

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS - MARCH 4, 5, 6 & 7, 2019

TAMIL NADU

Prime Minister Narendra Modi - announced that Chennai Central railway station would be named after AIADMK founder Dr M G Ramachandran on March 6 at a official function in Chennai



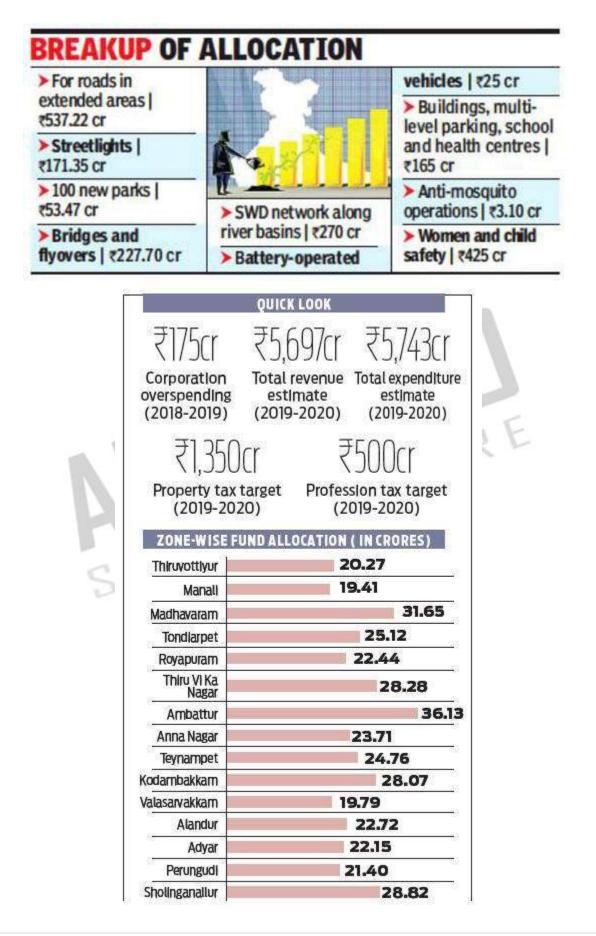
- The state cabinet resolved in September last year to recommend that the Centre rename the station after 'Puratchi Thalaivar Dr M G Ramachandran' to mark his birth centenary
- Earlier, the Prime Minister unveiled a statue of MGR at Dr MGR Janaki arts and science college for women through video conferencing
- He also said that the government is considering making it mandatory on flights to make announcements in Tamil
- ✓ The PM had also inaugurated a Rs 5,150 crore LNG terminal in Ennore and laid foundation stones for Rs 5,010 crore worth highway projects and a Rs 321 crore railway project.

Erode 'Manjal' (Turmeric) – granted GI tag by the Geographical Indication Registry of India on March 6



- The traditional cultivation methods and the peculiar agro-climatic conditions in Erode and bordering areas of the district make it unique
- The certification has been granted under spices category which falls under Class 30 of the GI classification.
- The Planting season of the turmeric in the districts is June-July and harvesting season is January to March.
- Erode farmers raise only Chinna Nadan variety of the turmeric, while the other variety is Perum Nadan
- Erode Turmeric Traders and Godown Owners Association filed the GI tag application 10 years ago
- Tamil Nadu government unveiled a new integrated textile policy on March
 6
- It seeks to achieve higher and sustainable growth in the textile value chain, from fibre to fashion, with emphasis on balanced regional development.
- Major thrust has been given to handloom, power loom, spinning, processing to produce cost effective and high-quality yarn, textiles and apparel to meet the requirements of domestic and export sectors.
- ✓ As per the policy, the state will offer 10% credit-linked capital investment subsidy for the processing sector, and assistance of 15% capital subsidy will be provided for setting up treatment plants with zero liquid discharge, subject to a maximum of Rs 5 crore

- Processing clusters will be promoted in Ramanathapuram district with financial assistance under the Integrated Processing Development scheme
- The state will also encourage setting up of silk parks in prominent silk clusters Kancheepuram, Salem, Arni and Thirubuvanam
- ✓ 9% of project cost, subject to a maximum ceiling of Rs 9 crore will be provided as state grant for setting up technical textile parks
- The state also offers additional 10% capital investment subsidy to garmenting units for benchmarked eligible machinery.
- The state offers 2% interest subvention for investments on technological upgradation and modernization in existing spinning mills with a vintage period of minimum 15 years on installed machinery.
- ✓ The Textile industry is the largest economic activity after agriculture in the state, giving direct employment to around 31 lakh people and more than Rs 50,000 crore exports
- Chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami launched Amma community radio on March 6 - to propagate government welfare schemes for members of women self-help groups
- He also launched e-mathi, a mobile app, which would broadcast the video content to more than one crore members on a daily basis.
- The project implemented by TN women's development corporation focuses on poverty eradication programmes, health and nutrition schemes, which are propagated through self-help group members to the community.
- The members will also get to learn dairy farming, goat-rearing and best agriculture practices.
- Pugalur has been named as the 7th taluk in Karur district with its headquarters at Velayuthampalayam
- ✓ Chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami announced this on March 6
- ✓ The new taluk, with 27 revenue villages, has been created merging Thennilai, K Paramathi and Pugalur revenue sub divisions.
- Initially, when Karur district was carved out of Trichy district, there were only Kulithalai and Karur taluks.
- Chennai Corporation Commissioner and Special Officer Prakash Govindasami – presented the Chennai Corporation's annual budget on March 4
- ✓ The Greater Chennai Corporation has pegged a total expenditure of Rs 5,744 crore for the financial year 2019-2020
- The Rs 46-crore deficit budget focuses on improving civic infrastructure like stormwater drainage, flyover expansion, remote monitoring systems of street lights, solid waste management and procuring engineering equipment for carrying out these works



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- ✓ Last year, the deficit was estimated at Rs 29 crore against revised income receipts of Rs 5,530 crore and expenditure of Rs 5,706 crore, but the actual deficit turned out to be Rs 176 crore
- ✓ The Corporation, which currently has around 600 parks in the city, has proposed to add an additional 200 parks at a cost of Rs 53 crore under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation, Swadesh Darshan scheme and Chennai Rivers Restoration Trust
- The civic body has recently got Rs 500 crore from the State government under the Chennai Mega City Development mission and Rs 100 crore under Tamilnadu Road Infrastructure programme, to compensate the Rs 46 crore revenue deficit
- Defence Minister Nirmala Seetharaman launched the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Mandhan pension scheme in Tamil Nadu on March 5



- State Labour Minister Nilofer Kafeel, Fisheries Minister D Jayakumar, Rural Industries Minister P Benjamin, AIADMK MP S R Vljayakumar and State BJP President Tamilisai Soundararajan were present on the occasion
- ✓ It is a pension scheme for workers in the unorganized sector who include street vendors, rickshaw pullers, construction, domestic, agricultural, beedi, leather and handloom workers, rag pickers, and those engaged in other 150 occupations and whose monthly income is less than Rs 15,000
- M S Jaffer Sait has been appointed as the new Chief of Crime Branch Criminal Investigation Division (CB-CID)

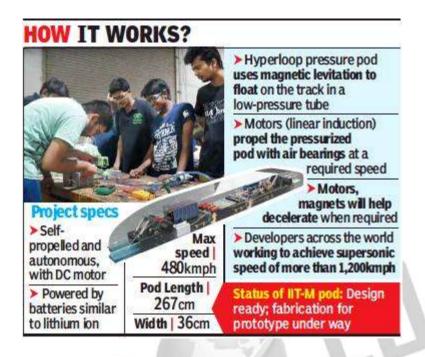


- ✓ He replaces additional director-general of police (ADGP) Amaresh Pujari, who was transferred and posted as director of the Tamil Nadu police academy in Oonamancherry
- The CB-CID police chief 's post has been upgraded as DGP while the director of TNPA in Oonamancherry has been downgraded to ADGP
- ✓ DGP Ashish Bhengra, who is now heading the commando unit, has been given additional charge as TANGEDCO vigilance officer
- ✓ ADGP Su Arunachalam, who was holding charge as TNPSC special officer, has been assigned to a newly created investigation unit for crime against children and women as its chief.
- Dr N Kalaiselvi, a scientist from Tamil Nadu has become the first woman director of CSIR-CECRI (Central Electrochemical Research Institute) at Karaikudi



- She joined the institute as an entry-level scientist in the advanced batteries division and rose through the ranks
- Vellore Institute of Technology's (VIT) 3 streams were included in the prestigious Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings by Subject 2019
- Computer science and information system, electrical and electronic engineering and chemistry were ranked within the top 550 universities of the world.
- ✓ While the two engineering subjects were ranked within the top 500 list, chemistry emerged in the top 550

Indian Institute of Technology-Madras – to represent the country in SpaceX this July - through its innovative design 'Hyperloop pod'



- IIT-M becomes the only team to represent India in the finals at the International Hyperloop Pod Competition organised by SpaceX in Los Angeles, US
- ✓ The team Avishkar Hyperloop, will demonstrate their self-propelled, autonomous pod in a 1.6-km vacuum tube achieving a speed of around 400kmph (Last year winner team achieved a speed of 480 kmph in the completion)
- ✓ The designed capsule can achieve nearly one-third of the speed of a hyperloop train and whizz across the 350-km Chennai-Bengaluru route in less than an hour
- Once fabricated, the pod will undergo a series of tests including a vacuum test likely in an Indian Space Research Organisation laboratory
- The team is already in talks with Hyperloop Transporation Technologies, the company building hyperloop in Dubai, to collaborate for research and development
- Hyperloop system, a concept promoted by Elon Musk of SpaceX, uses magnetic levitation to float above a track in a low-pressure tube
- Globally, research is under way to achieve a supersonic speed of more than 1,200kmph.
- ✓ The country's first hyperloop project where passenger pods moving at 600kmph can reach Pune from Mumbai in a matter of 20 minutes is under construction in Maharashtra

VIT vice-president, G V Selvam – appointed as one of the member of the advisory board of 'Tamil Nadu Sports Development Authority'



- The Tamil Nadu Sports Development Authority has recently constituted a 25member advisory board, consisting former sportspersons and sports enthusiasts, which will meet in every 6 months
- The board will attempt to facilitate sportspersons to excel in forthcoming events including the Olympics
- The other board members include Vijay Reddy of Apollo hospitals, PR Venketrama Raja, director of Ramco Cements, former Indian cricket captain Krishnamachari Srikkanth and AM Moorthy, former vice-chancellor of Tamil Nadu Physical Education and Sports University
- The Tamil Nadu Sports Development Authority has been instrumental in promoting the state-of-the-art infrastructure and appropriately plans and executes various sports schemes
- Chennai City's Police constable, A Purushothaman bagged silver medal at the All-India police duty meet held in Rajasthan



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- ✓ The Chennai city police team bagged the overall championship in the meet
- Purushothaman was posted at the Adyar traffic enforcement wing, after he won the Mr Tamil Nadu title in 2018
- Lokayukta Search panel, headed by retired Madras high court judge K Venkataraman – submits list of members and chairpersons to Government on March 5
- ✓ Now the selection committee, comprising of the Chief Minister, speaker of the assembly and the leader of opposition, has to finalise the composition of anticorruption watchdog in the state
- ✓ A total of 15 names in the ratio of 1:3 for 5 positions have been recommended in the list
- ✓ 3 former judges have been suggested for the post of chairperson
- Senior Anna University professor S. Thamarai Selvi has been appointed Vice Chancellor of the Vellore-based Thiruvalluvar University by Governor Banwarilal Purohit



- ✓ She will be in charge for a period of 3 years
- Prof Thamarai Selvi has a rich teaching experience of about 35 years and is at present Professor in the Department of Computer Technology, MIT Campus, Anna University
- Newly –extended Antyodaya Express flagged off from Nagercoil on March
 5 by Pon Radhakrishnan, Union Minister of state for finance and shipping
- Train Number 16191 / 16192 Tambaram Tirunelveli Tambaram Antyodaya Express, with 16 coaches of general second class, has been extended to Nagercoil with effect from March 5



- Antyodaya Express is a fully unreserved train service operated on routes with dense traffic.
- It covers important places such as Mayiladuthurai, Thanjavur, Tiruchi, Dindigul and Madurai.
- The train has cushioned luggage racks with coat hooks, LED lights, mobile and laptop charging points, water purifiers, fire extinguishers with anti-theft arrangement, enhanced capacity dustbins and bio-toilets.
- Seven teams from SSN Institutions, Chennai won at the national-level 'Smart India Hackathon 2019', a digital product building contest – held in 48 centres across the country on March 2 and 3



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- A team named 'Wonder Bees' led by T Malavika from Computer science department in SSN won the top prize for an application developed to convert text into speech for Indian regional languages
- Chennai Students from Panimalar Engineering College, SRM Institute of Science & Technology, Sri Sairam Institute of Technology and Chennai Institute of Technology also won the prizes
- ✓ Over 2 lakh technical students participated in the event

STATES

- Madhya Pradesh announced a 27% quota for OBCs taking the total quotas in the state to above 70%
- The state had also announced the implementation of the 10% reservation for economically backward sections in the general category
- ✓ Currently the state has only 14% reservation for OBCs
- The state's chief minister Kamal Nath had also mentioned about the government's Yuva Swabhiman Yojana, under which the youth's taking up small enterprises will get a stipend of Rs 4,000 per month for 100 days of work.

NATIONAL

- The Union Government issues the guidelines for development and regulation of retirement homes on March 6
- ✓ The new guidelines, shared by Union housing and urban affairs minister Hardeep Singh Puri, aims to make the life of senior citizens living in such facilities easier
- ✓ Mandatory facilities required
 - ✓ Lifts with audio visual signage and signalling system
 - ✓ 24X7 on-site ambulances with oxygen facility
 - ✓ Mandatory medical facility and emergency medical room
 - ✓ Tie-up with nearest hospital
 - ✓ Gas leak detection mechanism
 - ✓ Wash basins with grab rails
 - ✓ Outward opening door
 - ✓ Anti-skid tiles in bathroom and walking tracks
 - ✓ Facility to raise alarm
 - ✓ Safe design furniture that are lightweight without sharp edges
 - ✓ Wider staircase with handrails on both sides
 - ✓ Illuminated or radium strips in staircase
 - ✓ Free intercom facility
 - ✓ Single digit dialling facility for emergency
- ✓ The average size recommended for such units is 40 to 60 sq meter in plains for a 1 BHK and 50 to 80 sq meter for a 2 BHK

- The government had doubled the income tax exemption limit for gratuity to Rs 20 lakh - under section 10(10)(iii) of the Income Tax Act
- The move will benefit salaried employees, who are retiring, and those who retired in last 12 months
- It will benefit all PSU employees and other employees not covered by Payment of Gratuity Act
- The Gratuity Act applies to employees working in an organisation that employs 10 or more employees in a year
- Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) notifies modified norms for startups - to be effective retrospectively from February 19
- As per the new norms, start-ups can seek 'angel tax' exemption for investments of up to Rs 25 crore
- The DPIIT, under the commerce and industry ministry, had earlier raised the investment limit for 'angel tax' exemption to Rs 25 crore and extended the period of availing benefits to 10 years for startups on February 19
- Earlier, the investment limit for a start-up to seek exemption under Section 56(2) (viib) of Income Tax Act, 1961, was Rs 10 crore and they were permitted to avail the benefits only for 7 years.
- ✓ To avail the exemption, a start-up will be required to submit a self-declaration about the use of the raised amount to the DPIIT, which will be forwarded to the CBDT.
- Prime Minister had donated Rs 21 Lakhs of his personal savings to the corpus of Safai karmachari (sanitation staff) welfare
- Earlier, on receiving the Seoul Peace Prize, he had donated the prize money of Rs 1.3 crore to the Namami Gange project to help clean the Ganga
- In a recent auction of mementoes received by Modi during his tenure as PM, Rs
 3.40 crore was collected, which too was donated to Namami Gange
- ✓ In 2015, in a similar auction of gifts in Surat, Rs 8.33 crore was raised, which was also given to Namami Gange project

INTERNATIONAL

- Pakistan has formally banned Jamat-ud-Dawa and its charity wing Falah-e-Insaniat Foundation, which were led by 2008 Mumbai attack mastermind Hafiz Saeed
- ✓ Pakistan had earlier announced the bans on February 21, but the two groups continued to be in the watch list since January 2017
- Pakistani authorities had also detained Jaish-e-Mohammed chief Masood Azhar's son and brother apart from 42 other members of banned militant outfits

- The decision to ban these two groups (and kept along with the list of 70 banned organisations) was taken during a meeting of the National Security Committee (NSC) chaired by Prime Minister Imran Khan.
- ✓ The JuD is believed to be the front organisation for the LeT which is responsible for carrying out the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack that killed 166 people.
- \checkmark It had been declared as a foreign terrorist organisation by the US in June 2014.
- The US Department of the Treasury has designated its chief Saeed as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist, and the US, since 2012, has offered a \$10 million reward for information about his whereabouts

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- U.S. President Donald Trump scraps preferential trade pact with India within 60 days of enforcement
- Trump plans to end preferential trade treatment for India that allows duty-free entry for up to \$5.6 billion worth of its exports to the United States
- ✓ India is the world's largest beneficiary of the US's Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), which dates from the 1970s
- ✓ The preferential treatment brought India an annual "actual benefit" of \$190 million, with the country opting for around 1,784 goods out of 3,700 products covered
- Farm, marine and handicraft products are among India's exports most likely to be hit
- ✓ India's top GSP exports to the United States in 2017 included motor vehicle parts, ferro alloys, precious metal jewellery, building stone, insulated cables and wires
- India's falling trade deficit with the United States is estimated to have narrowed by more than \$4 billion in 2018

PERSONALITIES

Justice A K Sikri – retires as the Supreme Court Judge after a six-year tenure



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- ✓ Justice Sikri delivered important judgments, including mandatory linking of Aadhaar with PAN and the litigation war between the Centre and AAP over controlling services in the National Capital Territory
- ✓ For the last time and as per tradition, he was part of the bench headed by CJI Ranjan Gogoi which also comprised Justice S A Bobde
- ✓ Justice Sikri intends to take up arbitration proceedings post-retirement

APPOINTMENTS

Scientist Ajit Kumar Mohanty - was appointed director of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), the country's premier multi-disciplinary nuclear research facility on March 6



- He is at present director, physics group in BARC and director, Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics
- ✓ The appointment will be for a period of 3 years

SPORTS

Manjit Singh Chahal – wins Gold in 1500m category – in the Indian Grand Prix at Panchkula



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✓ He had won his first international gold medal in 800 metres recently in 2018 Asian Games, the country's first gold medal in the event since 1982

RANKINGS

Swachh Survekshan 2019 Rankings

- ✓ The Swachh Survekshan awards 2019 were conferred by President Ram Nath Kovind at a ceremony in New Delhi.
- Indore has been awarded the cleanest city in the country for the third year in a row

TOP 10 MUNICIPAL AREAS					SURVEKSHAN	teatro 1
Ink	2016	2017	2018	2019		. And
l	Mysuru	Indore	Indore	Indore	主任	1.48
2	Chandigarh	Bhopal	Bhopal	Ambikapur	33 13/1	
}	Tiruchirappalli	Vishakhapatnam	Chandigarh	Mysuru	States .	3
1	NDMC	Surat	NDMC	Ujjain	D TAL A	-
	Vishakhapatnam	Mysuru	Vijayawada	NDMC	A DECK DECK DAVE	-
5	Surat	Tiruchirappalli	Tirupati	Ahmedabad	INDIA'S CLEANEST	
	Rajkot	NDMC	Vishakhapatnam	Navi Mumbai	CITY - NO.1	
3	Gangtok	Navi Mumbai	Mysuru	Tirupati	INDORE	
9	Pimpri-Chinchwad	Tirupati	Navi Mumbai	Rajkot		
0	Greater Mumbai	Vadodara	Pune	Dewas	and the second	

✓ Bhopal has been declared as the cleanest capital

- Ujjain has bagged the award for being the cleanest city in the population category of 3 lakh to 10 lakh
- Chhattisgarh has also emerged India's top performer among states, followed by Jharkhand and Maharashtra.
- ✓ Dewas in Madhya Pradesh has made the maximum progress among the municipal areas with more than one lakh population, by becoming the 10th cleanest municipal area in 2019 as compared to its last year's rank of 68.
- ✓ Rajkot has also made huge progress to become the ninth cleanest urban area as compared to its earlier rank of 35 in 2018.

SW/ SUR	VEKSHAN 2019	Ministry of Housing and Urban / Government of Indu
	NATIONAL LEVI	EL AWARDS
	TABLE 3: Awarded ULBs - Overal	II National Level Ranking
SI. No.	Award Category	Name Of The ULB
	+	
1	India's Cleanest City - No. 1	Indore Municipal Corporation
1 2	India's Cleanest City - No. 1 India's Cleanest City - No. 2	Ambikapur Municipal Corporation
-		
2	India's Cleanest City - No. 2	Ambikapur Municipal Corporation Mysuru Municipal Corporation
2	India's Cleanest City - No. 2 India's Cleanest City - No. 3 TABLE 4: Awarded ULBs - National	Ambikapur Municipal Corporation Mysuru Municipal Corporation
2	India's Cleanest City - No. 2 India's Cleanest City - No. 3 TABLE 4: Awarded ULBs - National	Ambikapur Municipal Corporation Mysuru Municipal Corporation Level (Above 10 Lakh Population)
2 3 SI. No.	India's Cleanest City - No. 2 India's Cleanest City - No. 3 TABLE 4: Awarded ULBs - National Award Category	Ambikapur Municipal Corporation Mysuru Municipal Corporation Level (Above 10 Lakh Population) Name Of The ULB
2 3 SI. No. 1	India's Cleanest City - No. 2 India's Cleanest City - No. 3 TABLE 4: Awarded ULBs - National Award Category India's 'Cleanest Big City'	Ambikapur Municipal Corporation Mysuru Municipal Corporation Level (Above 10 Lakh Population) Name Of The ULB Amdavad Municipal Corporation
2 3 SI. No. 1 2	India's Cleanest City - No. 2 India's Cleanest City - No. 3 TABLE 4: Awarded ULBs - National Award Category India's 'Cleanest Big City' Fastest Mover' Big City	Ambikapur Municipal Corporation Mysuru Municipal Corporation Level (Above 10 Lakh Population) Name Of The ULB Amdavad Municipal Corporation Raipur Municipal Corporation

The other big jump has been made by Ambikapur, which finished as the second cleanest municipal area this year as compared to its 11th rank in 2018

TABLE 5: Awarded ULBs - ULBs - National Level (3- 10 Lakh Population)

SI. No.	Award Category	Name Of The ULB	
1	India's 'Cleanest Medium City'	Ujjain Municipal Corporation	
2	Fastest Mover' Medium City	Mathura-Vrindavan Nagar Nigam	
3	Best Medium City in 'Citizens Feedback'	Chandrapur Municipal Corporation	
4	Best Medium City in 'Innovation & Best Practices'	Jhansi Nagar Nigam	
5	Best Medium City in 'Solid Waste Management'	Latur Municipal Corporation	

TABLE 6: Awarded ULBs - National	Level (1-3 Lakh Population)
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SI. No.	Award Category	Name Of The ULB	
1	India's 'Cleanest Small City'	New Delhi Municipal Council	
2	Fastest Mover' Small City	Orai Nagar PalikaParishad	
3	Best Small City in 'Citizens Feedback'	Tirupati Municipal Corporation	
4	Best Small City in 'Innovation & Best Practices'	Dewas Municipal Corporation	
5	Best Small City in 'Solid Waste Management'	Nagda Municipal Corporation	

TABLE 7: Awarded ULBs - National Level (State Capital/Union Territory)

2 Fastest Mover' State Capital/UT Chennai Municipal Corpo	Bhopal Municipal Corporation		
	Briopai Municipai Corporation		
3 Best State Capital/UT in 'Citizens Feedback' Ranchi Municipal Corpor	Chennai Municipal Corporation		
	Ranchi Municipal Corporation		
4 Best State capital/UT in 'Innovation & Best Practices' Greater Mumbai Municipal Co	Greater Mumbai Municipal Corporation		
5 Best State Capital/UT in 'Solid Waste Management' Chandigarh Municipal Corp	Corporation		

- Uttarakhand's Gauchar has been adjudged as the "Best Ganga Town"
 New Delhi Municipal Council area was given the 'Cleanest Small City' award
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- The 'Cleanest Big City' award has been bagged by Ahmedabad, while Raipur is the 'Fastest Moving Big City'
- ✓ Tamil Nadu in Swachh Sarvekshan 2019
- ✓ Though no city from Tamil Nadu was among the top 10 cleanest, Chennai which scored 3,118 marks out of 5,000 — improved its ranking to 61 from 100 last year, and the city corporation got the Fastest Mover State Capital award

TN RANKINGS 2019			What brought	HOW CHENNAI FARES		
Rank	City name	Score out	about a change	Parameters	2019 score	2018 score
2000/18		of 5,000	Door-to-door	Service level		
39	Tiruchirappalli	3,414.37	garbage collection	progress	787 / 1,250	699/1,400
40	Coimbatore	3,411.64	Night conservancy	Direct observation	980 / 1,250	915/1,200
61	Chennai	3,118.03	along 11 arterial bus route roads			
115	Dindigul	2,781.06	Twin color-coded	Citizen feedback	851/1,250	972/1,400
120	Erode	2,755.47	dustbins along 11	2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2	2 1 202	in the second
Cities that		ā.	bus route roads and	Certification	500 / 1,250	NIL
impro		<u>A</u> 1	Marina Beach	Total	3,118 / 5,000	2,586 / 4,000
ranking: Chennai, Dindigul, Nagercoil		Decentralization using composting	City's rank over the years (Among the with population > 1 lakh) 2019 - 61 2018 - 100 2017 - 23			
		units and bio- methanation plants				

- Trichy and Coimbatore, which ranked 13th and 16th last year, had gone down to 39 and 40 this year
- ✓ Swachh Sarvekshan
- This is the fourth such annual ranking by the government, conducted by the housing and urban affairs ministry.
- ✓ Every year, cities and towns across India are awarded with the title of 'Swachh Cities' on the basis of their cleanliness and sanitation drive as a part of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan that was launched in 2014
- ✓ The survey of 2019 involved 4237 cities and over 6.53 lakh survey locations in which 64 lakh people provided their feedback

