



Sandes: Government Instant Messaging System

Why in News

[The National Informatics Centre \(NIC\)](#) has launched an **instant messaging platform called Sandes** on the lines of WhatsApp.

- NIC is under the aegis of the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**. It provides network backbone and e-Governance support to the Central Government, State Governments and UT Administrations.

Key Points

▪ Sandes App:

◦ About:

- It is a **Government Instant Messaging System (GIMS)** that can be used for official or casual use by any Government employee or public user having a valid Mobile No./Email ID.

◦ Features:

- It offers features such as group making, broadcast message, message forwarding and emojis.
- Although there is **no option to transfer the chat history between two platforms**, the **chats on GIMS can be backed up** to a users' email.
- The **user will have to re-register as a new user** in case they wish to change their registered Email Id or phone number on the App.
- It **allows a user to mark a message as confidential**, which will allow the recipient to be made aware the message should not be shared with others.

▪ Significance:

◦ Ensures Secure Communication:

- The **Computer Emergency Response Team (Cert-In)** and the **Ministry of Home Affairs** in April, 2020 had **issued an advisory to all government employees to [avoid using platforms like Zoom](#)** for official communication over safety and privacy concerns.

◦ Promoting Indigenous Products:

- The launch of the App is also **a part of the government strategy to push for use of India-made software** so as to build an ecosystem of indigenously developed products.

[Source:IE](#)

