President Murmu to confer Swachh Survekshan 2025-26 (10th edition) awards on 11 November

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News

President Droupadi Murmu will confer the Swachh Survekshan 2025-26 awards – the 10th edition of the urban cleanliness survey – at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, on 11 November 2026. Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Manohar Lal and Minister of State Tokhan Sahu will be present; cities are awaiting the announcement of the winners. The theme is 'Swachhata Ki Nayi Pehel – Badhayein Haath, Karein Safai Saath' (a new initiative for cleanliness – join hands, clean together). Cities across the country were assessed on 43 indicators in 10 assessment areas by more than 3,000 trained assessors on the ground. Extra weight went to citizen feedback, river fronts, coastlines and water bodies, preventing open defecation and urination, cleanliness of tourist and heritage spots, and behaviour change in schools. The 'Swachh Shehar Jodi' mentoring initiative, launched on 27 September 2025, pairs better-performing 'mentor' cities with 'mentee' cities that need support, across States and Union Territories. Welfare of sanitation workers (Safai Mitras) is one of the 10 assessment areas.

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Edition	10th – Swachh Survekshan 2025-26
Ceremony	11 November 2026, Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi

Point	Details
Presented by	President Droupadi Murmu
Ministry	Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)
Assessment	43 indicators in 10 assessment areas
Began	2016 – 73 cities; Mysuru topped
2024-25 (9th)	Ahmedabad top big city; Indore best 8th time, in Super Swachh League
TN 2024-25	Namakkal – 'Promising Swachh Shehar'
Mission	Swachh Bharat Mission – 2 Oct 2014; SBM-U 2.0 – 1 Oct 2021

Background

- The Swachh Bharat Mission began on 2 October 2014 (Gandhi Jayanti). Its urban arm (SBM-U) is under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and its rural arm (SBM-G) under the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti. SBM-U 2.0, launched on 1 October 2021, aims at 'Garbage Free Cities'.
- Swachh Survekshan began in 2016 with 73 cities and is now the world's largest urban cleanliness survey. Mysuru topped in 2016; Indore (Madhya Pradesh) topped eight times in a row from 2017 to 2024-25. The 2024-25 edition introduced the 'Super Swachh League' – cities that were in the top three in at least two of the years 2021–23 compete separately (and must keep scoring 85%+), giving other cities a chance.
- 2024-25 results (17 July 2025): in the over-10-lakh category Ahmedabad, Bhopal and Lucknow took the top three; Indore, Surat, Navi Mumbai and Vijayawada were in the Super Swachh League. The theme was 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle'.
- Environment and science: Segregation at source (wet, dry, domestic hazardous) is the basis of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016. Certification levels are ODF (no open defecation), ODF+ (maintained community/public toilets), ODF++ (no untreated faecal sludge or sewage discharged) and Water+ (used water treated and reused). Composting and biogas from wet waste are part of the circular economy.

Tamil Nadu link: Tamil Nadu: In the 2024-25 survey, Namakkal Municipality won Tamil Nadu's 'Promising Swachh Shehar' award. In the over-10-lakh category, Greater Chennai Corporation ranked 38th and Madurai was last. The 2025-26 results will be announced at the 11 November ceremony – Tamil Nadu cities' new ranks are not out yet.

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

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What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Edition: 10th – Swachh Survekshan 2025-26; Ceremony: 11 November 2026, Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi; Presented by: President Droupadi Murmu; Ministry: Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).

What is the background to this news?

The Swachh Bharat Mission began on 2 October 2014 (Gandhi Jayanti). Its urban arm (SBM-U) is under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and its rural arm (SBM-G) under the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti.

Practice questions (with answers)

1. Which Union Ministry conducts Swachh Survekshan, the cleanliness survey of cities?

A) Jal Shakti

B) Rural Development

C) Environment and Forests

D) Housing and Urban Affairs

Answer: D – Explanation: MoHUA – the survey began in 2016 with 73 cities. The rural arm of the mission (SBM-G) is under the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

2. Which city topped Swachh Survekshan as India's cleanest city eight times in a row?

A) Indore

B) Surat

C) Navi Mumbai

D) Mysuru

Answer: A – Explanation: Indore (Madhya Pradesh) – from 2017 to 2024-25. Mysuru topped the first edition in 2016.

3. Which city won Tamil Nadu's 'Promising Swachh Shehar' award in Swachh Survekshan 2024-25?

A) Coimbatore

B) Namakkal

C) Tiruchirappalli

D) Madurai

Answer: B – Explanation: Namakkal Municipality. In the over-10-lakh category Chennai was 38th and Madurai came last.

4. The 'Super Swachh League' introduced in Swachh Survekshan is meant for which cities?

A) Cities above 1 crore people

B) Repeat past top-3 performers

C) Cantonment boards

D) Ganga-bank towns

Answer: B – Explanation: Cities in the top three in at least two of 2021–23 compete separately and must score 85%+, giving other cities a chance.

5. Under Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban), what does 'ODF++' status additionally require?

A) Tap water to every home

B) Solar street lighting

C) Total ban on plastic

D) Safe faecal sludge, sewage care

Answer: D – Explanation: ODF – no open defecation; ODF+ – maintained toilets; ODF++ – no untreated faecal sludge or sewage released; Water+ – used water treated and reused.

Sources: webindia123 (UNI); Asianet Newsable; PIB (2024-25 award list); President of India; DT Next; Lokmat Times (IANS); Deccan Herald. © Shanmugam IAS Academy.