

## **N1. PM Modi Asks People To Download Coronavirus Tracking App Aarogya Setu, Here's How To Do It**

*News Nation-06 April 2020*

*It is developed by the **National Informatics Centre**, a part of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. Here we are going to tell you how to .*



New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday asked people to download [coronavirus](#) tracking app Aarogya Setu - launched by the Union health ministry. The mobile app helps users identify whether they are at risk of COVID-19 infection. According to a Ministry official, 'Aarogya Setu' will detect only fresh cases. It tracks the cases through a location-generated social graph and Bluetooth.

It is developed by the National Informatics Centre, a part of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. Here we are going to tell you how to download the Aarogya Setu app.

**Step 1:** The app is available on the Android and iOS platforms and can be downloaded from the Play Store and App Store. One can visit this link <https://www.mygov.in/aarogya-setu-app/> and scan it to download the app.

**Step 2:** Select your preferred language and click 'next'.

**Step 3:** Click on 'Register Now' and click on the 'I Agree' button.

**Step 4:** Provide your mobile number.

**Step 5:** An OTP will be sent to the number for verification.

**Step 6:** Provide your personal details like your name, age, profession, countries travel outside in the last 30 days and Submit.

**Step 7:** The app will let you know about the chances of your infection risk.

In just three days since its launch, Aarogya Setu has managed to have over 5 million downloads on the Google Play Store alone. The app is available in 11 languages.

*News Source: <https://www.newsnation.in/technology/tech/aarogya-setu-coronavirus-tracking-app-pm-modi-257883.html>*

## **N2. Supreme Court Issues Guidelines on Video Conferencing for Courts**

*Quint. 06 April 2020*

**Covid-19 lockdown: SC issues video-conferencing guidelines for courts.** *Livemint- 06 April 2020*

*State level officials of the **National Informatics Centre** to provide assistance to the high courts for setting up video conferencing systems. The court also asked the **Director General of the National Informatics Centre**, which has organised the apex court's video conferencing system, to ensure there are no glitches.*

The Supreme Court on Monday, 6 April, authorised high courts across the country to formulate arrangements for video conferencing in courts in their respective regions, and issued some guidelines for how matters are to be heard while maintaining social distancing during the coronavirus lockdown.

A three-judge bench headed by Chief Justice SA Bobde had taken up this matter suo motu after receiving a letter from senior advocate Vikas Singh, who wrote that there was “anxiety of access” with regard to the courts among lawyers, litigants and even the media as courts across the country have shut down.

The judges noted that it was a “duty” of the courts to ensure that their premises do not contribute to the spread of the virus, and so decided to issue an order setting out measures for social distancing and video conference hearings.

The apex court observed that though Indian courts have been proactive in using technology to provide access to courts in the middle of the coronavirus crisis, the Supreme Court needs to ensure these measures get some sort of legal protection, which they proceeded to do under Article 142 of the Constitution.

With this sanction, the Supreme Court and high courts have been empowered to take measures for social distancing, keeping in mind public health guidelines. All high courts have been authorised to employ technology to ensure social distancing, as part of which they need to figure out the modalities of conducting hearings through video conferencing.

The judges also issued the following guidelines:

- Courts will have to make arrangements for litigants who don't have access to video conferencing technology.
- Evidence cannot be recorded through video conferencing till high courts frame some detailed rules about this. This will have to be done in a courtroom where social distancing measures will have to be taken by the presiding officer.
- Presiding officer will have power to restrict entry to courtrooms for this purpose, but parties to the case can only be denied entry if they are suffering from a health problem.
- District courts will also be able to adopt video conferencing as per their respective high court's rules.
- Complaints about video conferencing quality can't be raised belatedly – have to be raised during hearing or immediately after.
- High courts have discretion to decide which app/software is used. State level officials of the National Informatics Centre to provide assistance to the high courts for setting up video conferencing systems.

The CJI said that the apex court will observe how things work over the next 15 days and then pass further orders, if required.

**The court also asked the Director General of the National Informatics Centre, which has organised the apex court's video conferencing system, to ensure there are no glitches. There had been serious connectivity issues on Friday, 3 April, forcing the judges to conduct the hearing on WhatsApp video call.**

Attorney General KK Venugopal, who was also present for the hearing, suggested that proceedings via video conferencing should continue even after the lockdown ends while Vikas Singh pointed out that the Supreme Court will need to decide rules on how many litigants and lawyers can come to court, even if lockdown ends on 15 April, as social distancing would remain important.

CJI Bobde said they will see what happens with the lockdown, and look into this issue if the lockdown ends by then. The matter has been adjourned till the court decides to take it up again.

News Source: <https://www.thequint.com/news/law/supreme-court-video-conferencing-guidelines-for-high-courts-district-courts-india>

<https://www.livemint.com/news/india/covid-19-lockdown-sc-issues-video-conferencing-guidelines-for-courts-11586166492796.html>

### **N3. After WhatsApp rescue act, SC sends out SOS to government; says video conferencing is here to stay**

CNBCTV18- 06 April 2020

[Supreme Court guidelines for hearings through video conferencing during lockdown.](#) *Deccan Chronicle- 06 April 2020*

*On April 3, judges and lawyers from the highest court of the land had conducted hearings on a WhatsApp video call. National Informatics Centre (NIC) should be able to tell which is the most optimum software to use. The SC also noted, "Department of Justice and Director General of NIC to take note of the serious problems with the sitting of the court on Friday (April 3)"*

"Technology is here to stay," observed the Chief Justice of India as the Supreme Court conducted a hearing on a videoconference with the Attorney General and Solicitor General, among others, on teething issues with the COVID-19 inspired, newly launched video-conferencing facility of online hearings.

The Supreme Court on Monday took suo-moto cognizance of the issue after glitches in MTNL's Multi-Protocol Switching System lead to SC's video-conferencing facility going offline on April 3. What followed was an unconventional move. On April 3, judges and lawyers from the highest court of the land had conducted hearings on a WhatsApp video call!

In today's hearing, CJI Justice Bobde observed that in these times of lockdown, technology had facilitated connectivity and accessibility. He went on to note that courts have been proactive in embracing technology in these times and that tools such as video-conferencing cannot be a temporary feature of the lockdown.

Similar sentiments were shared by the Attorney General KK Venugopal, who had also joined the suo-moto hearing through videoconference. He submitted before the bench, "We should not stop video conferencing once COVID threat passes. We need to continue even after lockdown. National Informatics Centre (NIC) should be able to tell which is the most optimum software to use."

The SC also noted, "Department of Justice and Director General of NIC to take note of the serious problems with the sitting of the court on Friday (April 3)." Though no formal directions were passed, the SC did urge, "Glitches must be eliminated otherwise court work cannot succeed. We request DG NIC to take note and do all that is necessary to ensure connectivity."

Meanwhile, the NIC, which was also a part of the hearing submitted, "Three things needed for videoconferencing-- good broadband connection, good devices, conduct of people -- if one person is speaking others must put a device on mute." The NIC undertook to formulate guidelines and to share them with courts and lawyers on how to conduct the video conference calls.

The apex court will now consider this case after the lifting of the lockdown.

News Source: <https://www.cnbctv18.com/legal/after-whatsapp-rescue-act-sc-sends-out-sos-to-government-says-video-conferencing-is-here-to-stay-5631791.htm>

#### **N4. COVID-19 Crisis: 'Lifeline UDAN' flights transport essential medical cargo to remote parts of India**

*DNA India-05-Apr-2020*

*A portal for coordinating Lifeline Udan flights was developed by National Informatics Centre (NIC) and MoCA. A link to the Lifeline Udan portal is available on ...*

The 'Lifeline Udan' flights are being operated by the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Air India to transport essential medical cargo to remote parts of the country to support India's war against COVID-19.

Under Lifeline UDAN, 116 flights have been operated by Air India, Alliance Air, Indian Air Force, Pawan Hans, and private carriers.

79 of these flights have been operated by Air India and Alliance Air.

The cargo transported to date is around 161 tons. Aerial distance covered by Lifeline Udan flights to date is over 112,178 km.

On the international front, the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Air India have worked closely with China to establish a cargo air-bridge between the two countries for the transfer of critical medical supplies. The first cargo flight between India and China was operated by Air India on 4 April 2020, carrying 21 tons of critical medical supplies from China.

The date-wise breakup of the Lifeline Udan flights is as follows:

S No	Date	Air India	Alliance	IAF	Indigo	SpiceJet	Total
1	26.3.2020	2	-	-	-	2	4
2	27.3.2020	4	9	-	-	-	13
3	28.3.2020	4	8	-	6	-	18
4	29.3.2020	4	10	6	-	-	20
5	30.3.2020	4	-	3	-	-	7
6	31.3.2020	9	2	1	-	-	12
7	01.4.2020	3	3	4	-	-	10
8	02.4.2020	4	5	3	-	-	12
9	03.4.2020	8	-	2	-	-	10
10	04.4.2020	4	3	2	-	-	9
Total		46	40	22	6	2	116

A special focus has been on the North East Region (NER), island territories and the hill states. Authorities have collaborated closely for last-mile deliveries to Ladakh, Dimapur, Imphal, Guwahati, and Port Blair.

The bulk of the cargo comprises light-weight and voluminous products like masks, gloves and other consumables, that require more space on the aircraft per ton. Special permission has been taken to store cargo in the passenger seating area and overhead cabins, with due precautions. The Lifeline Udan flights are being operated despite significant logistical challenges in road transportation of cargo to and from airports; production bottlenecks and in the movement of aviation personnel.

News Source: <https://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-covid-19-crisis-lifeline-udan-flights-transport-essential-medical-cargo-to-remote-parts-of-india-2819796>

## **N5. As Case Pendency Mounts, CIC to Start Digital Hearings Before April 15**

*The Wire-05-Apr-2020*

*The decision was taken at the CIC first ever video conference meeting.... out the administrative or technical support issues that may arise with the **National Informatics Centre**. For proper functioning of the system, the NIC is being asked to extend the operation of the e-office to the home computers of the CIC officers too.*



**New Delhi:** With the nationwide lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic bringing its work to a grinding halt, the Central Information Commission – that exercises jurisdiction over all central public authorities under the Right to Information Act – has decided to conduct all scheduled hearings through audio or digital conferencing by April 15 “in larger public interest”.

The decision assumes significance since the Centre has repeatedly failed to fill up all CIC posts on time and the Commission is now working with just seven information commissioners, including the chief, in place of the sanctioned 11. Four vacancies in the Commission have persisted since November 2018.

### **Pendency of cases mounting due to vacancies in panel**

The matter of the Central government not adhering to the Supreme Court’s February 2019 directive on filling up the vacant posts has repeatedly been raised in the apex court by RTI activists. But despite the court’s intervention, the Centre has been slow in appointing information commissioners. Due to this, the [pendency of cases had shot up to over 34,500 by January 15, 2020](#). This was over 7,000 more than the pendency level of 27,364 recorded on January 1, 2019.

Over the past two months, activists believe the pendency would have crossed the 40,000 mark. Retired Commodore Lokesh Batra, who was one of the petitioners in the Supreme Court case, said the situation was grim since “no new case is being registered in the present scenario”. He said the decision of the Commission to go digital hearings was a welcome one “as long as option is given to those applicants, who wish to have a personal hearing in CIC, to have those once the situation becomes normal.”

### **Decision taken in first ever digital meeting of Commission**

Incidentally, the recent meeting of the Central Information Commission, in which the decision to go for online hearings, was also the first digital meeting of the panel. This meeting was done via video conferencing to discuss various issues in the wake of the lockdown.

It was chaired by Chief Information Commissioner Bimal Julka and attended by six information commissioners, secretary to the Commission and other senior officers.

It was decided in the meeting that the deputy registrars will fix dates in consultation with the information commissioners and issue the notices in all cases where the contact details of the parties were available. For this it was also decided that the contact details of the nodal CPIOs will be made available to the Deputy Registrars.

Also, the Registrar would train the deputy registrars periodically to iron out the administrative or technical support issues that may arise with the National Informatics Centre.

### **Commission to extend e-office facility to home computers of its officers**

The commission has also decided that all scheduled hearings would start through audio or digital mode by April 15 in larger public interest.

Since the Commission would operate from its office at CIC Bhawan in Munirka, instructions have also been issued that the building be sanitised by the NSL regularly. Also, the Delhi police is being approached for issue of passes to the essential staff of the Commission.

For proper functioning of the system, the NIC is being asked to extend the operation of the e-office to the home computers of the CIC officers too.

The Commission, which would be discussing further modalities on April 7, said “it was collectively agreed” that it would “strive to introduce latest technological tools for its smooth functioning.”

News Source: <https://thewire.in/government/cic-digital-hearings>

## **N6. Social distancing is duty not discretion during pandemic: SC**

*Times of India- 06 April 2020*

*The court came to a series of decisions after hearing attorney general K Venugopal, solicitor general Tushar Mehta, Justice department secretary Barun Mitra, **Director general of NIC Neeta Verma** and advocates Vikas Singh and Shivaji M Jadhav.*

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Friday institutionalised video-conferencing during lockdown period and said every individual and institution must implement measures designed by health authorities and governments to reduce the spread of Covid-19.

While providing modalities for use of video-conferencing facilities for hearing of urgent cases and even recording of evidence, a bench of CJI S A Bobde, Justices L Nageswara Rao and D Y Chandrachud said, "Faced with the unprecedented and extraordinary outbreak of a pandemic, it is necessary that courts at all levels respond to the call of social distancing and ensure that court premises do not contribute to the spread of the virus. This is not a matter of discretion but duty."

It said, "It is necessary to ensure compliance with social distancing guidelines issued from time to time by various health authorities, government of India and states. Court hearing in congregation must necessarily become an exception during this period."

Using its extraordinary powers under Article 142 of the Constitution, the bench attempted to institutionalise the use of video conferencing facilities for hearing of urgent matters by HCs and trial courts, a consensus which had emerged administratively arrived on Friday during a video-meeting between SC e-committee head Justice Chandrachud and judges heading e-committees of 23 high courts.

The CJI-led bench authorised the SC and HCs to adopt appropriate "measures required to ensure the robust functioning of the judicial system through video conferencing technologies consistent with peculiarities of judicial system in every state and dynamically developing public health situation."

The court came to a series of decisions after hearing attorney general K Venugopal, solicitor general Tushar Mehta, Justice department secretary Barun Mitra, Director general of NIC Neeta Verma and advocates Vikas Singh and Shivaji M Jadhav.

SC bench said, "District Courts in each state shall adopt mode of video conferencing prescribed by the concerned High Court. The Court shall duly notify and make available the facilities for video conferencing for such litigants who do not have the means or access to video conferencing facilities."

It said till further orders video-conferencing shall be the mode of hearing of cases for all three-tiers of judiciary. However, it clarified that trial courts shall not record evidence through video-conferencing without consent of both parties.

"If it is necessary to record evidence in a courtroom, the presiding officer shall ensure that appropriate distance is maintained between any two individuals in the court. The presiding officer shall have the power to restrict entry of people into the court room or the points from which the arguments are addressed by the advocates. No presiding officer shall prevent the entry of a party to the case unless such party is suffering from any infectious illness. However, where the number of litigants are many the presiding officer shall have the power to restrict the numbers. The presiding officer shall in his discretion adjourn the proceedings where it is not possible to restrict the number," it said and posted the suo motu taken up case for further hearing after four weeks.

News Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/social-distancing-is-a-duty-not-a-discretion-during-pandemic-sc/articleshow/75011372.cms>

## **N7. In three days 22 Lakh families received 88000 MT Rice: Srinivas Reddy**

*Telangana Today. 06 April 2020*

*... is in constant touch with NIC (National Informatics Centre) and SDC (Data Migration Command Centre) officials trying to solve the issue," he said.*

Srinivas Reddy who has reviewed the distribution of rice with concerned higher officials here on Saturday said that in just three days beginning from April 1, over 22 lakh families received 88,000 metric tons of rice .

**Hyderabad:** State Civil Supplies Corporation Chairman Mareddy Srinivas Reddy assured that every single card holder in the state will be issued 12 Kg of rice and urged that only those who were issued Tokens, should reach the Fair Price Shops to avoid crowding.

Srinivas Reddy who has reviewed the distribution of rice with concerned higher officials here on Saturday said that in just three days beginning from April 1, over 22 lakh families received 88,000 metric tons of rice . “Out of the 87.59 lakh families that have White Ration cards in the state 25 percent received the rice. On Saturday alone 4 lakh people have received the rice till noon,” he said adding that the distribution is going on smoothly all over the state.

The distribution of 12kg per unit of rice due to lockdown is being taken up in all districts except Hyderabad, Rangareddy and Medchal districts. There are 5.80 lakh cards in Hyderabad, 5.24 lakh in Rangareddy and 4.95 lakh in Medchal districts amounting to a total of 16 lakh ration cards.

“There are ration portability issues in these districts leading to technical problems. the civil supplies commissioner is in constant touch with NIC (National Informatics Centre) and SDC (Data Migration Command Centre) officials trying to solve the issue,” he said.

**News Source:** <https://telanganatoday.com/in-three-days-22-lakh-families-received-88000-mt-rice-srinivas-reddy>

## M1. Data consumption in rural area jumped nearly 100 per cent within a month: CSC CEO

*Economic Times - 05-Apr-2020*

... Regulatory Authority of India Chairman RS Sharma, *Electronics and Information Technology* Secretary Ajay Sawhney and Telecom Secretary Anshu Prakash.

CSC e-Governance Services India, which holds licence for providing internet services, recorded an increase in data consumption to 4.7 terabyte (TB) as on March 30 from 2.7 TB on March 10. CSC SPV CEO Dinesh Tyagi said that a major spike in data consumption has been recorded since the time lockdown started.

NEW DELHI: [Data](#) consumption in rural India on the network of [CSC](#) SPV jumped nearly 100 per cent within a month - especially during the lockdown period, a top official of the entity said on Sunday.

CSC e-Governance Services India, which holds licence for providing [internet](#) services, recorded an increase in data consumption to 4.7 terabyte (TB) as on March 30 from 2.7 TB on March 10.

"Based on the growth trend, data consumption on the CSC SPV network is estimated to have increased by close to 100 per cent till date," CSC SPV CEO [Dinesh Tyagi](#) told PTI.

He said that a major spike in data consumption has been recorded since the time lockdown started.

"Beside the surge of data consumption in rural areas, there has been a high demand of FTTH (Fiber to Home). In the month of March 20, more than 3 lakh subscribers registered across 50,000 Gram Panchayats for FTTH," Tyagi said.

CSC also provides wifi hotspot in around 25,000 gram panchayats in the name of CSC [Wi-fi Choupal](#) services.

According to the CSC data, [Wi-Fi](#) Choupal has more than 12 lakh registered subscribers who use this as a supplement to their mobile connection.

"This clearly indicates the high appetite of internet data in rural areas, which in future can be pivotal in bridging Digital Divide and If nurtured with regular organic feed of educational and informational content rural India can be Digitally Empowered and Transformed," Tyagi noted.

There are more than 60 crore internet users in India and out of this about 29 crore are in rural areas.

The government is implementing [BharatNet](#) project with a view to provide [broadband](#) facility to every rural household and has roped in CSC SPV, an organisation under the Ministry of Electronics and IT, to operate , manage and support BharatNet at the panchayat level.

As of now over one lakh panchayats have been enabled to provide broadband services under the BharatNet project.

News Source: <https://telecom.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/data-consumption-in-rural-area-jumped-nearly-100-per-cent-within-a-month-csc-ceo/74996177>

## M2. Containing Covid-19: Nasscom CoE incubated startups show their mettle

*Financial Express- 06 April 2020*

... Excellence (CoE) IoT & AI, an initiative of the ministry of *electronics and information technology* (MeitY) and Nasscom, have joined the battle against Covid-19.

While DronaMaps is helping map Covid-19 patients in Haryana and other states, Blinkin has provided remote tech support for installing air ventilation systems in two Wuhan hospitals.



Two startups incubated at the Nasscom Centre of Excellence (CoE) IoT & AI, an initiative of the ministry of electronics and information technology (MeitY) and Nasscom, have joined the battle against Covid-19. DronaMaps, based in Haryana, and BlinkIn, based in Bengaluru, are tech startups specialising in drone technology and remote accessibility, respectively.

DronaMaps is working with the department of IT and communications, Haryana, to help map the infected and quarantined citizens, using drone tech and analytics. “We had first started working with Punjab, replicated the model with Haryana and are at varying levels of implementation with four other states. The model is scalable because most states right now are looking for granular tracking of cases and support in deploying the technology that enables the same.

The infrastructure in Haryana was already very mature, with multiple groups of servers handling all Geographic System Information (GIS) requirements,” says Utkarsh Singh, co-founder of DronaMaps, which was incubated at Nasscom CoE, Gurugram. “We immediately published the public dashboards, and began work on the admin dashboard to implement it by end of March.”

On-ground drone teams are small and it becomes easy for the startup to work in dense areas, maintaining social distance. “There are three use cases, delivery, surveillance, and disinfectant spraying. We are ensuring our network is ready for any of these. What we are working on now hinges on our expertise in geospatial analytics while not making them limited to drone based data,” he explains. Data is also sourced from VLR (call records), social media and government portals to ensure authenticity.

Meanwhile, BlinkIn finds itself in a unique position amidst this outbreak. The startup helped service engineers of Huber-Ranner to install air ventilation systems in two Covid-19 hospitals in Wuhan, with remote tech support. “Wuhan was a huge validation of our hypothesis of making knowledge sharable. In times where the entire country is locked up, we can help avoid and minimise exposure of doctors, equipment operators and other personnels in contagious environments. Healthcare equipment operators/ engineers can remotely instruct local staff at the hospital to do the work by themselves,” says Harshwardhan Kumar, co-founder, Blinkin. Furthermore, once a case/support issue has been documented, it makes it available for sharing with other users.

The startup has been approached by medical device makers in India. “We have also been approached by Nasscom CoE IoT Bengaluru, which has connected us with the Karnataka state government. We are exploring the possibilities to work with them. Startup India also reached out to us to try and figure out what we can do in these times,” adds Kumar. The company has presence in over 40 countries and works in more than 19 languages.

For Nasscom CoE, the Covid-19 crisis has not just given a chance to these early stage startups to prove themselves, but has helped it reaffirm its faith in them. Sanjeev Malhotra, CEO, Nasscom

Centre of Excellence, says that the flexibility and quick response times of these startups, besides their domain expertise, have played a big role in their success. And there are many more startups waiting in the wings to prove their tech prowess. “We have five or six startups working with us in different areas of diagnostic-assist like assessing lung condition from xrays to detecting remote temperature,” he says. While the power of these startups is yet to be seen, the Covid-19 crisis may just turn out to be the platform where they can prove their capabilities.

News Source: <https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/sme/containing-covid-19-nasscom-coe-incubated-startups-show-their-m> <https://telanganatoday.com/in-three-days-22-lakh-families-received-88000-mt-rice-srinivas-reddyette/1919592/>