

NATIONAL

Union Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, Statistics and Programme Implementation, **Shri Vijay Goel** inaugurated the new office of **Central Project Monitoring Unit** for the **e-Vidhan** project of the Government. **e-Vidhan** is a mission mode project to **digitize** and make the functioning of State Legislatures in India paperless.

SJVN Limited has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Ministry of Power, Govt. of India** for the year **2018-19**. As per the targets set in the MOU, SJVN shall strive to achieve **9200 Million Units** generation during the year under 'Excellent' category.

The Union Cabinet had approved the Ordinance to allow courts to award **death penalty** for those convicted of **raping girls under 12 years**.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (**CCEA**) has approved a restructured **Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA)** aimed at building infrastructure and stepping up initiatives for e-governance. The total outlay for the scheme during April 1 this year to March 31, 2022, is **7,255.50 crore**. A committee under the chairmanship of the **Vice Chairman-NITI Aayog, Rajiv Kumar**.

The Asian Development Bank (**ADB**) has agreed in principle to give an aid of **1,700 crore rupees** to **Uttarakhand**. It aims for infrastructure development and creation of sewerage treatment facilities in urban areas.

West Bengal has topped in the country with Digambarpur Gram Panchayat (GP) bagging the Centre's award for the best Gram Panchayat in the country. The survey was conducted by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.

Sh. **Hardeep Puri**, Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs (I/C) launched a **Mobile App (m-Awas)** for allotment of Government accommodations in General Pool Residential Accommodation (GPRA) in Delhi under the control of the Directorate of Estates. The application has been developed by **NIC**.

The **Government of India**, the Government of Madhya Pradesh and the **World Bank** signed a **\$210 million** loan agreement for the **Madhya Pradesh Rural Connectivity Project**. The Project will cover 10,510 km stretch of rural roads in Madhya Pradesh that fall under the Chief Minister's Gram Sadak Yojana (CMGSY) program.

Diu becomes first Smart City to run on 100% renewable energy.

Union Road Transport Minister **Nitin Gadkari** has inaugurated the **29th Road Safety Week** at Vigyan Bhawan in **New Delhi**. Gadkari also released a book named "**Have a Safe Journey**".

The Indian and Malaysian armies will hold a two-week military exercise **HARIMAU SHAKTI** will be conducted in the dense forests of **Sengai Perdik**, Hulu Langat, Malaysia.

NITI Ayog's **Atal Innovation Mission(AIM)** will launch **Atal New India Challenge**. Under AIM, grants of up to **Rs 1 crore** and mentorship will be given to the winning ideas.

The HRD ministry has launched the **second edition of the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan** under which students from **750 higher educational institutions** from across the country will adopt villages and visit them to get acquainted with lifestyle of people there and the problems faced by them.

A two-day coastal security exercise '**Sagar Kavach**' began to strengthen and assess the loopholes in the coastal security mechanism along Kerala shores.

The Prime Minister of India **Shri Narendra Modi** launched the **Van Dhan Scheme of Ministry of Tribal Affairs and TRIFED** during the celebrations of Ambedkar Jayanti at Bijapur, Chattisgarh.

Kerala chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan has launched **Pravasi pension scheme**. The scheme gives those hailing from Kerala but living outside the state or country, a pension of 2,000 a month. People over the age of 60 years are eligible for the pension.

Sikkim chief minister Pawan Chamling created history by becoming the **longest-serving CM in India**.

Ayushman Bharat Diwas is being celebrated across the country, **April 30**. To provide easily available and affordable medical facilities in the remote parts of the country. The Scheme has the benefits cover of **5 lakh rupees per family per year**.

INTERNATIONAL

Global Findex Index: **China tops** the list of unbanked population with 225 million adults who do not have a bank account, followed by India at 2nd (190 million), Pakistan at 3rd (100 million) and Indonesia at 4th (95 million).

Iran has banned the use of bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies by its banks and financial institutions. Iran President- Hassan Rouhani.

Canada and the **European Union** will host the **world's first 2-Day female foreign ministers'** meeting in **September 2018 in Canada**. The announcement was made by the Canadian Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland.

Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj and **Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** are in **Beijing** to attend the **foreign and defence ministers' meet** organised by the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation** or SCO.

India signs loan agreement with World Bank for US\$ 125 million for '**Innovate in India for Inclusiveness Project**'. The Objectives of the project is to nurture indigenous innovation, foster local

product development and accelerate commercialization process by bridging critical skill and infrastructure gaps to promote affordable and innovative healthcare products generation for inclusive development and increasing competitiveness in India.

State-run **Bank of India (BoI)** said it has entered into an agreement with **National E-Governance Services (NeSL)** for **information utility (IU)** arrangement under the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)**.

Paytm Payments Bank announced that it now has over **100 million KYC wallets**, against the constant campaigning done by bank about the benefits of the **Know Your Customer (KYC)** system.

Suresh Prabhu, the commerce and industry minister, will be holding the **first ecommerce think tank meeting**.

India-Nepal Inter Governmental Committee (IGC) meeting on trade, transit and cooperation to Control Unauthorised Trade begins in Kathmandu.

National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) has announced the launch of its **“e – Gsec”** platform for facilitating the non-competitive bidding in Government of India Dated Securities (G-Sec) and Treasury Bills (T-Bills).

Technology giant **Microsoft** India has been declared the most attractive employer brand, followed by e-commerce giant Amazon India.

According to **TRA Brand Trust Report 2018** **Google** has become the first port of call for all things on the Internet. **Facebook**, ranked second in the list.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

Taipei World Trade Centre (TWTC) launched its office in Delhi. It has been established with an aim to strengthen trade ties with India. TWTC Chairman James C.F Huang.

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), becoming the **first Indian company to reach the \$100 billion** market capitalisation (m-cap) mark. TCS joined the ranks of the world’s 100 most valued organizations and **now ranks 97th**. **Chairman: Natarajan Chandrasekaran**.

India is poised to remain the fastest growing large economy in the world, and its GDP is expected to reach \$5 trillion by 2025. In 2018, we expect India to grow at over 7.4%.

World bank- India retained the top position as recipient of remittances. Indian Remittances are expected to continue to increase in 2018, by 4.1 per cent to reach USD 485 billion. Global remittances are expected to grow 4.6 per cent to USD 642 billion in 2018.

India's ranking in the **Press Freedom Index** has fallen two places to **138 in a ranking of 180 countries.** Norway topped the list of having the world's freest press for **the second year in a row followed by Sweden and Netherlands.**

NABARD targets to disburse over Rs.10000 cr in 2017-18 in Telengana.

Square Inc. agreed to acquire website-builder Weebly for **\$365 million** as the payments company seeks to expand its customer base and become a one-stop-shop for small and medium-sized businesses.

Bharti Infratel Ltd, the tower arm of India's largest telecom operator, and Indus Towers has agreed to merge their businesses to create the world's largest tower company outside China.

According to **Deutsche Bank**, India's GDP is likely to grow to **7.5%** in this year **FY19**.

HDFC Bank has announced the launch of **IRA 2.0**, its interactive humanoid. IRA will interact with customers, answer bank-related queries, frequently asked questions, and guide them inside the branch with voice-based navigation. HDFC Bank also launched its virtual assistant '**EVA**' on **Amazon Alexa and Google Assistant.**

The government has entered into a legal agreement with the **World Bank for a flexible financing arrangement** to accelerate research towards early development for biopharmaceuticals.

AWARDS AND HONORS

The United Nations' cultural agency has ignored warnings from Egypt and awarded the **World Press Freedom prize** to **Mahmoud Abu Zeid** an imprisoned Egyptian photographer.

India is tying up with the **United States and Finland** to develop a pollution-forecast system. It will help anticipate particulate matter (PM) levels at least two days in advance and at a greater resolution.

The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) is awarded the National Intellectual Property (IP) Award 2018 in the category “Top R&D Institution / Organization for Patents and Commercialization”.

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has signed its first toll-operate-transfer (ToT) agreement with Sydney-based Macquarie Group. Under the agreement, the latter will make an upfront payment of Rs9,681.5 crore within 120 days of the signing the contract to execute the project.

Eminent Gujarati poet Sitanshu Yashaschandras poetry collection “**Vakhar**” has been chosen for the Saraswati Samman for 2017.

SPORTS

Rafael Nadal has won the Monte Carlo Masters Title. He has defeated Kei Nishikori to clinch the title.

The **eighth edition of South Asian Judo Championship** was held at **Kathmandu, Nepal**. India, in total, claimed over **13 medals** with 10 gold and three bronze.

India have **clinched** the title of team champion in the **8th series of South Asian Judo Championship**. In the men’s team category, India defeated arch-rivals Pakistan to claim the title. Under the women’s team category, India thrashed hosts Nepal to seal the title.

World record holder **Shahzar Rizvi** claimed **India’s first medal (silver)** at the ongoing World Cup organised by the **International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF)** at **Changwon, South Korea**.

Greek giants Panathinaikos have been **banned** from European competition for three years by UEFA for failing to pay their debts.

India will host the **Asian weightlifting championship** for **the first time** in history next year 2019. The last edition of the Asian Championship was held in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.

Rafael Nadal defeated Stefanos Tsitsipas for **11th Barcelona Open title**.

India’s CA Bhavani Devi won a silver medal in the sabre event of the **Tournoi World Cup Satellite Fencing Championship in Reykjavik, Iceland**.

Barcelona have clinched their **25th La Liga title** by defeating **Deportivo La Coruna**.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATION

Aditya Ghosh would step down as its President and Whole Time Director.

Name of the person	Appointed for the post of	Replaces
Miguel Diaz canel	Cuba's new president	Raul Castro

Mario Abdo Benitez Colorado	Paraguay's new President	Horacio Cartes Colorado
Mike Pompeo	America's 70 th Secretary of State	Rex Tillerson
Indu Malhotra	Apex court Judge	
Shooter Gauri Sheoran	Brand Ambassador for Haryana's Health Programme	

IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme 2018
April 22	World Earth day	End Plastic Pollution
April 23	World book day	'Reading, it's my right!'
April 24	National Panchayati Raj Day	-
April 25	World Malaria Day	Ready to beat Malaria'
April 26	World Intellectual Property Day	

OBITUARY

Indian animation pioneer and multiple National Award winner **Bhimsain Khurana** has passed away.

