Swachh Survekshan 2025-26: Theni-Allinagaram is TN's cleanest city

Topics: Tamil Nadu Government Schemes · UPSC Prelims · TNPSC · SSC · Current Affairs



News

President Droupadi Murmu presented the Swachh Survekshan (cleanliness survey) 2025-26 awards at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, on 11 November 2026. Theni-Allinagaram Municipality in Theni district was selected as Tamil Nadu's cleanest city; Tamil dailies reported that Municipal Commissioner Parkavi received the award. In the Super Swachh League, Navi Mumbai came first, Surat second and Vijayawada third, so Indore, on top for eight years, was not in that top three. In the over-10-lakh category, Greater Visakhapatnam, Jabalpur and Lucknow took the top three; in the 3–10 lakh category, Ujjain, Chandigarh and Guntur. In newly introduced categories, Puri, Alappuzha and Ratnagiri led the Swachh Coastal Towns; Rewa, Bilaspur and Varanasi the river-front towns; and Rudrapur topped the Himalayan cities. The Ahmedabad–Sanand pair won the 'Swachh Shehar Jodi' category. More than 4,751 cities were assessed on 43 indicators. The President called for effective, affordable and safe sanitation solutions and special attention to the fast-growing Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities.

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Event	Swachh Survekshan 2025-26 (10th edition) awards
Date, venue	11 Nov 2026, Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi

Point	Details
Presented by	President Droupadi Murmu
Tamil Nadu	Theni-Allinagaram Municipality – State's cleanest city
Super Swachh League	Navi Mumbai, Surat, Vijayawada
10 lakh+ cities	Visakhapatnam, Jabalpur, Lucknow
Coastal towns (new)	Puri, Alappuzha, Ratnagiri
River-front towns (new)	Rewa, Bilaspur, Varanasi
Swachh Shehar Jodi	Ahmedabad–Sanand, Indore–Depalpur, Tirupati–Kuppam
Assessment	Over 4,751 cities; 43 indicators

Background

- Constitution: the 74th Amendment (1992) gave municipalities constitutional status (Part IX-A, Articles 243P–243ZG). Public health, sanitation, conservancy and solid waste management are listed as municipal functions in the Twelfth Schedule.
- Geography: Puri (Odisha) is the Jagannath temple town on the Bay of Bengal; Alappuzha (Keralam) is known for its backwaters; Ratnagiri (Maharashtra) lies on the Konkan coast, famed for Alphonso mangoes. Navi Mumbai is a planned city built from the 1970s on the eastern side of Thane Creek, across from Mumbai.
- Theni district was carved out of Madurai district by a G.O. of 25.07.1996; Theni town became the headquarters from 1.1.1997. Vaigai dam and the Kumbakkarai and Suruli falls are in the district. The Cumbum valley at the foot of the Western Ghats is called the 'grape city of South India'; its 'Cumbum Panneer Thratchai' got a Geographical Indication (GI) tag in 2023.

Tamil Nadu link: Theni-Allinagaram Municipality is the headquarters town of Theni district. This time the State's cleanest-city award went to Theni district. Urban sanitation in Tamil Nadu is coordinated by the Commissionerate of Municipal Administration.

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

President Droupadi Murmu presented the Swachh Survekshan (cleanliness survey) 2025-26 awards at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, on 11 November 2026. Theni-Allinagaram Municipality in Theni district was selected as Tamil Nadu's cleanest city; Tamil dailies reported that Municipal Commissioner Parkavi received the award.

What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Event: Swachh Survekshan 2025-26 (10th edition) awards; Date, venue: 11 Nov 2026, Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi; Presented by: President Droupadi Murmu; Tamil Nadu: Theni-Allinagaram Municipality – State's cleanest city.

What is the background to this news?

Constitution: the 74th Amendment (1992) gave municipalities constitutional status (Part IX-A, Articles 243P–243ZG). Public health, sanitation, conservancy and solid waste management are listed as

municipal functions in the Twelfth Schedule.

Practice questions (with answers)

1. Theni district, home to award-winning Allinagaram, was carved out of which district in 1996?

A) Madurai

B) Dindigul

C) Virudhunagar

D) Ramanathapuram

Answer: A – Explanation: From Madurai (G.O. of 25.07.1996); Theni became HQ from 1.1.1997. Dindigul, too, was carved out of Madurai in 1985.

2. Which city came first in the 'Super Swachh League' of Swachh Survekshan 2025-26?

A) Surat

B) Navi Mumbai

C) Vijayawada

D) Visakhapatnam

Answer: B – Explanation: Navi Mumbai (Maharashtra); Surat 2nd, Vijayawada 3rd. Visakhapatnam topped the over-10-lakh population category.

3. Which town came first in the newly introduced 'Swachh Coastal Town' category this year?

A) Alappuzha

B) Ratnagiri

C) Puri

D) Rameswaram

Answer: C – Explanation: Puri (Odisha), the Jagannath temple town; Alappuzha (Keralam) 2nd, Ratnagiri (Maharashtra) 3rd. Rewa led the river-front towns.

4. Which city came first in the 3–10 lakh population category of Swachh Survekshan 2025-26?

A) Chandigarh

B) Guntur

C) Ujjain

D) Dewas

Answer: C – Explanation: Ujjain (Madhya Pradesh); Chandigarh second, Guntur third. Greater Visakhapatnam topped the over-10-lakh category.

5. Which farm product of Theni district received a Geographical Indication (GI) tag in 2023?

A) Cumbum panneer grape

B) Srivilliputhur palkova

C) Madurai malli

D) Palani panchamirtham

Answer: A – Explanation: Cumbum valley is the 'grape city of South India'; Muscat Hamburg variety. Palkova is from Virudhunagar, panchamirtham from Dindigul.

Sources: Dinakaran; Bhoomi Today; The Tribune; ETV Bharat; India TV; Asianet Newsable; The News Mill; ANI; Theni district; Krishi Jagran. © Shanmugam IAS Academy.