

## NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Govt to set up 300 fintech start-ups

VISA, Mastercard make it difficult to buy Bitcoin

Artificial Intelligence race with China: Panel to create road map

IoT Security market expected to hit a CAGR of 14.9% from 2017 to 2027

Misuse fears can't be sole factor to reject Aadhaar: Supreme Court

## Today's View

### GeM: Transforming Procurements

As per **Manufacturers' Association for Information Technology (MAIT) of India**, Government procurement accounts for 10 to 15% of GDP for most countries and this is specifically true for India considering the number of government agencies involved. This implies that procurement by the central and state governments put together is estimated at Rs 5-7 lakh crore each year. In order to enhance transparency, efficiency and speed in public procurement, the government has initiated **Government e-Marketplace (GeM)** as a one stop portal to facilitate online procurement of Goods & Services required by various Government Departments, Organizations as well as PSUs.

All activities including registration of Buyers and Sellers to purchase and even payment to the Sellers is seamlessly done via the online platform. With the GeM portal, even the smallest entrepreneur today is now capable of selling its products to the Government through a completely transparent process. Over 28,000 products and 9,800 services such as signing and digitization service, cloud infrastructure as a service, transportation etc. are being made available on GeM.

Thanks to streamlining of various processes, significant cost savings to the tune of 20-30% have been achieved through GeM, as per Commerce & Industry Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. These cost savings amount to nearly Rs 20,000 crore, equivalent to half the budget for the national job guarantee scheme.

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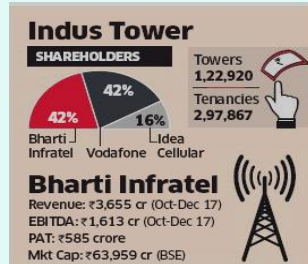
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### Vodafone may hang up on Indus in \$5 billion deal

Vodafone is in the final stages of talks to sell its entire 42% stake in Indus Towers for about \$5 billion



This key step, leading to a consolidation of ownership, is also expected to revive investor interest in Bharti Infratel

Source – *The Economic Times*

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Date – 7<sup>th</sup> Feb 18

GeM, being a technology driven platform, is partnering with various technology organisations. For instance, **NASSCOM**, the apex business association for IT sector, has been roped in to resolve difficulties of software providers in listing their products on the platform. Based on the feedback, GeM portal has been recently revamped with additional features such as catalogue management, product categorization, contract management, data analytics, refund and rejection policies.

As this platform almost replicates e-commerce platforms, the government has partnered with e-commerce firm **Infibeam** as a Managed Service Provider for Design, Development, Implementation, Operation & Maintenance of GeM.

To facilitate online payments on the portal, multiple financial institutions like **SBI, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank** etc. have tied-up with the government. **Bank of Baroda** is the partner bank for design, Development and Deployment of e-Performance Bank Guarantee (e-PBG) Module of GeM.

Apart from India, several countries have also initiated online procurement platforms. For example, **UK Government's G-Cloud** is targeted at easing procurement by public-sector bodies, especially in information technology services that use cloud computing. Similar such platform exist for countries like **South Korea** and **Estonia** as well.

We feel that digitization of government services holds enormous potential to improve cost efficiencies, transparency and accountability through streamlining numerous processes being carried out. However, meaningful efficiencies will be achieved only when all government agencies, departments and states adopt the platform by reducing their dependency on manual procurements.

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## Today's News

### Artificial Intelligence race with China: Panel to create road map

To counter China's commitment towards artificial intelligence, the government has formed a high-level committee headed by NITI Aayog vice chairman Rajiv Kumar to lay out a roadmap for India's research and development on AI and its applications. The panel, which will be a mix of government, academia and industry officials, will be notified soon.

The government wants to ensure India does not fall behind in emerging technologies and hence the urgency to roll out a nationwide AI programme that will include robotics and data analytics. China has prepared a three-step roadmap to become the world leader in AI by 2030.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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This News Letter has been prepared with the assistance of **Manish Kulkarni**

### VISA, Mastercard make it difficult to buy Bitcoin

Multinational financial services corporation, VISA and Mastercard have now made it more difficult for users to purchase Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies.

According to TechCrunch, both VISA and Mastercard have decided to reclassify the way Bitcoin and other cryptocurrency purchases are processed on their networks.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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### IoT Security market expected to hit a CAGR of 14.9% from 2017 to 2027

Increasing adoption of digital technologies including web-based services, online education, and online banking has accelerated adoption of smartphone among individuals, which in turn has necessitated security of such technologies against cyber-attacks.

Various governments across the globe have imposed stringent laws, in order to ensure secure environment and maintain privacy for connected devices. In addition, several enterprises are focusing on implementation of Internet of Things (IoT)-based solutions, encouraging employees in bringing their own devices for flexibility.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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## Cash rules everything around Germany in world that's using cards

In a world that for most of us is moving inexorably toward electronic payments for almost everything, Europe's largest economy remains a remarkable holdout, still dominated by a form of commerce that's existed for millennia.

It's an odd distinction for a country that's in most respects on the economic vanguard and a rebuttal to any assumption that, all other things being equal, the most advanced economies are generally less cash--dependent.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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## Misuse fears can't be sole factor to reject Aadhaar: Supreme Court

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said that potential of misuse alone cannot be the basis for striking down the Aadhaar law and openly wondered whether it could judicially assess the risks inherent in the scheme.

A five-judge bench led by Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra is hearing a slew of petitions challenging the legal validity of the Act. Among others on the bench are Justices AK Sikri, AM Khanwilkar, DY Chandrachud and Ashok Bhushan.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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## Govt to set up 300 fintech start-ups

The Maharashtra government on Tuesday announced its financial technology (fintech) policy under which it aims to facilitate setting up of 300 fintech start-ups in the State. Maharashtra is the first State to announce such a policy.

The policy was cleared at the State Cabinet meeting. The Fadnavis government has framed the policy keeping in mind the Global Fintech Hub planned in Mumbai.

Source – *Hindu BusinessLine*

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## Smartbike Mobility to set up 50 cycle stations in Delhi

Passionate about bicycling but do not know how to go about it? If the plans of a Hyderabad-based start-up Smartbike Mobility is anything to go by, there will soon be bike stations in a number of cities, where one can hire a ride.

The start-up, which has already set up seven bike stations in Hyderabad, has won a tender to set up 50 stations in New Delhi and has inked pact with several city municipalities to set up bike stations, which include Amaravati, Visakhapatnam, Guntur, among others.

Source – *Hindu BusinessLine*

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## Mobikwik debuts SaaS payments product Magic; to invest \$10M in financial services products

Digital financial services platform Mobikwik is all set to invest \$10 million to launch a suite of products to widen its financial services offerings in 2018.

In keeping with that target, Mobikwik has launched a SaaS based digital solution Magic to digitise corporate processes, rewards & reimbursements.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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## Wipro rejigs leadership roles ahead of new fiscal plan

Two years into his role as Wipro CEO, Abidali Neemuchwala is undertaking a leadership rejig. The move comes ahead of rolling out his strategy for the next fiscal.

In the last few years, Wipro's ENU business has faced headwinds on account of the weakness in the oil industry to which it has a relatively high exposure. Wipro's energy and utilities vertical posted a 7.9% sequential decline in the December quarter, largely because of one of its clients, Carillion, filing for bankruptcy.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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