

Swachh Survekshan 2024-25

Posted at: 24/07/2025

Swachh Survekshan 2024-25: Recognising Clean Cities, Empowering Urban India

Context:

India has made rapid strides in improving urban sanitation since the launch of the **Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban)**. As part of this journey, the **Swachh Survekshan** serves as an annual cleanliness assessment that evaluates the performance of cities in terms of sanitation and waste management. The **President of India** presented the **Swachh Survekshan Awards 2024-25** at **Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi**, recognizing cities and organizations demonstrating leadership in cleanliness.

Introduction:

Launched in **2016** under the **Swachh Bharat Mission - Urban (SBM-U)**, Swachh Survekshan has grown into the **world's largest urban sanitation survey**. It promotes **competitive federalism**, encourages **citizen involvement**, and accelerates innovation in **waste management** practices across Indian cities.

Key Features of Swachh Survekshan:

- Conducted annually by the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)**
- Evaluates cities based on parameters such as:
 - **Segregation of waste at source**
 - **Scientific processing of waste**
 - **Sanitation in public spaces**
 - **Citizen feedback and participation**
- Promotes transparency, data-backed rankings, and behavioral change

- Covers cities across five **population-based categories**
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Major Award Categories and Winners:

- **Premier Super Swachh League** (Cities with population over 10 lakh):
 - **Indore, Surat, and Navi Mumbai** emerged as top performers
 - **Indore** retained the top rank for **7 consecutive years**
 - **India's New Clean Cities** (Emerging performers in large cities):
 - **Ahmedabad, Bhopal, and Lucknow** recognized for sustained progress
 - **One City, One Award Initiative:**
 - Top-performing cities from each state awarded as **Promising Swachh Shehars**
 - **34 cities** across States and Union Territories earned this recognition
 - **Special Category Recognitions:**
 - **Best Ganga Town - Prayagraj**
 - **Best Cantonment Board - Secunderabad Cantonment**
 - **Best Safai Mitra Surakshit Shehars - Visakhapatnam, Jabalpur, and Gorakhpur**, for ensuring safety and dignity of sanitation workers
 - **Special Recognition - Government of Uttar Pradesh, Prayagraj Mela Adhikari, and Prayagraj Municipal Corporation** for exceptional waste management during **Mahakumbh**
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New Initiatives Announced:

- **Swachh City Partnership Initiative:**

- Follows the principle of “**Each One Clean One**”
- **78 top-performing cities** to mentor one **low-performing city** from their respective States
- Promotes **peer learning**, capacity building, and cooperative action

- **Accelerated Dumpsite Remediation Program:**

- **One-year focused initiative** for clearing **legacy waste**
- Aims to **free up valuable urban land**
- Enhances **scientific waste processing capacity**

Significance and Broader Impact:

- Promotes the **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (3R)** principle
- Encourages the **waste-to-wealth model** and adoption of **circular economy** practices
- Enables **youth empowerment, green job creation, and entrepreneurial opportunities**
- Active involvement of **Self Help Groups (SHGs)** and **school-based initiatives**
- Boost to **startups, zero-waste colonies, and source segregation innovations**

Conclusion:

The **Swachh Survekshan Awards 2024-25** reflect India’s growing commitment to **urban cleanliness, inclusive governance, and sustainability**. By recognizing exemplary performers and encouraging mentorship among cities, the initiative not only inspires healthy competition but also ensures that the vision of a **Clean Urban India** is realized through **collaborative, innovative, and citizen-centric approaches**.