AAROGYA SETU APP

The Indian government launched the Arogya Setu app, a tool that aims to help people to self-assess their risk of being infected with Covid-19. The app is available for both iPhone and Android phones.

MAIN AIM OF THE APP

- "Augmenting" efforts to "proactively" inform the citizens about the best practices and relevant advisories pertaining to the containment of COVID-19.
- The app lets users check whether they have been in contact with infected people by using location and Bluetooth data from smartphones.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

The app has three parts:

- 1. It contains a chat bot that guides you through a self-assessment test if you exhibit any COVID-19 symptoms.
- 2. The app provides quick access to emergency phone numbers of health centers that are dealing with COVID-19 patients.
- 3. The app will automatically alert you if you ever come near (or have crossed paths earlier) to a person who has tested COVID-19 positive.

When a user installs the app, it uses Bluetooth to detect any nearby phones that could also be running the Aaryogya Setu app. The app likely keeps a record of all devices that have ever been near to you. If the owner of any of these nearby phones is later found to be infected, the app will alert you. When the app is continuously scanning the location of its users, it has a fairly accurate overview of who has been where in recent days. If a COVID-19 positive case is detected, his path can be traced and others users who have crossed through those geographic regions can be alerted though the app. Using bluetooth technology, the Aarogya Setu app tries to determine the risk if one has been near a Covid-19 infected person (within six feet of distance) by scanning through a database of known cases across India, and using location information it determines the location one is in if belongs to the infected areas based on the data available.

- The app requires users to give continuous access to their smartphone's location that would let it figure out where the user has been.
- The **Bluetooth location** lets users figure out a person's proximity to others.

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