

N1. Kisan Rath to link farmers to transport options

The Hindu. 17 April 2020

[Kisan Rath App launched to help transport farm produce to markets amid lockdown.](#) *Tribune. 17 April 2020*

[Union Agriculture Minister launches “Kisan Rath” Mobile App](#)

Pragativadi- 17 April 2020

... Narendra Singh Tomar launched a farmer-friendly mobile application in Krishi Bhavan today developed by the National Informatics Centre ...



They will have access to a network of over 5 lakh trucks and 20,000 tractors.

In a bid to ease the disruption of agricultural supply chains, especially for perishable produce, the Agriculture Ministry has launched a Kisan Rath mobile application, which will connect farmers and traders to a network of more than 5 lakh trucks and 20,000 tractors.

The application, developed by the National Informatics Centre, is meant to help farmers and traders who are searching for vehicles to move produce. This includes primary transport from the farm to the mandis, local warehouses or the collection centres of farmer producer organisations, as well as the secondary transport from the local mandis to intra-and inter-State mandis, processing units, railway stations, warehouses or wholesalers.

The application will lead to on-boarding of over 5 lakh trucks through transport aggregators as well as 20,000 tractors from the custom hiring centres run by farmer groups. Refrigerated vehicles will also be available.

“It will be a stepping stone towards provision of timely transportation service at competitive rates for farmers and traders, besides achieving a reduction in food wastage,” said a Ministry statement

The application can be downloaded from Google Play Store.

News Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/agriculture/kisan-rath-to-link-farmers-to-transport-options/article31370226.ece>

N2. India Develops New Mobile App 'Jagruk' for Ensuring 24X7 Electricity Supply

NorthEast Today-17 April 2020

The report further said that the app-named 'Jagruk' has been developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC). Through the app the consumers will be able to ...

The Government of India has developed a new mobile application that will help ensure 24×7 electricity across the country.

The app will be rolled out first on a pilot basis in states like Odisha, Uttarakhand, Assam and Bihar.

According to a report by Mint, the crowdsourcing mobile app will help in collecting real-time consumer feedback on the quality and availability of power from across the country. The report further said that the app-named 'Jagruk' has been developed by the **National Informatics Centre (NIC)**.

Through the app the consumers will be able to report power outages and its location, with the information being shared with the state electricity utilities, state and union governments and the even the district magistrate for follow-up action.

News Source: <https://archive.northeasttoday.in/india-develops-new-mobile-app-for-ensuring-24x7-electricity-supply/>

N3. Delhi: RWAs face pressure over Aarogya Setu app

Times of India-18 April 2020

*Though there are no specific directions from the government, officials in some districts have made it mandatory for people to install the application and roped in RWAs and market associations to get the compliance report. Developed by **National Informatics Centre**, the app helps citizens identify their risk from the virus. It is designed to keep the user informed in case paths are ...*

NEW DELHI: Stressing that it is an important tool to keep oneself safe from Covid-19, officials of various districts have started urging residents to install the Aarogya Setu app on their smartphones.

Though there are no specific directions from the government, officials in some districts have made it mandatory for people to install the application and roped in RWAs and market associations to get the compliance report. All educational institutions and departments have also been asked to push for installation of the app.

WHAT THE APP IS ALL ABOUT

Aarogya Setu is a coronavirus tracking app that tells you if you have been near a Covid-19 infected person

HOW DOES IT WORK?

- Register using your mobile number
- To enable tracking, keep location and Bluetooth on
- App asks some basic questions, including those on travel history, work profile, health status, symptoms for Covid-19 etc
- Uses phone location and Bluetooth to tell you if you have been in infected areas or within six feet from an infected person
- The app will work effectively when a large number of people download it and keep updating their health status on it

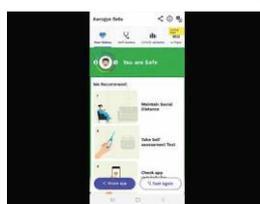


WHERE TO DOWNLOAD IT FROM?

Developed by the National Informatics Centre, the app is available on both Android and iOS smartphones

Earlier, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said that the tracking app was an essential tool to stymie novel coronavirus and urged citizens to download it. Developed by National Informatics Centre, the app helps citizens identify their risk from the virus. It is designed to keep the user informed in case paths are crossed with a Covid-19 positive person.

A user is asked multiple questions to assess his health status. If someone's answers suggest Covid-19



symptoms, the information is sent to the government server for taking remedial steps. The user is asked to keep the location and Bluetooth on.

East district magistrate Arun Kumar Mishra said, “In east district alone, more than 20 lakh people have been contacted through various channels, from booth level officers to RWAs and market associations and even teachers and principals, to install the application. Text messages with the link of the app are being sent to mobile phones.”

NITI Ayog CEO Amitabh Kant said the app has reached 50 million users in just 13 days, making it the fastest-ever globally.

North DM Deepak Shinde said people are being called by the Covid warriors team urging them to install the app. “Given the manner in which the number of Covid-19 cases are increasing, the app can make lives easier for people as well as the authorities,” he added. Neha Bansal, west DM, said the key factor is that a user must keep updating his/her health status.

However, those working in the field of digital rights and privacy issues believe that the app collects a lot of personal details. The privacy policy doesn’t explain who the data will be shared with.

Prasanth Sugathan, voluntary legal director, Software Legal Law Centre, India, an advocacy group on digital rights, said, “There is a trust deficit. Users should feel comfortable while downloading the app as to what data is being collected and how is it going to be used. Also, what data is going to the server and the kind of analysis that is going to happen should be known to the users.”

Shinde, however, claimed that nothing extra is being asked as people install many apps on their phones and share all kinds of data. Mishra echoed his views and said, “The app is just asking for basic details that are important to know the user’s health status and risk issues. You can delete the app as soon as Covid-19 is over.”

News Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/delhi/rwas-face-pressure-over-aarogya-setu-app/articleshow/75212375.cms>

M1. India's Aarogya Setu app touches 60 million mark

Hindustan Times- 18 April 2020

The announcement came in the form of a post on Twitter wherein the MeitY minister also praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his leadership and guidance. Now, Communications, Electronics & Information Technology Minister RS Prasad has announced that the app has been downloaded by 60 million people in ...

Niti Aayog, earlier this week, said that the government's [Aarogya Setu app](#) has become the fastest app to reach 5 crore downloads. Now, Communications, Electronics & Information Technology Minister RS Prasad has announced that the app has been downloaded by 60 million people in India.

The announcement came in the form of a post on Twitter wherein the MeitY minister also praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his leadership and guidance. "60 million users for #AarogyaSetuApp also reflects the commitment with which every Indian is fighting #Covid_19 shoulder to shoulder under the leadership and guidance of PM @narendramodi Ji...India is showing way to the world with our fight against this Pandemic," Prasad wrote in a Tweet.

He also shared a 25-second long video on the platform which highlights the 60 million mark along with the map of India being formed as the video progresses. You can watch the video here:

Meanwhile, the government has updated the privacy policy of the [Aarogya Setu app](#) detailing how it processes user data. The app, as the new policy detailed, requires Bluetooth and location tracking permissions to alert users if they came in close proximity with a Covid-19 patient. It uses a unique digital id (DiD) comprising of details such as a user's name, phone number, age, sex, profession and countries visited in the last 30 days. This DiD coupled with location data, that is collected every 15 mins, is then used for tracking the spread of the disease.

News Source: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/tech/india-s-aarogya-setu-app-touches-60-million-mark/story-UMhjlAt11TIsK4ev37DpSP.html>

M2. HC PIL questions 'sharing' Covid-19 patients' data with private firm Sprinklr

Times of India- 17 April 2020

A forensic audit by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology to bring out the alleged foul play in the IT contract has been sought by the petitioner.

KOCHI: A public interest litigation (PIL) has been filed before the Kerala High Court seeking a probe by the central government into the deal between the state government and Sprinklr in handling data of Covid-19 patients.

The petition was filed by Balu Gopalakrishnan of Pothujanam Road at Medical College in Thiruvananthapuram through advocate Jaykar KS.

A forensic audit by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology to bring out the alleged foul play in the IT contract has been sought by the petitioner. The petitioner is also seeking a court directive to the state government to sever all relations with Sprinklr, which is alleged to be a company based out of USA. As an interim relief, the petitioner is asking for a court order to the state government to stop uploading sensitive data to the web servers of Sprinklr.

It is alleged by the petitioner that sensitive data of Covid-19 patients are with Sprinklr, which was uploaded on a daily basis. Even if there is a non-disclosure agreement between the government and Sprinklr, violation of agreement cannot be enforced upon a foreign company, the petition said. It is also alleged that the government did not seek the permission of the patients while sharing their data. The petition may come up for admission hearing before the vacation bench of the high court on Tuesday.

News Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kochi/hc-pil-questions-sharing-covid-19-patients-data-with-private-firm-sprinklr/articleshow/75204642.cms>

O1. [Karnataka govt to issue workplace protocol for IT and Biotech firms](#)

Economic Times. 18 April 2020

Ashwath Narayan favoured the idea of embattled IT/BT firms going for pay adjustments for sections of their employees, rather than job cuts

O2. [How Google, Facebook and others are using algorithms to fight coronavirus misinformation](#)

Economic Times. 18 April 2020

Facebook, Google and other tech companies have begun using algorithms, new rules and factual warnings to knock down harmful coronavirus conspiracy theories, questionable ads and unproven remedies that regularly crop up on their services. Potentially dangerous misinformation about the virus has spread from continent to continent like the pandemic itself.

O3. [Zoom responds to Govt of India's advisory, says it takes user security extremely seriously](#)

Financial Express. 17 April 2020

In response to the Government of India deeming it 'unsafe' for public use, US-based video conferencing platform Zoom has come up and assured users that it takes their security extremely seriously. The Government of India, while calling it not safe for use, had issued a detailed advisory on how to secure Zoom calls amid the ongoing Coronavirus crisis on Thursday.