

SWACHH SURVEKSHAN 2024-25 RANKINGS – ECONOMY

NEWS: The Swachh Survekshan Awards 2024-25 were presented by President Droupadi Murmu at a ceremony organised by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).

WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

Swachh Survekshan 2024–25: Key Highlights

- **Introduction of Revamped Format & ‘Super Swachh League’ (SSL):**
To recognize cities that have consistently ranked at the top (e.g., Indore—No. 1 for 7 years), the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) introduced a separate **Super Swachh League (SSL)** category.
SSL cities were **excluded from the main rankings** to ensure a **level playing field** and **encourage rising cities** to gain recognition.



- **New City Classification Based on Population:**

For the **first time**, cities were grouped by population size to allow **fair comparison** and **targeted evaluation** across Urban Local Bodies (ULBs):

- **Very Small Cities:** Population less than 20,000
- **Small Cities:** 20,000 – 50,000
- **Medium Cities:** 50,000 – 3 lakh
- **Big Cities:** 3 – 10 lakh
- **Million Plus Cities:** More than 10 lakh

- **Special Awards Presented:**

- **Swachh Mahakumbh 2025 Recognition:** *Prayagraj* was acknowledged for exemplary *waste management during Mahakumbh 2025*.
- **Cleanest Ganga Town:** Awarded to *Prayagraj* for maintaining sanitation along the Ganga river.
- **Safaimitra Surakshit Shehar Awards:** *Visakhapatnam, Jabalpur, and Gorakhpur* recognized for **ensuring safety and dignity of sanitation workers**.
- **Cleanest Cantonment Board:** *Secunderabad Cantonment* won for maintaining highest cleanliness among cantonment boards.
- **Promising Swachh Shehar Awards:** 35 cities from 33 States/UTs honored as emerging performers.
 - Key cities include *Rajahmundry, Patna, Guwahati, Pimpri Chinchwad, Agra, and Bhubaneswar*.

About Swachh Survekshan under SBM–Urban

- **Overview:**

Swachh Survekshan is **the world's largest urban sanitation survey**, conducted annually by MoHUA under **Swachh Bharat Mission–Urban (SBM-U)** since 2016.

- **Objective:**

Designed to **enhance citizen participation, promote healthy competition** among ULBs, and **benchmark performance** in sanitation.

- **Growth in Coverage:**

Started with **just 73 cities** in 2016; now covers **4,589 ULBs** in the 2024–25 edition.

- **Evaluation Criteria:**

Cities are judged on parameters such as:

- **Waste segregation at source**
- **Sanitation in public areas**

- **Processing and disposal of solid waste**
- **Citizen feedback and behavioral change initiatives**
- **Swachh Survekshan 2025 (9th Edition):**
 - Conducted between **April 2024 – March 2025**.
 - Survey indicators were **restructured into 10 sections**.
 - **Special emphasis on:**
 - Sanitation in **tourist and high-footfall areas**
 - **Public space cleanliness**
 - **Waste recycling and reduction (3R principles)**
 - Aimed to **align with the Jaipur Declaration** adopted at the **12th Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum (March 2025)**.
- **New Innovations Introduced:**
 - **Project Grounding Indicators:** For implementation status of sanitation projects.
 - **CTU (City Transport Unit) Transformation Indicators:** For evaluating the sanitation of transport hubs.
 - **School-level Assessments:** To instill **Swachhta values** among schoolchildren and promote behavioral change early on.

What is Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM)?

- **About:**
 - It is a massive mass movement that seeks to create a Clean India by 2019. The father of our nation **Mr. Mahatma Gandhi** always puts the emphasis on swachhta as swachhta leads to healthy and prosperous life.
 - Keeping this in mind, the Indian government has decided to launch the swachh bharat mission on October 2, 2014. The mission will cover all rural and urban areas.
 - The urban component of the mission will be implemented by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, and the rural component by the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- **Swachh Bharat Mission for Urban Areas:**
 - **Phase 1:**
 - The programme includes elimination of open defecation, conversion of unsanitary toilets to pour flush toilets, eradication of manual scavenging, municipal solid waste management and bringing about a behavioural change in people regarding healthy sanitation practices.

- The mission aims to cover 1.04 crore households, provide 2.5 lakh community toilets, 2.6 lakh public toilets, and a solid waste management facility in each town.
 - Under the programme, community toilets will be built in residential areas where it is difficult to construct individual household toilets.
 - Public toilets will also be constructed in designated locations such as tourist places, markets, bus stations, railway stations, etc. The programme will be implemented over a five-year period in 4,401 towns.
- The expected assistance for construction of community toilets - Central Government will contribute upto 40% of the cost of construction of community toilet as a **Viability Gap Funding (VGF)**/ outright grant. As per SBM guidelines, the States/UTs shall provide an additional 13.33% for the said component.
- The North-East and **special category states** shall be required to contribute 4% only. The balance shall have to be arranged through innovative mechanisms by the urban local body. The approximate cost per seat for a community toilet is Rs 65,000.
- **Phase 2:**
 - SBM-U 2.0 envisions to make all cities 'Garbage Free' and ensure grey and black water management in all cities other than those covered under AMRUT, make all urban local bodies as ODF+ and those with a population of less than 1 lakh as ODF++, thereby achieving the vision of safe sanitation in urban areas.
 - The Mission will focus on source segregation of solid waste, utilizing the principles of **3Rs (reduce, reuse, recycle)**, scientific processing of all types of municipal solid waste and remediation of legacy dumpsites for effective solid waste management. The outlay of SBM-U 2.0 is around Rs 1.41 lakh crore for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26.
 - This will be a continuation of the Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban), with the following components for funding and implementation across all statutory towns, viz.
 - Sustainable sanitation (construction of toilets)
 - Wastewater treatment, including fecal sludge management in all ULBs with less than 1 lakh population (this is a new component added to SBM-U 2.0)
 - Solid Waste Management
 - Information, Education and Communication, and
 - Capacity building.

▪ **Swachh Bharat Mission for Rural Areas:**

• **Phase 1:**

- The Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan has been restructured into the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin). The SBM(G) was launched on 2nd October 2014 to ensure cleanliness in India and make it **Open Defecation Free (ODF)** in Five Years.
 - It seeks to improve the levels of cleanliness in rural areas through Solid and Liquid Waste Management activities and making Gram Panchayats Open Defecation Free (ODF), clean and sanitised.
- Incentive as provided under the Mission for the construction of Individual Household Latrines (IHHL) was available for all **Below Poverty Line (BPL)** Households and Above Poverty Line (APL) households restricted to **SCs/STs**, small and marginal farmers, landless labourers with homestead, physically handicapped and women headed households.
- The Incentive amount provided under SBM(G) to Below Poverty Line (BPL) /identified APLs households was up to Rs.12,000 for construction of one unit of IHHL and provide for water availability, including for storing for hand-washing and cleaning of the toilet.
 - Central Share of this Incentive for IHHLs was Rs.9,000/- (75%) from Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin). The State share was Rs.3,000/- (25%).
 - For North Eastern State, and Special category States, the Central share was Rs. 10,800/- and the State share Rs.1,200/- (90% : 10%). The beneficiary was encouraged to additionally contribute in the construction of his/her IHHL to promote ownership.

• **Phase 2:**

- Having achieved the milestone of an ODF India in a time bound manner in the last five years from 2014 to 2019, the work on sanitation and the behaviour change campaign has to continue to sustain the gains made under the programme and also to ensure no one is left behind and the overall cleanliness (Sampoorn Swachhata) in villages as well.
 - In February 2020, the Phase-II of the SBM(G) with a total outlay of Rs. 1,40,881 crores was approved with a focus on the sustainability of ODF status and Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM).
 - SBM(G) Phase-II is planned to be a novel model of convergence between different verticals of financing and various schemes of Central and State Governments. The programme will be implemented in mission mode from 2020-21 to 2024-25.

▪ **Different Components of SBM:**

- **Swachh Vidyalaya Abhiyan:**

- The Ministry of Education has launched Swachh Vidyalaya Programme under SBM with an objective to provide separate toilets for boys and girls in all government schools within one year.
- The programme aims at ensuring that every school in the country must have a set of essential interventions that relate to both technical and human development aspects of a good Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Programme.
- The Ministry financially supports States/Union Territories inter alia to provide toilets for girls and boys in schools under **Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA)**.

- **Rashtriya Swachhata Kosh:**

- The Swachh Bharat Kosh (SBK) has been set up to facilitate and channelize individual philanthropic contributions and **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)** funds to achieve the objective of Clean India (Swachh Bharat).
- The Kosh will be used to achieve the objective of improving cleanliness levels in rural and urban areas, including in schools. The allocation from the Kosh will be used to supplement and complement departmental resources for such activities.
 - To incentivise contributions from individuals and corporate, modalities are being considered to provide tax rebates where it is possible.

- **GOBAR-DHAN:**

- **Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Scheme (GOBAR-DHAN)** scheme was launched by the Ministry of Jal Shakti in 2018 and aims to augment income of farmers by converting biodegradable waste into **compressed biogas (CBG)**.

Source: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2145461>