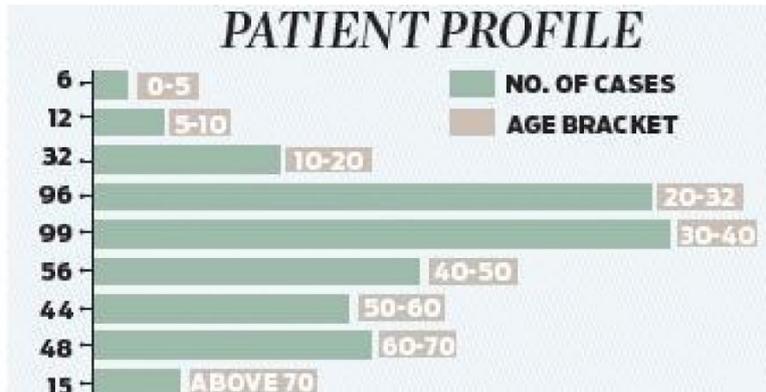### N1. ICMR to conduct random testing in three districts
The New Indian Express-21 April 2020
Sampling will help map spread of virus; Rapid Antibody Test kits will be used on adults. The survey will be done using Rapid Antibody Test kits. A mobile app has been developed for this purpose by the **National Informatics Centre** *and will be used*

PATIENT PROFILE

Age Bracket	No. of Cases
0-5	6
5-10	12
10-20	32
20-32	96
30-40	99
40-50	56
50-60	44
60-70	48
ABOVE 70	15

BENGALURU: The Indian Council of Medical Research will study 82 districts in 25 states in the country to understand the spread of the coronavirus through randomised testing. In Karnataka, Bengaluru, Chitradurga and Kalaburagi will be part of the study, Minister Suresh Kumar, the spokesperson for COVID-19, told a press meet on Monday. This random sampling will help judge the extent of spread, and if the number of positives is negligible, it would indicate that the state is not in Stage 3, which is community transmission.

According to ICMR, the sample size per district will be 400 tests and the survey can be completed within a day with 10 teams in a district, with due preparation. Speaking about the fatality rate here, Kumar said, "80 per cent of the 16 deaths are of people who were above 60 years old, and those having SARI symptoms. In all, 29 cases in the state are of patients with SARI symptoms, 2 have Influenza Like Illness, 20 are related to the Tablighi Jamaat and 103 are contacts of others who went to the Tablighi Jamaat."

The survey will be done using Rapid Antibody Test kits. A mobile app has been developed for this purpose by the National Informatics Centre and will be used for data entry by teams conducting the survey, with analytical support provided by ICMR.

Those surveyed will be over 18 years old in the sampled households. The team will visit the randomly selected households and brief them about the survey, after obtaining verbal consent on basic demographic details, exposure history to lab confirmed COVID-19 cases, symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 in the preceding month and clinical history. For the test, 3 to 4 drops of capillary blood will be collected.

News Source: https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/karnataka/2020/apr/21/icmr-to-conduct-random-testing-in-three-districts-2133005.html

N2. **Delhi confidential: Lining Up Online**
The Indian Express-21 April 2020

*the Prime Minister's most urgent meetings are now virtually-held, and the **National Informatics Centre** has started allowing the e-filing system to work from home.*

After functioning with a few judges for the last couple of weeks on account of the lockdown, the Supreme Court will see near-full attendance of judges on Tuesday, with 30 of 33 of them taking up matters for hearing.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has permitted online meeting request from Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Technology chairman Shashi Tharoor.

Following the path of several other government proceedings now shifting to the digital world, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has permitted online meeting request from Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Technology chairman Shashi Tharoor. With some days of physical standstill, now several public institutions are grappling with an online lifeline. Supreme Court hearings have trialed video-conferencing, the Prime Minister's most urgent meetings are now virtually-held, and the National Informatics Centre has started allowing the e-filing system to work from home. Congress MP Tharoor applauded the "welcome precedent" on Monday.

Full Again

After functioning with a few judges for the last couple of weeks on account of the lockdown, the Supreme Court will see near-full attendance of judges on Tuesday, with 30 of 33 of them taking up matters for hearing. While there will be only one virtual court headed by Justice N V Ramana to hear urgent matters via video conferencing, he and the others will also take up review and curative petitions in their chamber.

Too Close For Comfort

It was supposed to be a graded opening of government offices from Monday. However, the sheer crowd at offices — of public servants coming back to work — has stumped officers. The familiar struggle to find a place to park in official car parking was, unexpectedly, back. Many staff were spotted coming to work on two-wheelers, with colleagues riding pillion. Many officers in internal groups were found discussing that stricter rules needed to be applied for relaxation of government working if social distancing needed to be maintained.

News source: https://indianexpress.com/article/delhi-confidential/om-birla-tharoor-national-informatics-centre-6371815/

N3. Start mapping of land assets in green zones, Haryana CM directs officials

Daily Pioneer- 21 April 2020

Khattar also directed the officers to develop a dashboard in coordination with the **National Informatics Centre** *to keep track of the mapping, for which the first ...*

Haryana CM asks officials to start mapping in Green Zones . ***Times of India***

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Monday directed the officials to start the mapping of land assets in the green zones of Mahendragarh, Rewari, and Jhajjar districts of the State through the Survey of India following the guidelines issued by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs during the lockdown period after obtaining necessary permission from the Government. The directions were issued by the Chief Minister in a meeting while reviewing the project of mapping of land assets of the State by Survey of India through video conferencing with Surveyor General of India Lieutenant General (Retd), Girish Kumar.

Khattar also directed the officers to develop a dashboard in coordination with the National Informatics Centre to keep track of the mapping, for which the first phase of survey has been completed and the Chief Minister will personally monitor it. Ministry of Home Affairs has given permission to the states to carry out industrial and economic activities during the lockdown period with some conditions from April 20 onwards, except in containment zones, and in the first phase, Haryana too has started some activities. The work of mapping of Survey of India is also a part of this. Three districts of Haryana, Mahendragarh, Rewari and Jhajjar have been declared green zones as positive Covid-19 cases have not been registered in these districts.

Khattar was also informed at the meeting that data acquisition using drones has been completed in 75 villages of 15 districts, while the process of data collection is underway in Karnal and Sonepat districts. A preliminary base map of the population (Lal Dora) has been prepared for three villages in Sonipat, five villages each in Panchkula and Karnal, four villages each in Sirsa and Panipat and five villages in district Faridabad, he added.

Khattar said these 26 villages have invited objections or suggestions and are ready to resolve or settle such objections within seven days. He also said that a District Development and Panchayat Officer will be designated as the Nodal Officer for the activities related to the Lal Dora region. In addition, a unique ID will be provided to every property or residential land on the lines of the ID provided for urban areas by the Urban Local Bodies Department, he added. He said that necessary directions have been issued by the Department of Development and Panchayats in this regard.

CM PRESIDES MEETING ON PARIVAR PEHCHAN PATRA

It is the aim of State Government to ensure each eligible beneficiary in the State gets the benefits of all welfare policies and programmes of the Government, Haryana chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar said here, directing officials to collect a database of every family covered under Parivar Pehchan Patra. He noted that verification of over 9 lakhs families has been completed under Mukhya Mantri Parivar Samridhi Yojana (MMPSY) scheme, therefore Higher Education institutions and schools should ask the children to fill the 'Parivar Pehchan Patra' performa at the time of admission so that the factual data of every household can be collected. Presiding over a meeting with the officers, regarding the Parivar Pehchan Patra (PPP) through video conferencing here, the chief minister said all those proposed to be covered under social security pensions may be covered under 'Parivar Pehchan Patra' forms, so that the data can be used by the departments to give benefit of various welfare schemes to its actual beneficiary. Khattar said that the families covered under Public Distribution System, including, Below Poverty Line (BLP), Above Poverty Line (APL) and Other Priority Households (OPH) families should also be asked to update their family details in the 'Parivar Pehchan Patra'.

News Source: https://www.dailypioneer.com/2020/state-editions/start-mapping-of-land-assets-in-green-zones--haryana-cm-directs-officials.html

M1. Government Launches App Challenge to Develop Zoom Alternative Amid Security Concerns

NDTV-21 April 2020

*India has warned government officials against using Zoom app for official purposes.... Rs. 1 crore to deploy the app for use by central and state Governments across India and a certificate by **Minister of Electronics and Information Technology**.*

The central government has launched a video conferencing app development challenge for Indian companies with prize money of Rs. 1 crore. The innovation challenge has been introduced at a time when security issues have been highlighted in the popular Zoom video-conferencing app. "Innovation Challenge for Development of Video Conferencing Solution" has been introduced by the government to facilitate Work from Home (WFH) that has become a new normal for crores of people in the country. WFH means that a huge amount of information is being shared online, giving rise to concerns over the privacy of the conversations and control over the app and data shared through the app.

The app development program started registration on April 13 and the last date for registering is April 30. The video conferencing app should be able to work on any kind of device, in poor network areas, should have encrypted communication, and should use less power.

The results of the government challenge will be announced on 29 July. The winning team will be given Rs. 1 crore to deploy the app for use by central and state Governments across India and a certificate by Minister of Electronics and Information Technology.

Last week, the government issued an advisory cautioning against using Zoom app. The Cyber Coordination Centre (CyCord) of Home Ministry said that the app should not be used by government official owing to security concerns. Earlier, CERT-In, India's nodal agency that deals with cyber-security threats, had also warned that the Zoom video conferencing app may be vulnerable to cyber-attacks. Several organisations like Google and Standard Chartered have asked their employees to not use Zoom. US Senate also asked the senators to refrain from using the app.

In India, many have been using Zoom app as a part of their new WFH routine during the ongoing lockdown that came into force after the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic. Several High Courts in India have conducted hearings on Zoom. Even the country's Defence Minister Rajnath Singh was seen using the app.

News Source: https://gadgets.ndtv.com/apps/news/zoom-alternative-india-challenge-government-1-crore-prize-money-2215451

M2. Indian solutions to combat Covid 19 stand out at Global Hackathon

Express Computer. 21 April 2020

MEITY *together with MyGov will definitely try to take the solutions on ground. This has been a great learning experience and I am sure all of us will come stronger ...*

Is it possible to save the world without stepping into the world? The world is witnessing its biggest and most unprecedented crisis in recent times- COVID-19. The pandemic which has engulfed many nations together, required brilliant minds to come together to save millions of lives and families. India's solutions were unanimously appreciated at the recently concluded Global Hackathon, an online hackathon where nations competed to share the best solutions to overcome COVID-19 and its aftermath.

With India's remarkable feat, the country was invited to lead in the three large categories – as track lead in Crisis-Management, Healthcare-Wellness & Mental Health.

Here is how India placed in its tracks:

(1) **Crisis Response**-India ranked 1st and 2nd in this category. The first winning idea-Autonomous UV Disinfectant Robot and the second winning idea-PAVAN-Portable and affordable ventilator with assist control mode for novel coronavirus victims

(2) **Mental Health**– India ranked 2nd in this category. Shashwat Agarwal and team's idea of ASHA-Connect people with psychologists digitally and cater to rising mental health concerns due to the pandemic.

(3) **Health & Wellness**– India ranked 2nd in this category-COVID Care-AI powered Digital Hospital & Coronavirus laboratory.

(4) **Governance** – an additional track in which India stood 3rd with 'LookOut' an application that helps the government sustainably reallocate resources, crowdsourcing data from the users to form a Lifestyle Quality Index for a specific area.

Inspired by one of its kind global movement Hack the Crisis, its India initiative responded to the outbreak by swiftly executing Hack the Crisis-India which concluded on the 5th of April 2020 and thereafter joined the global hackathon movement, in less than a day. Despite the lockdown, Hack the Crisis India received more than 15,000 applications and 2,500 team submissions, which were more than any other country in the world. Out of the 2,500 submissions, the best 300 teams were selected and given mentoring support from professionals across Europe and India. With the guidance of the mentors, the 300 teams had 48 hours to develop a working prototype mobilized for implementable solutions. The top 30 finalist teams got a direct entry to represent India at the Global Hackathon which commenced on April 9th and ended on April 12th, 2020.

Abhishek Singh, CEO MyGov & CEO NeGD Govt of India said, as a jury member, "It was very difficult to decide the winning teams as we received innovative solutions from young entrepreneurs across the world. I'm very happy with the success of this initiative in India and how quickly it took shape. What I can say today is that only two things can help the world to tide over a crisis of this magnitude and they are innovation and collaboration. And this Hack the Crisis event was a classic example of the same."

Dr. Garg, Senior Director MIETY, Govt of India said, "As a community, we have never seen a challenge of this kind nor have we seen such innovative solutions that have emerged out of both the Hackathons, which reinforced that we will overcome the unprecedented crisis. MEITY together with MyGov will definitely try to take the solutions on ground. This has been a great learning experience and I am sure all of us will come stronger out of this."

The success of this global event is a big achievement for nations worldwide as quick prototype-able solutions will help flatten the curve and save millions of lives. Gayatri Chhabria andPayal Rajpal jointly heading Hack the Crisis said, "We aim to strengthen and bolster the fight against COVID19 for India. We are determined to contribute winning ideas from top teams the excellent prototype-able products to mobilize as solutions for the Government of India, additional mentoring by global experts and the implementation of top solutions shall be accelerated to help India and global citizens"

Ritu Prakash Chhabria said, "The challenge we are facing is not insurmountable. What is needed is a commitment to find a solution and I am happy to share that the Global Hack has provided the platform. It's human instinct to survive against all odds and this is what brought bright minds together and the Global Hack is the perfect example of such a collaboration."

According to the World Economic Forum, women comprise of the majority of health and social care workers and are on the front lines of the fight against COVID-19. It was an all-women led team to successfully organise 'Hack the Crisis India' the largest online hackathon of India to fight COVID-19 with solutions to contain the virus and deal with its aftermath by inviting prototype-able ideas to help deal with the pandemic.

The team is helmed by Payal Rajpal, Gayatri Chhabria and Ritu Chhabria with support of the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MEITY), Minister of State for Human Resource Development and the government's popular initiative program-Make in India, MyGov India. Pune and Mumbai in the state of Maharashtra are the worst hit in the entire country. This unprecedented situation further encouraged the all-women led team to work round the clock and help give the world a hack from the crisis that could save millions of lives.

News Source: https://www.expresscomputer.in/indiaincfightscovid19/indian-solutions-to-combat-covid-19-stand-out-at-global-hackathon/53582/

O1. How China dominates tech investments in India

Hindu BusinessLine. 19 April 2020

The Centre's decision to impose restrictions on investments coming in from neighbouring countries especially China could have an impact on the start up segment. Chinese investors have already cornered major stake in 18 out of India's top 30 Unicorns.

O2. The Future of e-learning at the Workplace

Economic Times. 21 April 2020

Even though it had been considered a poor cousin of the classroom program, e-learning can be made superior to classroom training, easily replacing a live class

O3. Maze Ransomware is wreaking havoc among enterprises. All you need to know

Economic Times. 21 April 2020

The Maze ransomware attack on Cognizant is worrisome and companies are on their toes now to ensure their cybersecurity readiness. Here's why taking steps towards maintaining cyber hygiene is crucial now.

O4. Online dashboard by ministry of road to guide essential goods carriers through dhabas, repair stores

Economic Times. 21 April 2020

The ministry of road transport and highways has launched an online dashboard link on its website for providing list and details of dhabas and truck repair shops available across the country

O5. e-Governance to emerge very strong post lockdown: Dehradun DC Ashish Srivastava

Economic Times. 20 April 2020

I feel that once the lockdown is lifted, the public and private sectors will think of e-office seriously. The only solution for the future is technology. E-governance will emerge very strong in future, says Dehradun DC Ashish Srivastava

O6. Maharashtra govt to resume 'online property registration and stamp duty' soon

Economic Times. 21 April 2020

The decision was taken during a cabinet sub-committee meet headed by deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar

O7. Go digital and innovate in post-Covid world: PM Modi to youth

Economic Times. 20 April 2020

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday appealed to the youth and professionals to adopt a new business model that attaches primacy to care for the poor as well as the planet and emerge as the global nerve centre of complex modern multinational supply chains in the post COVID-19 world

O8. **Opinion: National Cyber Security Policy needs trans-sectoral synergies**

Economic Times. 15 April 2020

Prevention, speed and a collective approach to cybersecurity should be the core concepts of the National Cyber Security Strategy Policy 2020. With more than 600 million internet data users by 2019, India sits strong at the second position on the global internet data pyramid. The latest industry reports suggest that the number of internet users in India is growing at a staggering annual rate of 18%.