

**N1. Volunteers to help city police fight COVID-19 in central Delhi**

*Outlook India. 08 April 2020*

*It has been developed by the **National Informatics Centre**, which functions under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.*

New Delhi, Apr 8 (PTI) The city police launched a COVID-19 volunteers scheme in central Delhi on Wednesday as part of its efforts to curb the spread of the coronavirus by ensuring that people follow the ongoing 21-day lockdown and practise social distancing, officials said.

Ten healthy volunteers, including women, have been selected from 15 Central district police stations, who will be engaged in community policing, they added.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Central) Sanjay Bhatia said the volunteers have been entrusted with various responsibilities.

"At food distribution centres, chemist shops, general stores and schools, where ration is being distributed, they will spread awareness about the importance of social distancing and also ensure that it is followed when people stand in queues," he said.

Besides, the volunteers will also act as informers, the officer added.

They will keep a tab on any kind of violation, including flouting of lockdown rules, hoarding or overcharging of essential items, he said.

If such violations come to the notice of the police, action will be taken, the DCP added.

The volunteers have also been tasked with spreading awareness among people about the health ministry's coronavirus-tracking app, Arogya Setu. They will request people to download the mobile application in order to stay updated about the health risks posed by the deadly virus.

The app, launched by the Union health ministry on April 2, helps users ascertain whether they are at a risk of being infected with coronavirus. It has been developed by the National Informatics Centre, which functions under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

The volunteers will serve as the "eyes and ears" of the Delhi Police in its fight against COVID-19, officials said. PTI AMP RC

News Source: <https://www.outlookindia.com/newscroll/volunteers-to-help-city-police-fight-covid19-in-central-delhi/1795872>

## **N2. NIC's tech solutions helping govt combat COVID-19 crisis**

*Express Computer. 09 April 2020*

... *National Informatics Centre* (NIC) is leveraging technology at its best to assist the government-run institutions to carry out essential tasks during the lockdown.

At a time when the entire country is facing unprecedented challenges due to coronavirus outbreak, the government agencies are on their toes to aid the Central, state and district agencies to continue rolling out essential citizen services.

The rapid spread of COVID-19 has forced many countries to use cutting edge technologies to fight against the pandemic, keep an eye on the citizens and keep them indoors to contain the deadly disease.

On March 24, Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared a 21day lockdown to arrest the spread of the Covid-19 in the country. Lockdown was a need of the hour. Since then, right from government to private organisations and up-to every single individual, are extending their support to contain the spread of the virus.

In such times, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology's (MeitY) technical arm, National Informatics Centre (NIC) is leveraging technology at its best to assist the government-run institutions to carry out essential tasks during the lockdown. It is supporting the government during this hour of crisis through its ICT solutions and infrastructural capability. Through its technology-enabled services and platforms, NIC has been successful in creating a sustainable ecosystem to a large extent. This technology powered ecosystem which the government and its organisations have embraced over a period, is helping them combat these challenging times.

As soon as the lockdown was announced, services such as, video conferencing, started creating a huge positive impact across ministries and departments, both at the Central and state government level. Prime Minister is leading the way by extensively using video conferencing service to connect with the administration at all levels and the citizens at large thereby monitoring the entire COVID-19 situation closely and assuring them of all possible support by the government.

NIC's video conferencing has been used extensively by cabinet ministers to chief ministers, cabinet secretary, state ministers, other secretaries and government officials. In March itself, NIC helped in facilitating over 2,300 video conferencing sessions of over 60,000 hours across the country, held at all levels of governance. Besides video conferencing, various dedicated COVID-19 war rooms have been established where senior government officials are monitoring and reviewing COVID-19 preparedness and planning further course of action in their respective regions. At a time, when staying at home is the need of hour, NIC's video conferencing service and war rooms are helping government officials to connect effectively with each other, thereby ensuring minimum physical contact and exposure.

Similarly, the Public Financial Management System (PFMS) team worked towards providing round the clock assistance, facilitating smooth functioning of the financial machinery of the government. PFMS achieved a major milestone recording the highest number of transactions in a single day on March 30, 2020 of 2.19 crore transactions surpassing the earlier mark of 98.19 lakh on March 28, 2018 which was so far the highest. PFMS also crossed the figure of 100 crore transactions in a financial year on March 30, 2020, a quantum leap of more than 55 per cent over last fiscal year's transactions of 69.69 crore.

NIC's eMail services form the primary backbone for all communications in the government catering to a userbase of over 2.7 million users. Since the day the government announced a nationwide

lockdown and employees started working from home, NIC's email services have ensured smooth communication for the government with features such as communication of messages, sharing of files both as attachments (allowed file size of 25 MB) and briefcase (allowed size of 1 GB).

A senior official from NIC explained how business continuity was ensured even when daily email transactions climbed from 2.13 crore on March 21 to 4.58 crore on March 24, recording an increase of about 115 per cent in the overall traffic. Similarly, as the government launched significant awareness campaigns through SMS for preventing the spread of corona virus, the average SMS count per day after lockdown increased to 7.2 crore from around 3.3 crore a day before lockdown.

Not only the Centre but many states have also benefitted from NIC's ICT initiatives. Various state level services, backed by NIC's state and district level teams, are also working tirelessly to create the impact that will help in containing the COVID-19. Meghalaya's COVID-19 transmission chain prevention, developed by NIC, has enabled Meghalaya citizens who had returned to the parent state (students and professionals) to self-register themselves during their entry to the state and also the tourists who had visited the Meghalaya before the closure of all the tourist spots. It enabled health department officials like medical volunteers and district surveillance team members to reach out to registered individuals through the automated IVRS calls to capture their health status, especially COVID symptoms and update the information in the portal.

NIC is also associated with immigration and visa services at all Indian immigration check posts in the country and Indian Embassies across the world through its Immigration Visa Foreigners Registration & Tracking (IVFRT) service. As soon as the cases of coronavirus infection were reported in the country, NIC ensured all time service continuity at immigration check posts and data centres. The team at NIC, made necessary modifications in the IT applications for temporary suspension of all Indian visas and restricting passengers at all check points across the country.

In its endeavor to support the government with the best of ICT services, NIC has recently developed a website 'Lifeline Udan' for the Ministry of Civil Aviation to ensure seamless coordination among various agencies for transportation of items, including COVID-19 reagents and other medical equipment. The website allows state governments and airlines to upload their consignment and flight details in advance.

In its fight to efficiently monitor and track the spread of COVID-19, the Centre has launched AarogyaSetu-a mobile app. It is aimed to connect health services and citizens. The app is privacy-first by design and is currently available in 11 different languages. Within a few days of its launch, more than one crore individuals have already downloaded it. This app will enable the citizens to self-assess the risk of catching the coronavirus infection, at a preliminary stage. It will calculate a health score based on an individual's interaction with others, using cutting edge Bluetooth technology, algorithms and artificial intelligence.

As the nation shows a steely resolve and fights the challenge to minimise the impact of COVID-19, technology has substantially proved to be a useful ally for not only the citizens but also the organisations.

News Source: <https://www.expresscomputer.in/news/nics-tech-solutions-helping-govt-combat-covid-19-crisis/52630/>



### **N3. RailTel completes work of NIC e-office in Lumding & Tinsukia Divisions of NFR**

*The Sentinel Assam- 09 April 2020*

*NIC e-Office is cloud-enabled software developed by the National Informatics center (NIC) that is being deployed/hosted from RailTel Tier III UPTIME USA ...*

**GUWAHATI:** Despite nationwide lockdown due to the COVID19 outbreak, RailTel has successfully completed the work of providing NIC e-office in Lumding and Tinsukia Divisions of North Frontier Railway (NFR). With this, all establishments of NFR (the Zonal HQ and all 5 Division offices) are now adopting paperless work culture by replacing manual files with the NIC e-office suite, implemented by RailTel. NIC e-office is helping Railway officials of North Frontier Railway (NFR) to handle all their manual file work remotely on a digital platform.

The RailTel Corporation a “Mini Ratna (Category-I)” PSU is one of the largest neutral telecom services providers in the country owning a Pan-India optic fiber network. MoU between Indian Railways and RailTel was signed in March 2019 with a mandate to complete the work by March 2020. But RailTel completed the work ahead of time and completed the work at North Frontier Railway zonal Head Quarter, Rangiya Division and NFR Construction within 5 months of signing the MoU. The works at Lumding, Tinsukia, Katihar, Alipurduar divisions were executed within 3 months.

NIC e-Office is cloud-enabled software developed by the National Informatics center (NIC) that is being deployed/hosted from RailTel Tier III UPTIME USA certified data centres at Secunderabad and Gurgaon. It is based on the Central Secretariat Manual of e-Office Procedure (CSMeOP). Implementation of the NIC e office aims to usher in paperless, more efficient, effective and transparent inter-government and intra-government transactions and processes.

News Source: <https://www.sentinelassam.com/guwahati-city/railtel-completes-work-of-nic-e-office-in-lumding-tinsukia-divisions-of-nfr/>

## **M1. ICICI Bank & HDFC Bank lead the pack in digitization: Report**

Economic Times. 09 April 2020

... in the month of February, a ranking chart issued by Ministry of **Electronics and Information Technology** (MeitY) to banks accessed by ET showed.

Performances of several high street lenders such as Bank of Baroda, Citi Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank and Federal Bank were deemed 'average' whereas Deutsche Bank, Union Bank of India and Bandhan Bank were relegated to the 'unsatisfactory' category in MeitY's scorecard.

MUMBAI: Private sector lenders ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank NSE 2.52 %, along with Fino Payments Bank led the pack of Indian banks in enabling digitization of country's payment ecosystem in the month of February, a ranking chart issued by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) to banks accessed by ET showed.

Performances of several high street lenders such as Bank of Baroda, Citi Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank and Federal Bank were deemed 'average' whereas Deutsche Bank, Union Bank of India and Bandhan Bank were relegated to the 'unsatisfactory' category in MeitY's scorecard.

ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank were ranked first and second respectively with scores of 79 out of 100 with Fino Bank at third with a score of 76. Oriental Bank and Axis Bank took fourth and fifth rank closely followed by country's largest lender State Bank of India in the ranking chart with a score of 72 on 100.

This overall rating is based on multiple factors such as percentage of digital transactions achieved, Unified Payment Interface (UPI) and Aadhar Enabled Payment Systems activation (AePS) and the digitization of the respective merchant networks of these banks.

A total of 14 banks who scored above 66 were deemed 'good' whereas 27 banks with scores between 47-64 were deemed 'average' and 9 banks with scores below 44 were called out for being 'unsatisfactory,' the MeitY chart showed.

These scores assume significance more than ever, as government and regulators have been pushing digital payments as a 'safer' payment option over cash for consumers to transact as the country attempts to reduce all forms of physical contact in its bid to reduce the spread of covid-19.

It is to be noted that these scores are for the month of February and March scores on how banks fared digitally over the lockdown period would be disclosed in the first week of May.

News Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/icici-bank-hdfc-bank-lead-the-pack-in-digitization-report/articleshow/75050702.cms>

## **M2. Let lockdown not grow digital divide**

Economic Times. 09 April 2020

... the ministry of **electronics and information technology** to oversee the implementation of the common services scheme, there has been a 100% surge ...

A national lockdown requiring people to avoid all but essential movement out of their homes has migrated a range of services to the digital realm. It is not just access to government programmes, finance and banking that is now being primarily delivered digitally. An enormous range of services sector activity is being delivered via remote working. Education and entertainment have gone electronic.

This overwhelming shift, driven by necessity, from physical to electronic mode, has highlighted the digital divide in the country. There is a need to invest in digital capability — hardware, software, spectrum — to ensure that fight against Covid-19 does not exacerbate yet another form of inequity. There has been a surge in data consumption in March, particularly after the national lockdown.

According to CSC e-Governance Services India Ltd, a special purpose vehicle set up by the ministry of electronics and information technology to oversee the implementation of the common services scheme, there has been a 100% surge in data consumption. There is a rural-urban component to the digital divide. Of the more than 60 crore internet users in India, 29 crore are in rural areas — internet density in rural areas accounting for 66% of population is around 25%, while among urban population (34%), internet density is almost 98%.

This situation must be remedied to avoid exacerbating the rural-urban gap. The over one lakh panchayats connected through the BharatNet project should provide Wi-Fi hubs for students who are continuing with their classes through the electronic platform. BharatNet must expand. Strengthening the digital infrastructure in small towns should be part of the critical agenda of the government. Today, access to broadband is an essential service.

News Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/blogs/et-editorials/let-lockdown-not-grow-digital-divide/>

### **M3. Covid-19 crisis: Spending curbs on ministries**

*Economic Times. 09 April 2020*

*It includes telecom, commerce, electronics and information technology, environment, animal husbandry, food processing, human resources ...*

**In new directions issued to all central government departments on April 8, the finance ministry has drawn up three categories of ministries/departments and restricted expenditure of several of these to within 15-20% of that budgeted for FY21 in the April-June quarter. The finance ministry has asked all ministries to observe the new norms “strictly” and to “regulate the expenditure accordingly in the current fiscal.**

NEW DELHI: The Centre has tightened expenditure for the first quarter of FY21 and prioritised frontline spending to combat the Covid-19 pandemic as it seeks to cope with the strain of the economy coming to a near-standstill.

In new directions issued to all central government departments on April 8, the finance ministry has drawn up three categories of ministries/departments and restricted expenditure of several of these to within 15-20% of that budgeted for FY21 in the April-June quarter.

“Keeping in view the present situation arising out of Covid-19 and the consequential lockdown, it is expected that the cash position of government may be stressed in Q1 (April to June, 2020) of 2020-21,” according to the office memorandum from the budget division of the finance ministry. ET has seen a copy of the note.

The government has therefore “reviewed its existing guidelines for expenditure control”, said the communication.

#### **Three Categories Drawn Up**

While making an exception for “large expenditure”, the finance ministry has asked all ministries to observe the new norms “strictly” and to “regulate the expenditure accordingly in the current fiscal”. Any deviation will require prior approval from the finance ministry.

Three categories have been drawn up to determine the expenditure restriction.

Category-A ministries and departments will continue to operate under the existing guidelines with no restrictions. It includes ministries critical to combating the Covid-19 outbreak — health, pharmaceuticals, consumer affairs, AYUSH, textiles, rural development, railways and civil aviation. It also includes interest payments, transfers to states, the Supreme Court, the Central Vigilance Commission, the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) and the staff, household and allowances of the President of India.

Category-B ministries will have to restrict overall expenditure to “within 20% of BE 2020-21” in the first quarter. It includes external affairs, home, cabinet, posts, fertilisers, road transport, defence pensions, the departments of revenue and financial services, the petroleum ministry, transfers to Union Territories, the Lok Sabha, the Rajya Sabha and the secretariat of the Vice President.

Category C has more than 50 departments and will have to restrict expenditure to within 15% of that budgeted. It includes telecom, commerce, electronics and information technology, environment,

animal husbandry, food processing, human resources development, labour, drinking water & sanitation and law.

The unprecedented step will help the government shore up its finances, said officials with knowledge of the matter. It is estimated that several thousand crores of rupees will be made available to the Centre with the spending cut.

News Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/spending-curbs-on-ministries/articleshow/75054562.cms>

## **M4. Delhi coronavirus cases count: Total cases, deaths, cured patients, helpline, updates**

Business Today,.. 09 April 2020

... government's WhatsApp helpline number is powered by the Ministry of Health and Ministry of **Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY)**.

**Live Coronavirus Cases in Delhi: The number of cases in Delhi has reached 669; the government has made it mandatory for people to use masks when they step out of their homes**

Coronavirus Delhi: The number of cases in India is on a steady rise and Delhi is one of the most-severely affected states in the country. The state government has implemented several measures to contain the spread of COVID-19. Most recently, the Delhi government made it mandatory for people in the city to wear masks while stepping out of their homes. The government has also sealed several areas in the city believed to be hotspots of coronavirus.

*Here's all you need to know about the coronavirus in Delhi:*

### **Delhi coronavirus cases, deaths, cured patients**

The coronavirus count in Delhi has been on a steady rise. One of the earliest reported cases in the country was in Delhi. Currently, the number of confirmed cases in Delhi is 669, according to data by the Health Ministry. So far, 21 have been discharged and 9 have succumbed to the virus.

### **Delhi coronavirus helpline numbers**

There are Central and state helpline numbers for people in Delhi. Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced a dedicated coronavirus helpline number on WhatsApp -- 91 88000 07722. Once you add the number to your contacts, you can send a 'Hi' and you will receive all the relevant coronavirus updates and information.

One can also call the Central government's dedicated helpline number for Delhi -- 011-22307145. Alternatively, you can send a 'Hi' through WhatsApp on 91 9013151515. The Central government's WhatsApp helpline number is powered by the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY).

News Source: <https://www.businesstoday.in/latest/trends/delhi-coronavirus-updates-total-cases-deaths-cured-patients/story/400555.html>

## **M5. Govt Steps in As TikTok Sees Surge in Fanatical COVID-19 Fake News**

The Quint- 09 April 2020

The Ministry of *Electronics and Information Technology* (MeitY) has asked social media platforms such Chinese firm ByteDance-owned TikTok and Helo to ...

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has asked social media platforms such Chinese firm ByteDance-owned TikTok and Helo to remove any users on their platforms who have been found spreading fake news and misinformation amid the coronavirus pandemic and ‘infodemic’.

The move by MeitY comes close on the heels of a report by [Voyager Infosec](#), a Delhi-based digital lab, which stated that amid the coronavirus outbreak TikTok had seen a surge in fake videos aimed at misleading Indian Muslims regarding COVID-19.

The report, the highlights of which have been accessed by **The Quint**, shows that in the process of their investigation, they found a targeted campaign of disinformation and fake news to influence Indian Muslims to ignore health advisories for coronavirus, citing religious sentiments.

According to Voyager’s findings, TikTok is the primary platform being used to to create and spread high-impact professional videos which instigate Indian Muslims against social distancing measures and the lockdown implemented by the government to control the spread of coronavirus.

### **Deliberate Attempts to Mislead Muslims**

Voyager further found that these videos use a mix of Hindi and light Urdu, indicating that they are aimed at Indian Muslims. Some of them quote religious texts to encourage Muslims to not stop shaking hands and to continue visiting religious places despite the lockdown. Some of them also share reports which claim that coronavirus cannot kill Muslims.

A report by [India Today](#) describes some of the videos analysed by Voyager.

According to their report, one such video has a young boy describing the pandemic as ‘Allah’s NRC’, claiming that Allah decides who will live and who won’t. The clip reportedly ends with boys throwing their masks into the air, with a song, "Allah Se Dar..." playing in the background.

Yet another video shows that face masks cannot be of any use and shows a man donning a skull cap instead.

Some of these clips can be seen in an India Today [report](#).

Moreover, many of the accounts that first uploaded these videos were deleted soon after the videos went viral, suggesting a deliberate and malicious intent behind their creation and propagation.

**The Quint** had earlier reported on how TikTok users and influencers had been fuelling fake news and misinformation about the virus on the [platform](#).

### **MeitY Asks TikTok to Remove Users Sharing COVID-Related Fake News**

According to the MeitY memo sent to TikTok and Helo and accessed by **The Quint**, the government body has asked the social media platform to not only ensure that the users be removed, that such messages do not go viral and are removed as well, but to also preserve their information so that it can

be shared with law enforcement agencies in case such a request is made in the future to help them with any possible investigations.

MeitY has also asked TikTok to share a daily report with the body of all “proactive measures” taken by the platform regarding this issue.

The memo says that this request is being made in view of the fact that misinformation and fake messages are capable of weakening the government’s efforts to contain the spread of coronavirus and misinformation surrounding it.

According to a report by [Reuters](#), MeitY has also asked Facebook to take the same measures against users spreading fake news on the platform.

### **Actively Working With Govt: TikTok**

TikTok has responded to the situation, saying that they are working on elevating credible information on the platform.

"We are actively working with the government to support them in their efforts to fight misinformation and proactively also working to elevate credible information related to COVID-19 on our platform," a TikTok spokesperson told **The Quint**.

The platform also said that they had removed thousands of videos which contradicted facts about COVID-19 and were suspending or banning user accounts found to violate their policies.

“...when necessary, we even report miscreants to relevant authorities to ensure public safety,” their post further said.

### **YouTube Channels Also Spread Misinformation**

The Voyager report also talks about some YouTube channels which have uploaded videos and audio recording of Tablighi Jamaat Markaz chief Maulana Saad asking Muslims to mock social distancing.

One such channel also posted a video claiming that not even one positive case had been found among the members of the Markaz.

Further, Voyager notes that some of these videos seem to be shot in Pakistan and the Middle East but have Hindi superimposed on them.

The report, which has been submitted to the MHA for consideration and action, states that there is a systematic and deliberate disinformation campaign aimed at misleading Muslims and inciting religious sentiments.

*(With inputs from Reuters and India Today.)*

News Source: <https://www.thequint.com/news/webqoof/government-intervenes-on-religiously-charged-covid-19-fake-news-on-tiktok>

## **M6. Digital payments zoom 31 per cent to touch ₹4116 crore in FY20**

The Hindu BusinessLine- 09 April 2020

... and Fino Payments Bank topped the monthly rankings by February-end on digital transactions, per the Ministry of *Electronics and Information Technology*.

### **BHIM UPI is most popular means, followed by prepaid instruments**

In what can be seen as a significant impact of the government's agenda to encourage digital payments, total transactions through these channels touched ₹4,116.74 crore in FY20, according to the Centre's Digidhan Dashboard.

This is an over 31 per cent jump from FY19, when total digital payments transactions were valued at ₹3,134 crore. It also exceeds the ₹4,000-crore target set by the government for digital payments last fiscal.

According to Digidhan, the total value of digital payment transactions from April 1, 2019 to April 8, 2020 was ₹4,152 crore.

The data also revealed that in FY20, BHIM UPI, with a 30.19 per cent share in digital transactions, was by far the most popular, processing ₹1,242.98 crore of payments.

Prepaid instruments as a category processed 12.7 per cent of all transactions, amounting to ₹522.78 crore. Debit cards came in third with a 12.1 per cent share, with a transaction value of ₹497.93 crore.

Digidhan tracks 16 modes of digital payments including BHIM UPI, debit and credit cards, prepaid instruments, IMPS, mobile and internet banking.

### **Exceeding target**

Meanwhile, 27 banks had exceeded the government's target for digital payments for FY20 by the end of February and 14 had been given good ratings for performance in the monthly dashboard. The Centre sets separate sub-targets for each bank and tracks their performance on a monthly basis.

Private sector lenders ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank and Fino Payments Bank topped the monthly rankings by February-end on digital transactions, per the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. While ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank scored 79 each, Fino scored 76.

Only three public sector banks — Oriental Bank of Commerce (73), State Bank of India (72) and Bank of Maharashtra (71) — were part of the top 10 banks in the monthly scorecard till February 29, 2020.

The other lenders in the top 10 included private sector lenders Axis Bank (72), YES Bank (70), IndusInd Bank (69) and IDFC First Bank (68).

Surprisingly, Paytm Payments Bank slipped to the 16th spot by February-end with a ranking of 64 and an average performance.

News Source: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/digital-payments-zoom-31-per-cent-to-touch-4116-crore-in-fy20/article31296105.ece#>

## **M7. Centre in final stages of releasing new rules for social media platforms: Report**

Hindu BusinessLine. 09 April 2020

The Centre is in the final stages of notifying the intermediary guidelines pertaining to social media platforms as an amendment to the Information Technology Act (IT) 2000, *ETTech* reported on Thursday.

According to the report, the guidelines that being finalized and are currently awaiting approval have undergone minimal changes as compared to the original draft amendments finalised by the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY).

The draft IT Intermediary Guidelines were formulated in 2018. The guidelines are set to make social media and Internet companies accountable to any government agency and providing time-bound assistance to the centre for the same as per previous reports.

Once the guidelines are in place, IT companies will be liable to remove any “unlawful content” going viral on their respective social media platforms.

The guidelines were likely to face a delay as the Law Ministry wanted them to be compatible with the Data Protection Bill -- which is at present with the Joint Parliamentary Committee-- as per previous reports.

However, a government official said that the guidelines were the only way to moderate content on social media platforms such as TikTok and WhatsApp especially given the current situation referring to the surge in misinformation across social media platforms regarding the coronavirus pandemic, *ETTech* reported.

Furthermore, tech companies which do not have a registered office in India yet will also have to set up a registered office here. This will ensure that the companies are held accountable for any wrongdoing according to previous reports.

Social media firms will also have to ban the anonymous posting of content, with users requiring mobile verification to identify themselves.

News Source: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/info-tech/centre-in-final-stages-of-releasing-new-rules-for-social-media-platforms-report/article31297948.ece>

## Other IT News

### **O1. IT sector will have temporary setback due to Covid-19: Analysts**

*Hindu BusinessLine. 09 April 2020*

*The IT sector may go through a temporary set back during the first half of the new fiscal but is expected to recover during the*

### **O2. Indian IT sector may take a heavy hit as Covid batters US and Europe**

*Hindu BusinessLine. 09 April 2020*

When America sneezes, India catches a cold. When Europe too sneezes, India gets a fever, quipped an official of a large software company.

### **O3. Bengaluru voted best city for IT professionals: Survey**

*Hindu BusinessLine. 09 April 2020*

Hyderabad and Pune secured the second and third spots, respectively