

NEWS TODAY

MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND IT (MEITY) ISSUES AAROGYA SETU DATA ACCESS AND KNOWLEDGE SHARING PROTOCOL, 2020

- MeitY issued a set of protocols for how data collected from people through Aarogya Setu will be used and shared.
 - Earlier, concerns were raised about the way it functions, information it stores and lack of clarity around who has access to it.
- Key features of guidelines**
 - National Informatics Centre** shall be responsible for collection, processing and managing response data collected by Aarogya Setu.
 - Only data that is **necessary and proportionate** for health interventions should be collected.
 - Contact and location data will remain on User's device unless** it is determined that it must be shared for health responses.
 - Location and self-assessment data of an individual shall be **permanently deleted after 180 days** with some exceptions.
 - Data **can be shared with other government agencies and third parties** as long as it is for **critical health purposes**.
 - Individuals can seek deletion of demographic data** within 30 days of raising a request.
 - Violations of norms** may lead to penalties under Disaster Management Act, 2005, ranging from jail terms of one or two years and a fine.

'Aarogya Setu App'
a Bluetooth-based COVID-19 Tracker

The app will alert users if they come in proximity to an infected person

The App is privacy-first by design & available in Android & iOS

With Aarogya Setu, you can protect yourself, your family and friends, and help our country in the effort to fight COVID-19. If we are safe, India is safe.

Inform users about best practices & relevant medical advisories

The App has highly scalable architecture & is available in 11 languages

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MIGRANT WORKMEN ACT, 1979, MUST BE RATIONALISED TO INCENTIVISE FORMALISATION

- Experts have pointed out that exodus of migrants during lockdown and related distress could have been better managed if Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act (ISMW Act), 1979 had been implemented in its entirety.
- About ISMW Act**
 - It seeks to **regulate employment** of inter-state migrants **and their conditions of service**.
 - It is **applicable to establishments/contractors** that employed five or more migrant workmen; or had employed five or more such workmen on any day in preceding 12 months.
 - It requires all establishments hiring **inter-state migrants to be registered**, and contractors recruiting such workmen be licensed.
 - It helps government **keep track of number of such workers** which would have been useful in managing the exodus.
 - It **provides for** payment of minimum wages, journey and displacement allowance, accommodation, medical facilities etc to migrants.
- One of the main reasons for poor implementation of the act is due to complex requirements under the act, which make cost of hiring inter-state workmen higher than hiring similar labour from within the state.
- The act is being merged into upcoming **Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2019**.

ATAL PENSION YOJANA (APY) COMPLETES FIVE YEARS

- It was launched in 2015 with an objective of delivering old age income security **particularly to the workers in the unorganised sector**.
- APY can be subscribed by any Indian citizen in the age group of 18-40 years (including OCI).
 - The scheme has achieved 2.23 crore subscribers within five years of its implementation.
- It replaced the Swavalamban scheme.
- Government co-contributes 50% of the subscriber's contribution or Rs. 1000 per annum, whichever is lower.
 - This is available for those who are not covered by any Statutory Social Security Schemes and is not income tax payer.
- Benefits**
 - It provides a **minimum guaranteed pension** (by paying monthly subscription) ranging from Rs 1000 to Rs 5000 on attaining 60 years of age.
 - Amount of pension is guaranteed for lifetime to spouse on death of the subscriber.
 - In the event of death of both the subscriber and spouse, entire pension corpus is paid to the nominee.
- It is administered by **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** through National Pension System (NPS) architecture.

MANDIS LINKED TO E-NAM (NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL MARKET) PLATFORM SEE 65% RISE IN COUNT POST-LOCKDOWN

- With integration of 177 more mandis on e-NAM, total e-NAM mandis across country reached 962.
- e-NAM is a **pan-India electronic trading portal which networks** existing mandis run by Agricultural Produce Market Committees (APMC) to create a **unified national market for agricultural commodities**.
 - Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC)**, under Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare is **lead agency for implementing e-NAM**.
- It was launched in April 2016 but progress was slow as
 - many States did not amend their APMC Acts;
 - most farmers were not part of the cooperatives that would help aggregate the bulk quantity of produce needed to interest online buyers
 - most mandis did not possess the infrastructure to make most of platform.
- Recently Centre introduced various new features in e-NAM:
 - A trading module** allowing Farmer Producer Organisations to trade produce directly from their collection centres without bringing it to mandis.
 - A warehouse-based trading module**
 - A logistics module** offering users trackable transport facilities through aggregators.



STATES TOLD TO TAKE THE ORDINANCE ROUTE FOR AGRI-MARKET REFORMS

- Agriculture Ministry has written to States to **amend their APMC Acts** and **adopt Model Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion and Facilitation) Act (APLM Act) 2017** issued by Centre.
 - > **Agriculture being a state subject**, central government formulates policy guidelines, advises and allocates funds. However, **onus of proper implementation** of farm and market reforms **lies with state governments**.
 - > **Ordinance route highlights urgency needed** to facilitate farmers in challenging time due to COVID-19.
- Only Arunachal Pradesh had adopted Model APLM Act fully, while UP, Chhattisgarh and Punjab had adopted major provisions of the Act.
- **About Model APLM Act, 2017**
 - > It aims at **developing a state-level unified market and provides for agricultural marketing reforms such as**-setting up markets in private sector, direct marketing, farmer-consumer markets, de-regulation of fruits and vegetables, e-trading, single point levy of market fee etc.
 - > **It also suggests** issue of unified single trading license in State, declaring warehouses/silos/cold storage as market sub-yards and Market Yards of National Importance (MNI).
 - > It replaced the earlier Model Agriculture Produce Markets Committee Act, 2003.

ALSO IN NEWS

<p>London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is the global reference rate for unsecured short term borrowing in the interbank market. • It acts as a benchmark for short-term interest rates used for pricing of interest rate swaps, currency rate swaps as well as mortgages. • It is an indicator of the health of the financial system and provides an idea of the trajectory of impending policy rates of central banks. • The Indian equivalent is known as The Mumbai Inter-Bank Offer Rate (MIBOR).
<p>SC Refrains from Restoring 4G Services in J&K, Sets Up Special Committee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC was hearing a petition challenging orders passed by the J&K government to restrict internet speed in the region at 2G during COVID-19 lockdown as it was not enough for access to online education and healthcare services. • Government pointed that internet was not a fundamental right and faster 4G internet speed would promote infiltration in the region. • SC set up special committee that shall assess the situation district-wise and decide on lifting restrictions and did not pass a general order on restriction of internet speed across the UT.
<p>National Technology Day (NTD)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11th May was declared as NTD as on this day in 1998, India successfully carried out nuclear tests at Pokhran, test fired Trishul Missile and test flew first indigenous aircraft - Hansa-3. • It is celebrated by Technology Development Board (TDB), a statutory body of Department of Science & Technology. • This year TDB is organizing a digital conference on rebooting the economy through Science and Technology.
<p>Gandhi Peace Prize (GPP)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government has extended last date for receipt of nominations for 2020 up to 15th of June. • It is annual award given by Ministry of Culture to individuals, associations, institutions or organizations who have worked selflessly for peace, non-violence and amelioration of human sufferings. • It was instituted in 1995 & is open to all people regardless of nationality, race, language, caste, creed or gender. • Jury of GPP is a high level committee headed by PM.
<p>SwasthVayu</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is a Non Invasive Ventilator developed by CSIR - National Aerospace Laboratories, Bangalore. • It is simple to use without any specialized nursing, cost effective, compact and configured with majority of indigenous components.
<p>Suraksha Store initiative</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It has been launched by Department of Consumer Affairs (under Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution). • It is a public private initiative to create a safe and secure environment for consumers and shop owners at Kirana Stores. • Objective of project is to educate Kirana store owners across country about Covid-19 safety guidelines and protocols required to be followed while running their businesses. • Protocols were decided by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India and Ministry of Home Affairs.

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