N1. NIC develops portal for surveillance

The Hindu- 07 April 2020
The comprehensive COVID management solution has been developed by a team comprising the
National Informatics Centre (NIC), the district administration of ...

The Kerala state unit of the National Informatics Centre (NIC) has designed and developed a comprehensive information and management portal for the surveillance, care and support of people affected or quarantined by COVID-19.

The portal https://covid19jagratha.kerala.nic.in is envisaged as a one-stop platform for the public to avail themselves of emergency services and information related to COVID-19 and ensure transparency and welfare measures. The portal has since been customized and implemented in all the 14 districts of Kerala.

The comprehensive COVID management solution has been developed by a team comprising the National Informatics Centre (NIC), the district administration of Kozhikode and the Kerala State IT Mission (KSITM), Kozhikode. District Collector, Kozhikode, Sambasiva played a pivotal role in arranging domain knowledge and expertise and helping in the deployment of the portal across the State.

The State government and the district administration adapted the portal for all major IT support services.

The portal extends login credentials for district authorities, health authorities and secretaries of local bodies. At the field level, Rapid Response Teams (RRT) were formed to monitor the persons in home quarantine. These RRT teams will monitor the people under observation on a daily basis and update the data using the system. The medical officer concerned can view the real-time status and take appropriate action if there are any symptoms.

The portal has facilities for prioritisation of individuals into high risk and low risk based on guidelines published by the Health Department and clinical categorisation for easier monitoring. It will also enable individuals to request medical aid and ambulance, generate self-declaration and apply and generate vehicle permits.

News Source: https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/nic-develops-portal-for-surveillance/article31284209.ece

N2. Aarogya Setu COVID-19 tracker app: How to download, use on Android, iOS devices

India TV- 07 April 2020

The Indian Coronavirus tracker app has been launched by MeitY's *National Informatics Centre*. The Aarogya Setu Coronavirus tracking app allows you to know if ...

Here's how to download and use Aarogya Setu India COVID-19 tracker app for India via Google Play Store, App Store**.**

Coronavirus cases are spreading like wildfire in India and across other nations and it gets mandatory to keep an eye on the virus and stay as updated as possible. Among the various initiatives for the same, the Government of India also launched an official COVID-19 tracking app -- Aarogya Setu -- in the country. The Indian Coronavirus tracker app has been launched by MeitY's National Informatics Centre.

The Aarogya Setu Coronavirus tracking app allows you to know if you are in the proximity of a Coronavirus-infected person. It uses your smartphone's Bluetooth and location to figure that out and tell if you are at the risk of getting the virus. In addition to this, the Aarogya Setu allows you to conduct a self-assessment test for you to know whether or not you are at 'low', 'moderate', or 'high' risk of catching COVID-19. This way, you can consult a doctor if you find out something fishy.

Aarogya Setu Coronavirus tracking app: How to download on Android, iOS?

The Aarogya Setu app is available via both the Google Play Store and the App Store. As a reminder, the Indian Government launched the Corona Kavach prior to Aarogya Setu and has now been replaced by it. Although the app is still available on the Google Play Store, its best you use Aarogya Setu and go for it.

- Head to Google Play Store or the App Store
- Look for *Aarogya Setu* in the search bar (Android) and in the dedicated search section (iOS)
- Once the app is displayed, press the Install option to download it on your smartphone

You can also head to *MyGov.in* website, look for Aarogya Setu app, scan the QR code available to download it on your Android and iOS device.

Aarogya Setu Coronavirus tracking app: How to use on Android, iOS?

Now that you have downloaded the Aarogya Setu Coronavirus tracking app, you should know that it is an easy-to-use one with a simple UI. You just need to follow these steps to get started:

- Open the Aarogya Setu app on your smartphone
- You will get to select from 11 languages. Choose the one you prefer
- Once the language is selected, you need to go through a couple of slides that will tell a bit about the app
- Now, you have to provide the app with location, Bluetooth, and data sharing permissions and complete the process by selecting the 'I Agree' option. Remember to turn on the Bluetooth on your smartphone while you use the app
- Register yourself by entering your mobile number and verifying it via an OTP
- Once all this is done, you will be taken to the main page of the Aarogya Setu app and you are good to go

From here, you can get all the Coronavirus-related information, take up a symptoms checkup, and contact the help centres when required. You will also know whether or not you are safe from COVID-19. Additionally, the app asks you to use it often to stay updated.

Aarogya Setu Coronavirus tracking app: Are there privacy issues?

While registering for Aarogya Setu, the app requires access to your data and location and suggests that the information will only be shared with the Indian Government and not third parties. It is suggested that the app is end-to-end encrypted and has been designed to remain safe from any security vulnerabilities. However, it still raises privacy concerns as the government is accessing your data for your safety.

Having said that, if the app helps prevent the ongoing Coronavirus crisis in some way, maybe people can try ignoring the privacy concern to remain safe from COVID-19.

News Source: https://www.indiatvnews.com/technology/news-aarogya-setu-mobile-app-how-to-use-aarogya-setu-where-to-download-android-ios-app-coronavirus-covid-19-tracking-by-government-605469

M1. Covid-19: Government cracks down on fake news on social ...

India Today- 08 April 2020

The Ministry of *Electronics and Information Technology* (MeitY) is learned to have asked social media platforms like Tiktok, Helo and Facebook to remove rogue ...

M2. Nasscom, IT Ministry to help you upgrade AI skills for free

Express Computer. 08 April 2020

... order to remain industry relevant and future ready," Ajay Prakash Sawhney, Secretary, Ministry of *Electronics and Information Technology*, said in a statement.

As you work from home due to COVID-19 lockdown, here comes an opportunity to upgrade your emerging tech skills including Artificial Intelligence (AI), thanks to a new initiative that was launched by IT industrys apex body Nasscom and Union IT Ministry.

As a result, the Foundational Artificial Intelligence (AI) course from learning platform SkillUp Online will be available for free for everyone till May 15, said Nasscom.

"The novel coronavirus has thrown up exceptional challenges across the world and industries alike. While we continue to fight these challenges as a nation, amidst lockdown and remote working scenarios, it is extremely important that we continue harnessing our skill sets on emerging technologies to become future ready," said Debjani Ghosh, President, Nasscom.

This course is aligned to the industry's recommended Foundation AI curriculum (retail price Rs 6,800).

The Foundational Big Data Analytics course from Digital Vidya — aligned to the industry's recommended Foundation BDA curriculum — will also be soon made available free of cost (retail price Rs 5,000).

The campaign to upgrade skills of people has been launched under the Nasscom FutureSkills initiative which has curated deep learning programmes for their partner ecosystem that will be available for free on the Nasscom website for all users.

"COVID -19 has thrown unprecedented challenges for the world and industries alike. While we continue to fight these challenges as a nation, it's important to use this opportunity to upgrade our skills, in order to remain industry relevant and future ready," Ajay Prakash Sawhney, Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, said in a statement.

In the coming weeks, Nasscom also plans to provide learning modules on other technologies like Internet of Things (IoT) and cybersecurity along with live webinars for participants to create more interactive learning on these themes.

News Source: https://www.expresscomputer.in/egov-watch/nasscom-it-ministry-to-help-you-upgrade-ai-skills-for-free/52486/

M3. MeitY seeks ideas on IT Act revamp

Economic Times. 07 April 2020

Following MeitY's ask, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade has written to industry bodies for feedback. Industry lobby group Nasscom, Confederation of Indian Industry, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and Assocham received an email from DPIIT last week. ET has reviewed a copy of the email.

Bengaluru: The government has started inter-departmental and industry consultations to revamp the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 to stay on top of the various technological advances in the social media, e-commerce, cybercrime and digital payments space. The Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) has reached out to stakeholder ministries, including the Ministry of Home Affairs and Department of Telecom for their inputs, a senior government official told ET.

Following MeitY's ask, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade has written to industry bodies for feedback. Industry lobby group National Association of Software and Service Companies (Nasscom), Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), and Assocham received an email from DPIIT last week. ET has reviewed a copy of the email.

DPIIT, in an email sent last week, asked industry bodies to share inputs and suggestions pertaining to the amendment in the IT Act, 2000, including studies, committee reports, court advisories and global best practices.

In February, Union Minister for Electronics and IT Ravi Shankar Prasad disclosed the plan to revamp the IT Act, citing shifts in technology since the last decade.

In a note, Nayonika Dutta, Deputy Director, e-Commerce Policy at DPIIT, said that though the Act was last amended in 2008, recent technological innovations such as social media, digital services, ecommerce services, artificial intelligence, machine learning, smart devices, Internet of Things and blockchain have changed the digital ecosystem significantly. "While on the one hand, these innovations have provided opportunities for growth and efficiency gains, on the other, they also pose significant challenges. Accordingly, the IT Act, 2000 needs to be amended in order to address such upcoming and future opportunities as well as challenges," Dutta added.

News Source: https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/tech/ites/meity-seeks-ideas-on-it-act-revamp/articleshow/75017401.cms