

COVID-19 Outreach Effort WebGyan Session on ‘Contact Tracing and Aarogya Setu’

Institute for Stem Cell Science & Regenerative Medicine (inStem), Bengaluru is one of the founding partners of [COVID-Gyan](#) that has been proactive in COVID-19 outreach efforts. In the seventh WebGyan session, Prof. V. Kamakoti of Department of Computer Science and Engineering, IIT Madras, spoke about '**Contact Tracing and Aarogya Setu**'.



The poster is a dark blue rectangle with white and light blue text and graphics. At the top left, there is a graphic of a smartphone displaying the Aarogya Setu app interface, surrounded by several circular icons representing people. To the right of this graphic, the title 'CONTACT TRACING AND AAROGYA SETU' is written in large, bold, white capital letters. Below the title, it says 'with PROF. V. KAMAKOTI in the WebGyan series' next to a circular portrait of Prof. Kamakoti. A paragraph of text describes the webinar's content. Below that, the date and time 'AUGUST 27, THURSDAY | 03:00 PM IST' are listed. At the bottom, there are two call-to-action buttons: 'LIVE STREAM HERE' with a YouTube icon and 'REGISTER HERE' with a video camera icon, each followed by a tinyurl link. At the very bottom, there are logos for 'COVID Gyan', 'BLiSC' (Bioscience Life Science Center), and the website 'covid-gyan.in'.

The Aarogya Setu, a cell phone application (commonly called as app), was developed in response to the need for contact tracing and generating data on infection during the COVID19 pandemic. Aarogya Setu, is an open-source COVID-19 ‘contact-tracing, syndromic mapping and self-assessment’ digital service, developed by National Informatics Centre under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). The app was installed by more than 100 million in just 1.5 months of its launch. The source code was made public on May 26, 2020 amid growing privacy and security concerns.

In his talk, Prof. Kamakoti discussed the motivation, novelty, and process, which kick-started this effort. Highlighting the challenges, he stated that this kind of large-scale data driven system needed a lot of interdisciplinary efforts and experts, from computer scientists, epidemiologists, and social scientists, to people for legal advice on data privacy. As one of the core members involved in developing this app, he also spoke about what they have

learned from this effort, and how he sees the future of such data-driven interventions in healthcare and other sectors in India. He concluded his talk with how the individual user on one end and healthcare users on the other need to be using the app/its data responsibly for it to be effective in contact tracing and modelling.

The session was moderated by Prof. Rajesh Gopakumar, ICTS- Bangalore, Dr. Prahladh Harsha, TIFR-Mumbai and Dr. Uma Ramakrishnan, NCBS. This 90 minutes session was LIVE streamed on [COVID-Gyan YouTube channel](#). It was recorded on August 27, 2020 and can be watched here.

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qvzciz1BfCk>

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