Twitter Thread by Internet Freedom Foundation (IFF)



Internet Freedom Foundation (IFF)
@internetfreedom



THREAD: Almost a year into the launch of Aarogya Setu, there is still little to no public data on its benefits. Yet, many of its flaws are well documented. Now it's going to be used for vaccine rollouts despite meager progress in public

Experts have been warning us about Aarogya Setu's capacity for surveillance. Post integration with COWIN, it will likely become a permanent part of our health data landscape. We've written to the NIC with key concerns, because here's what we've learnt in 1 year:
2/n

To justify violation of privacy, necessity and proportionality have to be proven. Aarogya Setu has disregarded these principles - we know because we analysed its Data Protocol, which MeitY released after public pressure. It fails to satisfy the basic threshold of legality.
3/n

A lack of transparency has pervaded the ecosystem. RTIs on Aarogya Setu failed to receive adequate answers. In fact, we had to send a legal notice because CIC refused to let RTI activist Saurav Das attend his own show cause hearing regarding critical info about Aarogya Setu.
4/n

Issues have been raised about the non open-source nature of the app. Even when the source code was released, it was the code for an earlier version of the app that was made available. The server-side code of the app was not available at all.
5/n

With 11.2 million COVID-19 cases, Aarogya Setu has NOT contained the pandemic. Its below average accuracy, inadequate tech, and persistent security vulnerabilities have been ignored despite pleas from experts. The Centre itself apologised for opaque, irresponsible behaviour.
6/n

Our Qs to NIC include: Will govt phase out Arogya Setu? Will data of inactive users or those who requested deletion of demographic details be deleted? Are contact, location, and self-assessment data bundled? Has there been an audit?

We'll keep you updated on our findings.
7/n