare@sbi

pmcares@icici

It may be noted that the genuine UPI ID is "pmcares@sbi". Be cautious of the fake UPI IDs," police tweeted.

News Source: https://telanganatoday.com/hyderabadi-cyber-crooks-cash-in-on-liquor-shortage-during-lockdown

Moneycontrol News. 03 April 2020

*... this was created by the Union **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. While some applications are keeping a tab on people under home quarantine, others are busting fake news and also assisting citizens.*

In order to tackle the coronavirus outbreak, both central and state governments have ramped up their efforts, which includes launching smartphone applications.

While some applications are keeping a tab on people under home quarantine, others are busting fake news and also assisting citizens.

Here's a list of COVID-19 related apps:

Aarogya Setu: The Aarogya Setu is a tracking app that has been recently launched by the Centre to find out about coronavirus infection cases using a GPS system and Bluetooth – features present in all smartphones. The government will use these smartphone features to determine if a person is living close to a patient of COVID-19. The application supports 11 languages.

Chatbot: The Prime Minister had announced the launch of a WhatsApp chatbot so that the citizens can get instant and authentic answers to all their queries related to the coronavirus pandemic. All they have to do is drop a 'Hi' on the number 919013151515. One can also call on the MyGov Corona Helpdesk to get answers to pertinent queries such as the symptoms of the deadly disease, nearest COVID-19 testing facility.

Corona Kavach: Another COVID-19 tracker application, this was created by the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. This application provides users with real-time location of infected users who have activated the 'Kavach' feature.

COVID-19 Feedback: This application was developed by the Centre to get direct feedback from people who have undergone coronavirus treatment in the country.

State governments:

Goa: The Goa Health Ministry collaborated with Innovaccer to develop the 'Test Yourself Goa' application. It was launched to help users self-diagnose and find out if they have any telling symptom associated with the novel coronavirus disease.

Puducherry: Innovaccer also joined hands with the Puducherry government to develop the 'Test Yourself Puducherry' application.

Tamil Nadu: To ensure that people under home quarantine do not violate any rule, the COVID-19 Quarantine Monitor application was launched. The Tamil Nadu government collaborated with Pixxon Ai Solutions to develop this app. Users can also use the application to check if they have any COVID-19 symptom.

Karnataka: Karnataka government has launched more than one application to tackle the coronavirus outbreak. One of them is the 'Quarantine Watch', which is similar to Tamil Nadu's COVID-19 Quarantine Monitor and monitors citizens under home quarantine. It has a GPS-based feature that

helps track people under home quarantine to make sure they do not venture out. It also has a provision to send selfies to the government to prove they are strictly following isolation rules.

The other app is 'Corona Watch' that reportedly shows the location of COVID-19-infected persons and their movement history of 14 days. The app developed by Karnataka Geographic Information System Agency features a map of Karnataka that highlights all spots visited by COVID-19 patients before they were diagnosed.

Punjab: The COVA Punjab was launched by the Punjab government. It is essentially a coronavirus tracker that can also be used to obtain curfew passes and report large gatherings of people.

Kerala: The Kerala government launched the **'**GoK Direct' app to increase awareness on the coronavirus pandemic. It is essentially a news providing application.

National Capital Region: The 'Noida Authority Apurti Suvidha' application was launched this week to start home delivery of essential items to residents.

Maharashtra: The 'Mahakavach' app was developed to trace the contact history of COVID-19 patients, by finding out the places they visited and people they interacted with before the virus infection was detected.

News Source: https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/technology/heres-a-list-of-apps-launched-by-centre-and-state-governments-to-tackle-covid-19-crisis-5106381.html

India Education Diary- 03 April 2020

New Delhi: **Minister of State** *Electronics & Information Technology*, Communications and Human Resource Development Shri Sanjay Dhotre today launched ...

New Delhi: Minister of State Electronics & Information Technology, Communications and Human Resource Development Shri Sanjay Dhotre today launched Hack the Crisis – India, an Online Hackathon to find working solutions for overcoming COVID 19 pandemic. This hackathon is part of a global initiative and is being organised by 'Hack A Cause – India' and 'Ficci Ladies Organization Pune' and supported by Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, Government of India (MEITY).

Aim of this hackathon is to strengthen fight against COVID19.The winning ideas from few top participating teams, as implementable solutions on corona crisis is expected to help India and global citizens.

Speaking on the occasion Shri Sanjay Dhotre said that today COVID -19 has thrown unprecedented challenges for the world and industries alike. While we continue to fight these challenges as a nation, amidst business disruptions and remote working scenarios, it is important for all including governments, industry and individuals to contribute with all its might to overcome the present and emerge stronger as humanity.

Minister of State Electronics & Information Technology stated that he have a firm belief that we shall and we will overcome this challenge and come out stronger as a country and thereby also support the humanity at large to prevail. According to great Albert Einstein in the middle of difficulty lies opportunity.

Minister Shri Sanjay Dhotre further stated that, under the able leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, Government of India along with many enthusiastic

organisations have launched a number of initiatives to identify and support solutions and ideas that can reduce the present pain and also contribute in fast recovery.

Minister communicates that he have a strong conviction that in an era where social distancing has become a new normal, digital solutions and products will reconnect the human race and thereby contribute in the economic recovery in a much more profound way.

Shri Sanjay Dhotre stressed that it is his privilege and honour to launch the Hack the Crisis – India, an Online Hackathon to find working solutions for overcoming COVID 19 pandemic. This hackathon is part of a global initiative and is being organised by 'Hack A Cause – India' and 'Ficci Ladies Organization Pune' and supported by Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, Government of India (MEITY).

Minister explained that aim of this hackathon is to strengthen fight against COVID19.The winning ideas from few top participating teams, as implementable solutions on corona crisis is expected to help India and global citizens.

Shri Sanjay Dhotre further said that over 2000 teams and over 15000 participants will be enhancing their working prototypes in 48hour hackathon with expert mentoring from India, Estonia and Finland. Top teams from India will participate in 'Hack the Crisis – World' global hackathon in coming weeks.

Minister of State Electronics & Information Technology assured that Humanity has survived many threats in the past and I am sure this time also the COVID threat shall be overcome by us unitedly by turning this crisis into an opportunity. Shri Sanjay Dhotre wishes all the team best of luck and expect them to come up with innovative Tech solutions in the current scenario.

Minister of State Electronics & Information Technology, Communications and Human Resource Development Shri Sanjay Dhotre wished, 'All the best and stay safe'.

News Source: https://indiaeducationdiary.in/sanjay-dhotre-launched-hack-the-crisis-india-an-online-hackathon-to-find-working-solutions-for-overcoming-covid-19-pandemic/