

March-19

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Banlotwa has become the first 'alcohol-free' village in Jharkhand state.
- ❖ A total of 102 rhinos have been counted in Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary here during a census carried out by the state's forest department. The one horned rhino census was conducted after six years in the sanctuary.
 - Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary is the "densest habitat of one horned rhinos in the world".

TAMIL NADU

Bhoodan Board reconstitution

- ❖ More than four years after the expiry of the term of the Bhoodan Board, the State government has reconstituted it with a chairperson and 12 members.
- ❖ Minister for Khadi& Village Industries Board G. Baskaran is the chairperson of the Bhoodan Board and the Director of Land Reforms [as the Board's Member Secretary].
- ❖ The Secretary to the Revenue and Disaster Management Department, the Commissioner for Land Reforms, the Commissioner of Agriculture, and the Director of Horticulture and Plantation Crops are the other official members of the board.

Historical Background of Bhoodan Board

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Bhoodan Yagna Act, 1958, was enacted to regulate lands received as donations for the Bhoodan Yagna Movement started by Acharya Vinoba Bhave
- ❖ The board's function was to regulate and transfer the title of the lands to Bhoodan Board and to distribute the lands to the landless poor.
- ❖ In 2006, the control of the board was transferred from the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department to the Land Reforms Department.
- ❖ Though the board was initially a five-member body, it was later expanded to 12 members in 2000.
- ❖ In 2009, the board was reconstituted with 14 members. The recently reconstituted board has 13 members.

NATIONAL

Interceptor boat – ICG

- ❖ The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has commissioned interceptor boat ICGS C-437 at Porbandar, Gujarat as part of its efforts to strengthen coastal security.
- ❖ ICGS C-437 shall be based at Jakhau under administrative and operational control of commander Coast Guard Region of North West.
- ❖ The boat has advanced navigational and communication equipment with capability to respond to any maritime situation.
- ❖ It is capable of undertaking multifarious task such as surveillance, search and rescue, rendering assistance to boats and craft during disasters.

Annual Survey of India's City-Systems (ASICS)

- ❖ The fifth edition of the Annual Survey of India's City-Systems (ASICS) has been released by Janaagraha Centre for Citizenship and Democracy.
- ❖ The objective of the survey was to measure the preparedness of cities to deliver high quality infrastructure and services in the long term by evaluating "city systems".
- ❖ Pune, Kolkata and Thiruvananthapuram top the country in terms of urban governance.
- ❖ Delhi and Mumbai figure in the sixth and ninth positions respectively.
- ❖ Among the medium cities (with a population of up to one million), Ranchi has broken into the top 10.
- ❖ Bengaluru and Chandigarh (perceived as a planned city) figured at the bottom of the list.
- ❖ On a scale of 1 to 10, the 23 cities – many of which are part of the government's flagship smart cities mission – scored between 3 and 5.1 on four key components of governance.



ASICS SCORES 2017

Rank	City	Score	Score Change over 2016
1	Pune	5.1	0.9
2	Kolkata	4.6	0.5
3	Thiruvananthapuram	4.6	0.2
4	Bhubaneswar	4.6	1.1
5	Surat	4.5	1.3
6	Delhi	4.4	0.8
7	Ahmedabad	4.4	1.1
8	Hyderabad	4.3	0.3
9	Mumbai	4.2	0.1
10	Ranchi	4.1	0.8
11	Raipur	4.0	0.7
12	Kanpur	3.9	0.2
13	Lucknow	3.8	0.5
14	Guwahati	3.8	--
15	Bhopal	3.7	--
16	Ludhiana	3.5	0.5
17	Visakhapatnam	3.4	--
18	Jaipur	3.4	0.8
19	Chennai	3.3	-0.3
20	Patna	3.3	-0.1
21	Dehradun	3.1	--
22	Chandigarh	3.1	1.0
23	Bengaluru	3.0	-0.3



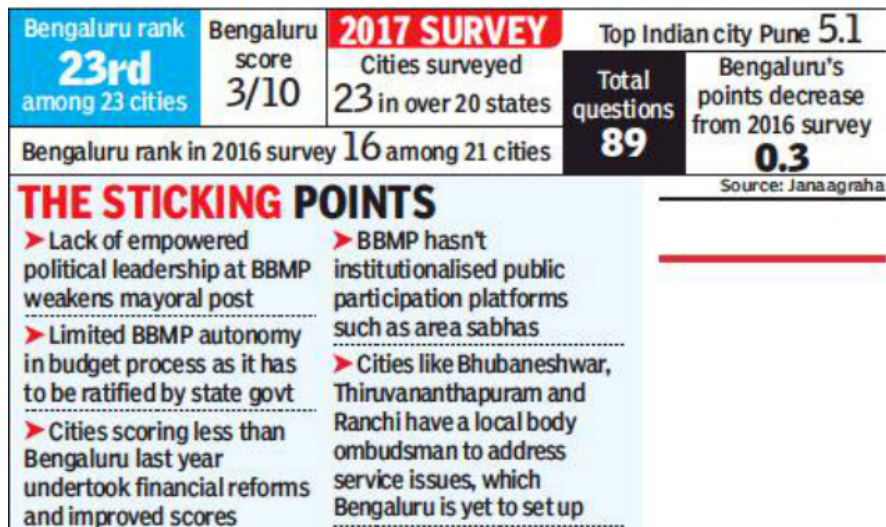
London
Score: 8.8



New York
Score: 8.8



Johannesburg
Score: 7.6



Cadre Management

- ❖ The IPS Officers' association's Tamil Nadu chapter president and Director-General of Police K.P. Mahendran has written a strongly worded letter to the Home Secretary.
- ❖ In that he stated that the rules framed by Parliament as regards posting of cadre officers were being flouted, much to the disadvantage of "young direct IPS officers".
- ❖ It is in the wake of the Tamil Nadu government's policy of assigning non-IPS officers to cadre posts meant for IPS officers.
- ❖ Going by the established rules, the 76 cadre posts in the rank of Superintendent of Police / Deputy Commissioner of Police should be filled only by IPS officers, whereas the State had filled 54% of the posts with non-cadre officers.
- ❖ A non-IPS officer cannot continue for a period beyond three months unless the State government obtains prior approval from the Central government
- ❖ The Ministry of Home Affairs had issued a clear directive that the provisions under Rule (9) of The Indian Police Service (Cadre) Rules, 1954, was to ensure that "a non-cadre officer is not appointed to a cadre post if a suitable cadre officer is available."
- ❖ Besides a SC order clearly mandating that only IPS officers should be assigned to cadre posts.

- ❖ There was also the judgment of the Punjab and Haryana High Court, which struck down the appointment of non-cadre officers to cadre posts.

INTERNATIONAL

Angela Merkel Fourth Term Chancellor

- ❖ German lawmakers voted to re-elect Angela Merkel as Chancellor for a fourth, and likely final term.
- ❖ The majority vote in the Bundestag means the Christian Democratic Union leader embarked on her fourth term.
- ❖ She has been elected at the helm of German politics following months of negotiations with the Social Democratic Party (SPD) that culminated in the revival of the so-called grand coalition (mockingly dubbed a "GroKo" in German).
- ❖ In a secret ballot, 364 of the Bundestag's 709 members voted in favour of Merkel -- nine more than the 50 per cent required
- ❖ Merkel will be formally appointed by President Frank-Walter Steinmeier before taking the oath of office.

ECONOMY

Ofloxacin import

- ❖ The Revenue Department in the Finance Ministry has imposed anti-dumping duty on import of 'Ofloxacin'.
- ❖ 'Ofloxacin' is a pharma product used in treatment of certain infections from China.
- ❖ The levy has been slapped for 3 years following the recommendations of the Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties (DGAD).
- ❖ The product has been exported to India from China below its normal value, resulting in dumping.
- ❖ Ofloxacin is in a class of antibiotics called fluoroquinolones. It works by killing bacteria that cause infection.

- ❖ The duty levy is aimed at ensuring fair trading practises and creating a level-playing field for domestic producers with regard to foreign producers and exporters.
- ❖ In India, anti-dumping duty to be levied is recommended by Ministry of Commerce (i.e. by DGAD), while Finance Ministry imposes it.

ENVIRONMENT

New species of water strider

- ❖ Scientists from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) have discovered a new species of water strider from Nagaland.
- ❖ The species, named *Ptilomeranagalanda jehamalar* and *Chandra*, was found in the river Intanki, Peren district.
- ❖ This newly discovered species belongs to *Ptilomeraagriodes* genus. It is only found in rocky, fast flowing streams and rivers that are not exposed to lot of sunlight.
- ❖ The presence of black stripes on the dorsal side differentiates this species from other known species of the subgenus *Ptilomera*.
- ❖ So far, only five species of water striders under the subgenus *Ptilomera* were known in India. These includes,
 - *Ptilomeraagriodes* - peninsular India,
 - *Ptilomeraassamensis* - north eastern India,
 - *Ptilomeratalicaudata* - northern and north eastern India,
 - *Ptilomeraoccidentalis* - Uttarakhand and
 - *Ptilomeratigrina* - Andaman Islands.
- ❖ With discovery of *Ptilomeranagalanda*, the number of species of water striders belonging to subgenus *Ptilomera* has increased to six in India.
- ❖ Water striders are a group of insects adapted to life on the surface of water, using surface tension to their advantage. Their presence serves as indicator water of water quality
- ❖ Other than being a good indicator of water quality, water striders also play an important role in the food chain by feeding on mosquito larvae.

SPORTS

Nidahas Trophy

- ❖ India won the Nidahas Trophy by beating Bangladesh in the final at the R Premadasa Stadium, Colombo in Sri Lanka.

Nidahas Trophy

- ❖ Nidahas Trophy was first organized in 1998 to celebrate the 50 years of Sri Lanka's independence.
 - ❖ The series was played between Sri Lanka, India and New Zealand.
 - ❖ India, under Mohammad Azharuddin's captaincy, won the Nidahas Trophy, 1998.
 - ❖ This year (2018), the trophy was played to celebrate Sri Lanka's 70th year of independence. The series was played between Sri Lanka, India and Bangladesh.
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