

January-17

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu inaugurated the 45th Tourist and Industrial Trade fair at Island Grounds in Chennai. It is being organised by the Tamil Nadu Tourism Department.
- ❖ The 12th edition of the Chennai Bird Race will be held on January 26 in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu International Balloon festival 2019, the 5th edition of Global hot air balloon festivals was organized by the Global Media Box and ThisisPollachi.com with the support of Department of Tourism Tamil Nadu.
 - It was held in January 4th to 6th at the Mahindra World City, Chengalpattu near Chennai in the first phase and it was held from January 10th to 16th at Pollachi in the subsequent phase. Chennai witnessed it's first ever hot air balloon festival.
- ❖ The Chief Minister V.Narayanasamy of Puducherry announced that production, sale, and use of single-use plastic products will be banned in the Union Territory of Puducherry from March 1, 2019.
- ❖ In a first time, an AN-32 transport aircraft of the Indian Air Force has carried out a successful landing at Sikkim's Pakyong, one of the highest airfields (4,500 feet above sea level) in the country.
- ❖ The Senior Advocates KM Nataraj and Sanjay Jain has been appointed as the Additional Solicitor General (ASG) in the Supreme Court. Both will hold the office up to June 30, 2020.
- ❖ The Andhra Pradesh State government has taken up infrastructure (road connectivity and utility) projects costing nearly Rs.1960 crore in the Visakhapatnam-Chennai Industrial Corridor (VCIC) under phase-I in view of its importance for the growth of the State.
- ❖ The Election Commission of India (ECI) appointed Gopal Krishna Dwivedi as a Chief Electoral Officer of Andhra Pradesh.
 - Mr.Dwivedi will replace R. P. Sisodia.
- ❖ The Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Suresh Prabhu, inaugurated the three-day 10th India Rubber Expo – 2019 at the Bombay Exhibition Centre in Mumbai.
 - This India Rubber Expo is the Asia's largest rubber expo.



- ❖ The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) ordered a penalty of Rs.1 crore each on three civic bodies, East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC), South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) and North Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC), of the city over open burning, dumping of waste, the illegal running of plastic industries in non-conforming residential areas.
- ❖ 3 days long 1st National level Sports Meet for students of Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) held in the GMC Balayogi Sports Arena located in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- ❖ The Union Cabinet approved an infusion of Rs.6,000 crore of capital in the Exim Bank of India. The capital infusion would enable the bank to augment its capital adequacy and support Indian exports.
- ❖ The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced that Manu Sawhney was appointed as the organization's new CEO.
- ❖ The Pakistan skipper **Sarfaraz Ahmed** set a world record to become the wicket-keeper captain with the most number of catches in a match.
 - This was achieved by him while playing a match against South Africa in the Third Test at the Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg.

NATIONAL

National Air Cargo Policy

- ❖ The government has announced its National Air Cargo Policy with which it aims to make India one of the top five air freight markets by 2025.
- ❖ The policy document was released during the two-day Global Aviation Summit 2019 at Mumbai.
- ❖ The policy will fuel the growth of the aviation sector and boost the country's economy.

9th International Micro irrigation conference

- ❖ The Ministry of Water resources and River development has organized 9th International Micro irrigation conference in Aurangabad, Maharashtra.
- ❖ This conference aims to share experiences in the use of new technologies and best management practices in drip, micro-sprinkler, and other localized irrigation systems.



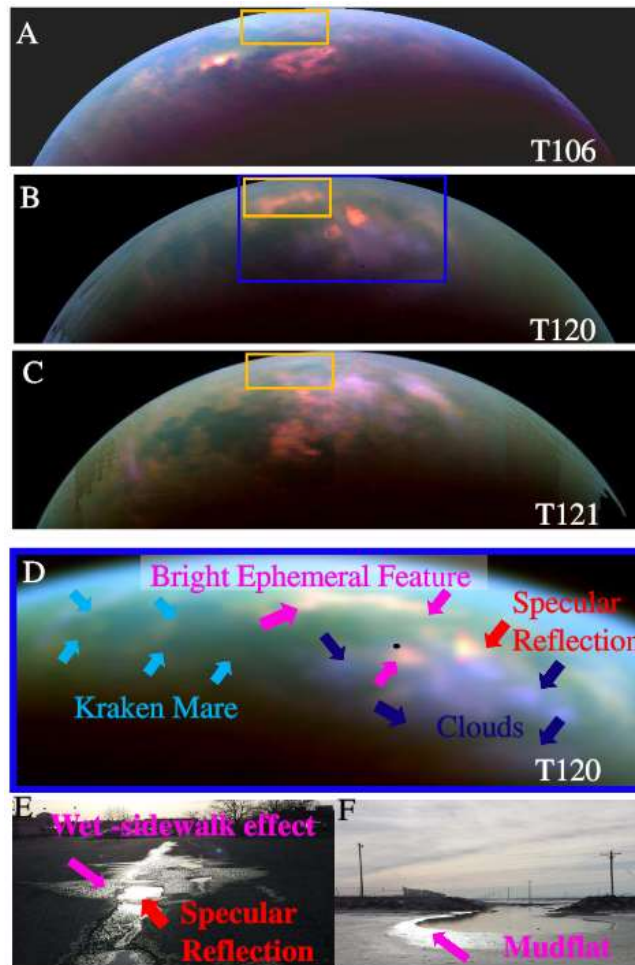
- ❖ The conference focused on the theme of “Micro Irrigation and Modern Agriculture”.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Evidence of methane rainfall on Titan

- ❖ The Scientists have found evidence of methane rainfall on the north pole of Titan, the largest moon of Saturn, using data from the Cassini spacecraft.
- ❖ The rainfall would be the first indication of the start of a summer season in Titan's northern hemisphere.
- ❖ Reflective surface represents the first observations of summer rainfall on the moon's northern hemisphere.
- ❖ If compared to Earth's yearly cycle of four seasons, a season on Titan lasts seven Earth years.
- ❖ The Cassini mission was a collaboration between **NASA, Europe Space agency and Italian space agency**. It was launched in **October 1997**.
- ❖ The purpose of the spacecraft is to study the planet Saturn and its system, including its rings and natural satellites.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Japan Prize

- ❖ The Japan Prize Foundation announced India born professor Dr. Rattan Lal as the recipient of the 2019 Japan Prize in the field of “Biological Production and Ecology”.
- ❖ Dr. Yoshio Okamoto was announced to be the recipient of the 2019 Japan Prize on of “Materials and Production” field.
- ❖ Each laureate will receive a certificate of recognition and a commemorative gold medal.



"Materials and Production" field



Prof. Yoshio Okamoto

Distinguished Invited University Professor, Nagoya University
Chair Professor, Harbin Engineering University

Japan

"Biological Production, Ecology" field



Prof. Rattan Lal

Distinguished University Professor / Director,
Carbon Management and Sequestration Center, The Ohio State University

United States of America

About Japan Prize

- ❖ This Prize is presented by the Japan Prize Foundation annually to scientists and engineers from around the world who have made significant contributions to the advancement of science and technology, thereby furthering the cause of peace and prosperity of mankind.
- ❖ Since its inception in 1985, the Foundation has awarded 81 people from 13 countries.
- ❖ 2020 Japan Prize will focus on the fields of "Electronics, Information and Communication" and "Life Science".
