



Government sets up committee to review the enforcement of CSR provisions

- ❖ Union Ministry of Corporate Affairs has set up a 12-member panel to review the enforcement of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) provisions under the Companies law and to recommend a uniform approach for its enforcement. The panel is headed by Manmohan Juneja – Regional Director (Western Region) while Seema Rath – Deputy Director (CSR) will be the convener. Other members include Sanjay Shorey – Joint Director (Legal) and N K Dua – Joint Director (Policy) N K Dua. Under the Companies Act, 2013, profitable entities falling under specified categories are required to spend at least two per cent of their three-year annual average net profit towards CSR activities. This norm came into force on April 1, 2014.

NABARD to expand its long-term lending to Rs 80,000 crore in FY19

- ❖ NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development) announced that, it has aimed to raise its long-term on-lending or refinance portfolio to nearly Rs 80,000 crore in the current fiscal year in a move to improve rural economy. NABARD's on-lending in 2017-18 was Rs 65,000 crore. NABARD earned a surplus of Rs 2,951 crore for the fiscal year that ended in March 2018. It has planned to raise Rs 40,000 crore from the bond borrowing. Its borrowing was Rs 33,000 crore in 2017-18. It has been one of the top three borrowers in the market. NABARD's balance sheet grew 17 % to Rs 4.06 lakh crore in the fiscal year that ended in March 2018, against Rs 3.48 lakh crore in FY17.

IIT-Delhi installs India's first 5G lab

- ❖ Massive Multiple-Input Multiple-Output (MIMO) technology lab, India's first-of-its-kind 5G radio laboratory will be inaugurated at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi on April 13, 2018. The Massive MIMO Technology Lab has been set up at the Bharti School of Telecommunication Technology and Management, at IIT Delhi.

PM to inaugurate Dr. Ambedkar National Memorial at Alipur Road in Delhi

- ❖ On the eve of the birth anniversary of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Dr. Ambedkar National Memorial at 26, Alipur Road in Delhi on April 13th. This is the place where Dr. Ambedkar attained Mahaparinirvana on 6th December 1956. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had laid the foundation stone of the memorial on March 21, 2016.

Late Veteran Actor Vinod Khanna Awarded Dadasaheb Phalke Award

- ❖ Veteran Hindi film actor Shri Vinod Khanna was awarded the Dadasaheb Phalke Award for his contribution to Indian Cinema. This was announced during the 65th National Film Awards. Some of the other prominent winners in various categories for this year National Film Awards included Assamese movie 'Village Rockstars' in Best Feature Film category and 'Baahubali – The Conclusion' in the Best Popular Film providing Wholesome Entertainment category. The Feature Film Central panel was headed by Shekhar Kapur

65th National Film Awards

- ❖ The 65th National Film Awards were announced in Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi. The chairpersons of the three juries (Feature, Non-feature and Writing) for the National Film Awards have announced the awards for the different categories. This year, the jury is being headed by director Shekhar Kapur. The jury panel has 10 members. National Film Awards will be given by the President Ram Nath Kovind in May 2018.

Siddhartha Varadarajan will receive the Shorenstein Journalism Award for 2017 at Stanford University

- ❖ Siddhartha Varadarajan, the founding editor of The Wire, will receive the Shorenstein Journalism Award for 2017 at Stanford University on April 16. The award is given annually by Stanford University's Walter H. Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center and alternates between recipients from the West and Asia. "Siddhartha Varadarajan original perspective and courageous accounts of India's domestic and foreign policies have for years received high acclaim, informing readers in India, the U.S., and around the world.

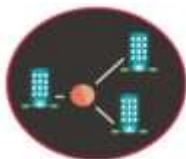
AIIB decides to invest \$140M to improve Rural Connectivity in India

- ❖ Approximately 1.5 Million rural residents in State of Madhya Pradesh are going to directly benefit from improved livelihoods, education and mobility with the USD \$ 140-Million loan approved by the Board of Directors of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) in a Meeting held recently in Beijing. The Project, co-financed with the World Bank, aims to improve the rural road connectivity and management for residents of about 5,640 villages who use the rural roads for daily activities.

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