



Digital Initiatives to Fight Coronavirus

Why in News

Recently, the Government has developed a platform which will host webinars by **All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS)** doctors for healthcare workers across the country.

- It has also developed an app that will trace the paths of **COVID-19** positive patients, serving as a warning to possible contacts.

Key Points

- **Chat Boxes on Facebook and WhatsApp** have been set up by the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** for providing information about COVID-19.
- **A portal to map the requirements of hospitals**, and cross-referencing them with those who have offered to help with equipment is also being set up by the government.
- **A webinar platform** has been developed in tandem with the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**.
 - The webinars are for the **frontline health workers** (nurses, paramedics, ASHA-Accredited Social Health Activist workers, anganwadi workers), who are more prone to COVID-19.
 - The webinars would be streamed on Facebook, YouTube and WhatsApp.
 - The state governments would also be involved so as to make the content available in **regional languages**.
- The government has also worked on a **contact path tracing app**, tentatively called '**Corona Kavach**'.
 - The app would store location data and would enter the credentials of the person if he/she tests positive. This information would be sent to the cloud.
 - A signal would come to the app which would convert it from green to red.
 - The server would then find out people who were in close proximity with the infected person in the last 14 days.
 - Their apps would turn yellow and they would get an alert that they should quarantine themselves.

All India Institutes of Medical Sciences

- The AIIMS was **created in 1956**, as an **autonomous institution** of national importance through an Act of Parliament.
- **Objectives**
 - To develop a **pattern of teaching in undergraduate and postgraduate medical education in all its branches** so as to demonstrate high standard of medical education to all medical colleges and other allied institutions in India.
 - To bring together in one place educational facilities of the highest order for the **training of the personnel** in all important branches of the health activity.
 - To attain **self sufficiency** in postgraduate in medical education.

- Recently, the central government has decided to set up 22 new establishments of AIIMS. These AIIMS would be set up under the **Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana**.

Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana

- PMSSY is a **Central Sector Scheme**.
- The primary objective of PMSSY is to correct the **regional imbalances in availability of affordable/reliable tertiary level healthcare** in the country in general, and, to augment facilities for quality medical education in under-served or backward States, in particular.
- In addition to **setting up of AIIMS**, PMSSY also envisages **up-gradation of several existing Government Medical Colleges/Institutions** in different states in the country

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