

January – 30

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ India's fastest indigenous train, Train 18 has been named as Vande Bharat Express and it will ply between Delhi and Varanasi. Train 18 is an indigenously developed world-class train by ICF Chennai under Make in India.
- ❖ Nepal's Rohit Paudel became the youngest man to score a half-century at the age of 16 years and 146 days by surpassing Sachin's record (16 years & 213 days).
- ❖ Dr Poonam Khetrpal Singh has been reappointed as the Regional Director for World Health Organization South-East Asia, for a second five-year term.
 - she is the first woman to become the Regional Director of WHO South-East Asia Region.
- ❖ According to IRCTC's Trains Cleanliness Survey, The Southern Railway bagged number one position for cleanliness in the country.
 - Duronto trains are the least clean among premium trains, while Tejas and Shatabdi trains are the cleanest.
- ❖ Tamil translation of Andrei Makine's "La vie d'un homme inconnu" (The Life of an Unknown Man) has won the Romain Rolland Book Prize for literary translation.
 - The book was translated by S R Kichenamourty.

TAMIL NADU

Anna medal for gallantry

- ❖ Tamil Nadu CM has presented the Anna Award for Gallantry to 3 meritorious persons during the Republic day celebrations held in Chennai.
 - G Ranjithkumar (Bodinaikanur) – Rescued 8 trekkers trapped in the Kurangani forest fire in March 2018.
 - N Surya Kumar (Thirumanagalam, Chennai) - caught a robber
 - R Sridhar (Thanjavur) – Rescued 6 women and children from drowning in a lake



- ❖ The CM also gave a special award to farmer S Xavier (Pudukottai district) for getting the highest yield in paddy cultivation using the Rice intensification method.

Republic Day parade awards

- ❖ Overall 15 state Government departments have projected their achievements through their parade vehicles at the Republic day event held at Chennai.
- ❖ Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has won the first prize in the Republic day parade held in Chennai.
- ❖ Agriculture and Horticulture Department secured the second prize while Health and Sanitation department secured the third prize.



NATIONAL

World's longest expressway

- ❖ The government of Uttar Pradesh has approved the construction of the Ganga Expressway.
- ❖ The government has said that it would be the longest expressway in the world.
- ❖ The expressway will provide for better connectivity of the Prayagraj (Allahabad) to Western Pradesh.
- ❖ Expressways are the highest class of roads in the road network in India.
- ❖ National Expressways Authority of India under the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways is responsible for the construction and maintenance of expressways.



Amendments to Representation of People's Act 1951

- ❖ The Election Commission of India (ECI) has sought an amendment to the Representation of People Act 1951.
- ❖ It will prevent print media, social media and other digital platforms from carrying political advertisements in the last 48 hours before the polling begins.

The Commission has sought inclusion of 'print media' and 'other entities' within the ambit of Section 126 (1) (b). The other entities would refer to all social media formats

- ❖ Section 126 of the Representation of People Act 1951 prevents electronic media from airing any political advertisements in the silent period (48 hours before polling begins).
- ❖ ECI has also made it mandatory to seek pre-certification of the campaign material to be published in newspapers during the 48 hours.

STATES

Operation Olympics

- ❖ An expert programme 'Operation Olympics' managed by Kerala's Sports Department and State Sports Council was commenced.
- ❖ Under this programme 123 athletes in 11 disciplines will be trained for 2020 Tokyo Olympics.
- ❖ The programme has the objective to provide international standard training to the athletes with the help of eminent trainers from both India and abroad.

Kerala Sahitya Akademi Awards

- ❖ The Kerala Sahitya Akademi Awards for 2017 have been announced.
- ❖ Nireeswaran by V.J. James has been selected the best novel.
- ❖ Mindaprani, written by Veerankutty, has been selected as the best poetry.
- ❖ Aymanam John's Ethara Characharangalude Charitra Pusthakam has secured the award for the best short story.



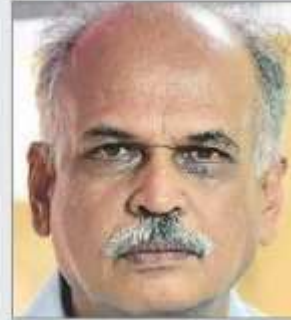
The winners



V.J. JAMES
Best novel



VEERANKUTTY
Best poetry



AYMANAM JOHN
Short story

SPORTS

Indonesia Masters Title 2019

- ❖ The Indonesia Masters 2019 Title, a badminton tournament, officially known as DAIHATSU Indonesia Masters 2019, took place at Jakarta, Indonesia.
- ❖ The tournament was organized by the Badminton Association of Indonesia in recognition with Badminton World Federation (BWF).
- ❖ India's Saina Nehwal won her first-ever Indonesia Masters women's singles title after Carolina Marin of Spain pulled out in the final due to injury.
- ❖ Danish player Anders Antonsen won his first ever Indonesia Masters after defeating world number one Kento Momota of Japan.
- ❖ Men's doubles - Marcus Fernaldi Gideon & Kevin Sanjaya (Indonesia).
- ❖ Women's Doubles - Ayaka Takahashi & Misaki Matsutomo (Japan).
- ❖ Mixed doubles - Zheng Siwei & Huang Yaqiong (China).



IMPORTANT DAYS

International Customs Day – 26 January

- ❖ The International Customs Day has been observed on January 26 every year to commemorate the first Conference of World Customs Organizations.



- ❖ The day recognizes the role of custom officials and agencies in maintaining border security.
- ❖ This year international Customs day is celebrated with a slogan “SMART borders for seamless Trade, Travel and Transport.”

Data Protection Day – 28 January

- ❖ Data Protection Day also known as Data Privacy Day was observed in some parts of the world on 28 Jan world to raise awareness and promote privacy and data protection.
- ❖ It is an annual event which was observed for the first time on 28th January 2007 by Council of Europe as European Data Protection Day.
- ❖ The Day is currently observed in the 47 European Countries, United States, Israel and Canada.

MISCELLANEOUS

75th anniversary of WWII siege of Leningrad

- ❖ Russia marked the 75th anniversary of the end of the 872-day siege of St Petersburg, the city - then known as Leningrad, during World War II by Nazi forces with a large military parade.



- ❖ The siege of the city, then called Leningrad, lasted nearly 2½ years until the Soviet Army drove the Nazis away on Jan. 27, 1944.
- ❖ The government of the erstwhile Soviet Union awarded the Order of Lenin to Leningrad in 1945 and bestowed the title Hero City of the Soviet Union in 1965.

Australia Day - 26 January

- ❖ Australia Day is the official national day of Australia and it is celebrated annually on 26 January.
- ❖ It marks the anniversary of the 1788 arrival of the First Fleet of British ships at Port Jackson, New South Wales.
- ❖ From 1946, January 26 was celebrated as Australia Day all over the country with the public holiday.