Cyber Security Firm Symantec Corporation - has opened a Security Operations Center (SOC) in Chennai.

- It is the company’s largest SOC in Asia Pacific and Japan and will support customers across the region.
- According to Symantec’s Internet Security Threat Report 2018, India is ranked as the second country with the most detected threats in the world.

Breast milk banks to be opened at 15 District Headquarters Hospitals in this year – as per Dr.C. Vijaya Baskar, State’s Health Minister

- Budget – Rs 1.5 crore
- At present, there are 9 breast milk banks in the state
**SCHEMES**

**SevaBhoj Yojana** – a new scheme launched by the Government

- Objective – to provide financial assistance on purchase of specific food items by Charitable Religious Institutions for free distribution among people

- Under the scheme, the Centre and State’s share of GST charged on raw food materials purchased by the religious institutions to be refunded

- Total outlay - Rs 325.00 crores for financial years 2018-19 and 2019-20

- **Beneficiaries**
  - Religious and charitable institutions in existence for atleast 5 years and serve food for atleast 5000 people in a month

**STATES**

**Arunachal Pradesh** – starts the courses in its 1st medical college, **Tomo Riba Institute of Health and Medical Sciences** in Naharlagun.

**Delhi** – allows the proposal to delink Aadhaar with the bank accounts - for the other social welfare benefits including the old age, disability and widow pensions
Government – launches Logo and Tagline for GI

Logo designed by – AdriChatterjee

Tagline coined by – AkanchaTripathi

Geographical Indication (GI)

- GI tag - refers to the name or sign used on certain products corresponding to specific geographical location or origin
- It also ensures that none can use their exclusive name
- GI tag – is valid for 10 years, after which it has to be renewed
GI is considered as element of intellectual property rights (IPRs) under Paris Convention for Protection of Industrial Property.

In India, it is governed by Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection Act), 1999.

So far, total of 320 products have been conferred GI status in India.

**Top GI products having States**
- 1 Karnataka (38)
- 2 Maharashtra (32)
- 3 Tamil Nadu (25)

**Lok Sabha** – Passes Commercial Courts, Commercial Division And Commercial Appellate Division Of High Courts (Amendment) Bill, 2018.

It amends Commercial Courts, Commercial Division and Commercial Appellate Division of High Courts Act, 2015.

It enables the speedy disposal of commercial disputes.

**Key Features of the Bill**
- Commercial courts and commercial divisions in High courts can decide commercial disputes with value of atleast Rs 3 lakhs.
- Establishment of certain commercial courts.
- It allows state governments to notify commercial appellate courts at the district judge level.
- It introduces mediation process in cases where no urgent relief is possible.

**Concessional Finance Scheme** – Extended by the Government for another 5 more years from 2018 to 2023.

Objective – to support Indian companies bidding infrastructure projects abroad.

The scheme is also liberalized now, by allowing any Indian company irrespective of ownership, to bid.

CFS – Provided by the Government since 2015-16.
**Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board** – to be restructured

- **Key Points**
  - To have a 4 member body, instead of the present 3, with a chairperson and 3 members.
  - Chairperson - to serve for a period of three years or till attainment of 65 years of age, whichever is earlier.

**International Centre for Drinking Water Quality, Kolkata** – to be renamed as "National Centre for Drinking Water, Sanitation and Quality".

**Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin)** - Government to raise Rs 15000 crores during the financial year 2018-19 through NABARD for the scheme

**Government** – approves the start of 13 new Kendriya Vidyalayas in 7 States

- **New Kendriya Vidyalayas**
  - Banda (Uttar Pradesh), Washim (Maharashtra), Chakpikarong (Manipur), Parbhani (Maharashtra), Nawada (Bihar), Mirzapur (Uttar Pradesh), Bhadohi (UP), Palamau (Jharkhand), Siddipet (Telangana), Kudamalakunte, (Karnataka), CISF Surajpur (UP), Devkund (Bihar) and Baoli (UP)
  - Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya – to come up at Alot, Ratlam District, Madhya Pradesh.

**India & Germany** – signs MoU on sustainable urban development and renewable energy

- It focuses on cooperation in sustainable urban development in areas of sanitation, solid waste management and promotion of urban mobility.
**Solar Charkha Mission** – launched by the MSME with a budget of Rs 550 crores for the year 2018-19 and 2019-20

- It will implement 50 Solar charkha clusters across the country
- They are classified as ‘Village industries’.
- The Mission was inaugurated by – Hon’ble President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind on 27th June, 2018 on the occasion of UN SME day

**Investors’ Conference for the Holistic Development of Islands** – to be conducted by NITI Aayog on Aug 10, 2018

- Inauguration by - Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog
- Objective – to attract investment for the development of eco-tourism projects in overall 10 islands in Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep
- During the conference, 11 anchor tourism projects are proposed to be implemented with suitable private sector participation, that includes 6 projects in Andaman & Nicobar and 5 in Lakshadweep

**FOCAL** - a new portal launched by The Inland Waterways Authority of India

- **Objective** - to connect cargo owners and shippers with real time data on availability of vessels.
- **FOCAL** - Forum of Cargo-Owners and Logistics-Operators
**Aadhaar address change** – new feature of UIDAI - to implement from Apr 1, 2019

- To help the Aadhaar holders who do not have valid proof of residence of current location - to update their address easily by using a Aadhaar letter containing a secret PIN.
- Once the letter is received by the resident, they can use the secret PIN to update the address in Aadhaar on the SSUP online portal
- The pilot service would be initiated from January 1, 2019
- At present people are required to fill form and submit any one of the 35 documents mentioned under Aadhaar (Enrolment and Update) regulation which include passport, bank passbook, voter ID, driving licence, registered rent agreement, marriage certificate etc.

**INTERNATIONAL**

**Pakistan’s General Elections 2018**

- Imran Khan’s Oath-taking Ceremony scheduled on Aug 11th, 2018
- **Indian dignitaries invited**
  - Aamir Khan, Bollywood star
  - Sunil Gavaskar, Kapil Dev and Navjot Singh Sidhu, all former cricketers
- **Top 3 in the Elections**
  - PTI – 116
  - PML-N – 64
  - PPPP – 43

**UAE – launches 3 month Visa Amnesty Programme** – to benefit illegal foreign workers who overstay beyond the valid Visa period in the country

- **Key Points**
- It will allow the workers to leave the country without paying penalty
✓ It will also give them six-month temporary visa to stay back in the country and look for work.
✓ Workers from war-torn countries such as Syria and Yemen would qualify for a one-year residence visa without restrictions.
✓ This is the third such amnesty announced by the UAE government in just over a decade, with the last one in 2013

🌟 **Golden Bridge (Vietnam)** – supported by Hand shaped concrete – opened for Public

✓ Cau Van – the Vietnamese name for the bridge
✓ It is at 1400m above the sea level and 150 m long
✓ It was designed to symbolify ‘giant hands of Gods, pulling a strip of gold out of the land’

🌟 **France** – passes the ‘Asylum and Immigration Bill’
✓ Objective – To accelerate the asylum procedures - by cutting the maximum processing time from the current 120 days to 90 days after entering France

🌟 **United States** – has passed the National Defense Authorisation Act-2019- which capped its security-related aid to Pakistan to $150 million
1st India-Indonesia Interfaith Dialogue – to be held in Oct 2018 in Yogyakarta

Zimbabwe Elections 2018

✓ It is the First Election since the government of Robert Mugabe overthrown
✓ President Emmerson Mnangagwa's party, Zanu-PF wins most seats

![Parliamentary Election Latest](image)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PARTY</th>
<th>SEATS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Zanu-PF</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDC Alliance</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Incomplete results - 33 seats remain undeclared

Science, Technology & Environment

Facebook – to introduce Time Management tools like Daily reminders etc.,
✓ Objective – to help people manage their time by restricting their presence on the social media platform.
✓ It is also introducing an option to deactivate notifications on smartphones.

Wow (Wellness of Women) – a new App launched by the Women’s division of FICCI (Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry)
✓ It is supported by the Apollo Hospitals and lets the users to talk to doctors through video conferencing or connect via voice or email.
**ECONOMY**

**RBI’s 3rd Bi-monthly Monetary Policy 2018-19**

- Repo Rate – increased to 6.50% from 6.25%
- Reverse Repo Rate – increased to 6.25% from 6%
- Marginal Standing facility and the Bank rate – 6.75%
- GDP forecast for the current fiscal - 7.4 %
- GDP forecast for the 2nd half of the current fiscal - 7.5% to 7.6%
- Inflation - 4.6 % at Q2, 4.8% in second half of 2018-19 and 5.0% in Q1 of 2019-20
- Repo Rate – It is the interest rate at which the commercial banks borrow loans from RBI
- Reverse Repo Rate – It is the rate at which the RBI borrows loan from the commercial banks.
- The Repo Rate is always higher than the Reverse Repo Rate

**APPOINTMENTS**

**Kumar Mangalam Birla & Y C Deveshwar** – appointed as Non-official independent Directors in Air India – for a period of 3 years
**RANKINGS**

⭐ **Fortune 500 list of World’s Largest Companies** – 7 Indian Companies figure in the List

1️⃣ – Walmart (United States)
137️⃣ – Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)
148️⃣ – Reliance Industries Ltd
197️⃣ – Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC)
216️⃣ – State Bank of India (SBI)
232️⃣ – Tata Motors
314️⃣ – Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd (BPCL)
405️⃣ – Rajesh Exports

⭐ **Most Profitable Companies**

1️⃣ – Apple
99️⃣ – Reliance Industries Ltd.,
State Energy Efficiency Preparedness Index 2018

- Released by - Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) and Alliance for an Energy Efficient Economy (AEEE)
- Launched by - NITI Aayog and BEE
- Objective – to assess state policies and programmes aimed at improving energy efficiency across various sectors

Front Runner States
- Andhra Pradesh
- Kerala
- Maharashtra
- Punjab
- Rajasthan

World Junior Squash Championships 2018 – Concludes in Chennai

Tournament Director – Cyrus Poncha
**Winners**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.NO.</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>WINNER</th>
<th>RUNNER-UP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Men’s Individual</td>
<td>Mostafa Asal (Egypt)</td>
<td>Marwan Tarek (Egypt)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Women’s Individual</td>
<td>Rowan Elaraby (Egypt)</td>
<td>Hania El Hammamy (Egypt)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Men’s Team</td>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>England</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- In the Men’s Team events, India finished at 11th Position.

- **Clark Kent Apuada** (10 years old-Filipino American boy) – breaks 23 year old record of Michael Phelps (Australia – 23 time Olympic gold medallist) set in 1995 in the same category of Boys 10 and under.

- He swam the 100m butterfly in 1:09:38 sec.
Earth Overshoot Day
1969-2018

Source: Global Footprint Network National Footprint Accounts 2018
IT'S ONLY AUGUST 1, AND WE HAVE CONSUMED MORE RESOURCES THAN NATURE CAN PRODUCE

EARTH OVERSHOOT DAY marks the date when humanity’s demand for ecological resources (food, forests, fibre, land) in any given year exceeds what Earth can regenerate in that year.

EARTH OVERSHOOT DAY (1969-2018)

Source: Global Footprint Network National Footprint Accounts 2018
The world today is using up resources 1.7 times faster than they are being renewed.

HOW MANY EARTHS DO WE NEED IF THE WORLD’S POPULATION LIVED LIKE...

- **India**: 0.7
- **China**: × 2.2
- **United States of America**: × 5
- **Australia**: × 4.1
- **World**: × 1.7

Source: overshootday.org
**August 1 – India Celebrates its 1st Paper Day**

 ✅ It was the day the Handmade Paper Institute, Pune, was inaugurated in 1940

**NEWS IN PICTURES**

**Prestigious ‘Fields Medal’ 2018 Winners**

 ✅ **Akshay Venkatesh**, a renowned Indian-Australian mathematician, teaching at Stanford University

 ✅ **Caucher Birkar**, a Cambridge University professor of Iranian Kurdish origin

 ✅ **Peter Scholze**, a German Professor who teaches at the University of Bonn

 ✅ **Alessio Figalli**, an Italian mathematician at ETH Zurich
✓ Fields Medal – is known as the Nobel prize for maths
✓ Ali Nesin of Turkey was awarded the “Leelavati Prize” sponsored by Infosys for increasing public awareness of mathematics.
Nesin - is the founder of the Mathematics Village, a unique institution offering short immersion courses in mathematics for high school and college students.

The Fields medals are awarded every four years to the most promising mathematicians under the age of 40.

The prize was inaugurated in 1932 at the request of Canadian mathematician John Charles Fields, who ran the 1924 Mathematics Congress in Toronto.

**Akshay Venkatesh (36 years)**

- Born - New Delhi
- Akshay Venkatesh, who made a mark as a child prodigy, is a professor at Stanford University and is set to move to the School of Mathematics of the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton on August 15.
- He moved to Australia from New Delhi with his parents when he was two years old.
- When he was 12, he won medals at the International Physics Olympiad and International Mathematics Olympiad and joined the University of Western Australia at 14 and graduated with a first class honours degree at 15.
At 16, he started his post-graduate studies at Princeton University and completed his PhD when he was 22.

He won India’s SASTRA Ramanujan Prize, founded by Shanmugha Arts, Science, Technology and Research Academy (SASTRA) in Tamil Nadu in 2008 and the InfoSys Prize given by the Infosys Science Foundation in 2016.

He was previously an instructor at Massachusetts Institute of the Technology, and an associate professor at New York University.

He is the second Indian-origin mathematician to win the prize after Manjul Bhargava, a Princeton University professor, who received it in 2014.

He was awarded the prize for his work in analytic number theory, homogeneous dynamics, topology, and representation theory.

★ Tamil Nadu’s Economy Back on Fast Track ★

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Growth rate (%)*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012-13</td>
<td>5.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013-14</td>
<td>7.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014-15</td>
<td>4.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-16</td>
<td>8.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016-17</td>
<td>4.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-18</td>
<td>8.09</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Calculations based on constant (2011-12) prices
** Figures for 3 years pertain to revised estimates, quick estimates & advance estimates respectively
Sources: Union Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation; Finance Department, Tamil Nadu government

How others in the south performed in 2017-18

- Andhra Pradesh 11.2%
- Kerala N.A.
- Karnataka 8.5%
- Telangana 10.5%
- Puducherry 8.9%
- National average 6.7%**

All figures arrived at based on constant (2011-12) prices
* Pertains to second advance estimates, which were published in February 2018
** Pertains to provisional estimates, published in May 2018
Sources: Union Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation
**India is the 4th Biggest Source of Spam**

Top 10 countries from which spam originated in 2017

- **United states**: 13.2%
- **China**: 11.3%
- **Vietnam**: 9.9%
- **India**: 7%
- **Germany**: 5.7%
- **Russia**: 5.4%
- **Brazil**: 4%
- **France**: 3.7%
- **Iran**: 2%
- **Italy**: 1.9%

Source: Statista

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REMEMBERING THE ARCHITECT OF INDIA'S NATIONAL FLAG

02/08/1876 - 04/07/1963

Pingali Venkayya, the man who designed the tricolour, died on July 4, 1963

**The Flag Man**

- **Joined the British Indian Army** at 19 and served in the Anglo-Boer war in Africa, where he first met Mahatma Gandhi
- **Was fluent in various languages**, including Urdu and Japanese
- **Had a doctorate in geology** and was an expert on diamond mining, which earned him the nickname ‘Diamond Venkayya’
- **In 1921**, Pingali presented a red and green flag. **Lala Hansraj of Jalandhar suggested adding a ‘charkha’** and Gandhiji requested a white stripe
Pingali Venkayya, born 142 years ago this day, was an Indian freedom fighter who the nation remembers proudly for reasons more than his struggle for our independence.

It was his design on which India's national flag was based upon.

Born near Machilipatnam (now in Andhra Pradesh), Venkayya was a Gandhian ideologist. He was also a linguist, geologist and a writer.

In fact, in 1913, he delivered a full-length speech in Japanese. Such credentials gave him interesting titles like 'Japan Venkayya', 'Patti (cotton) Venkayya' and 'Jhanda Venkayya'.

It was during his stint with the British Army that the 19-year-old met Mahatma Gandhi in Africa. Venkayya's association with Mahatma Gandhi lasted over 50 years.

He also published a book in 1916 offering thirty designs of what could make the Indian flag. Throughout all Congress sessions between 1918 and 1921, he relentlessly put forward the idea of having a flag of our own.

Venkayya's design for the National Flag was finally approved by Mahatma Gandhi in a Congress meeting in Vijayawada in 1921.

Pingali Venkayya who is working in Andhra National College Machilipatnam, has published a book, describing the flags of the countries and has designed many models for our own National Flag.

"I appreciate his hard struggle during the sessions of Indian National Congress for the approval of Indian National Flag," Mahatma Gandhi had written in Young India.

On his birth anniversary today, let's take a moment to remember the man behind the Indian National Flag.