

Swachh Survekshan 2024-25 - Ahmedabad Tops as India's Cleanest City

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Swachh Survekshan 2024-25 Latest News

- In a landmark shift in India's cleanliness rankings, Ahmedabad has been declared the cleanest city in the country under the **Swachh Survekshan 2024-25**, the annual sanitation survey conducted by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).
- This is the first time Ahmedabad has secured the top spot, as the consistent chart-topper Indore transitions into a newly created '**Swachh Bharat Super League 1.0**', recognising its sustained excellence in urban sanitation.

About Swachh Survekshan

- Launched in 2016 under the **Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban** (SBM-U), Swachh Survekshan is the world's largest urban sanitation survey. It evaluates cities on multiple parameters, including:
 - Citizen feedback

- Waste segregation and processing
- Open defecation-free (ODF) status
- Cleanliness in public areas
- Municipal innovation and digital monitoring
- The 2024-25 edition of the survey covered over **4,500 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)**, with over **12 crore citizen responses**, making it one of the most participatory surveys of its kind globally.

Key Rankings and New Categories Introduced

- **Top Cleanest Cities (Population >1 lakh)**
 - **Ahmedabad (Gujarat)**
 - **Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh)**
 - **Surat (Gujarat)**
 - Indore, which has topped the charts for six consecutive years, has now been elevated to the **Swachh Bharat Super League 1.0** category, introduced to reward cities that have maintained exemplary standards for an extended period.
- **Cleanest Ganga Towns**
 - **Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh)** – Retained its position as the cleanest Ganga town for the fourth consecutive year
 - Prayagraj and Bijnor also featured among the top three
- **Cleanest Cities (Population <1 lakh)**
 - **Sasvad (Maharashtra)** – Cleanest among cities with under 1 lakh population
 - Lonavala and Vita followed closely
- **Best Performing States**
 - **Maharashtra** ranked as the best-performing state overall
 - **Madhya Pradesh** and **Chhattisgarh** followed as second and third respectively

Gujarat's Remarkable Performance

- Gujarat's cities made an impressive mark in the survey, with **Ahmedabad, Surat, and Rajkot** ranking in the top 10 cleanest cities. The consistent investment in waste processing, mechanised road sweeping, and citizen engagement platforms has paid off.
- **Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation has focused on:**
 - Scientific processing of nearly 100% of its solid waste
 - Door-to-door waste collection across all wards
 - Citizen apps for cleanliness reporting and grievance redressal
 - These efforts contributed significantly to its ascent to the top rank this year.

Innovations in Survey 2024-25

- The *Swachh Survekshan 2024-25* introduced some key innovations:
 - **AI-Based Tools** for validation of cleanliness parameters

- **Swachhta League for Youth** engagement
- **Special Emphasis** on legacy waste management and city beautification
- **Star Rating for Garbage Free Cities** (GFC) updated alongside Survekshan rankings
- The assessment also used **real-time data from Integrated Command and Control Centres (ICCCs)** to monitor sanitation activities in urban areas.

Recognition Beyond Rankings

- In addition to city and state rankings, special recognitions were awarded:
 - **Cleanest Cantonment Board:** Mhow (Madhya Pradesh)
 - **Best Citizen Feedback Response:** Chandigarh
 - **Best Innovation in Sanitation:** Navi Mumbai for circular economy initiatives
 - **Cleanest State Capital:** Bhopal

Implications for Urban Governance

- Swachh Survekshan has emerged not only as a cleanliness ranking tool but also as a key driver for **competitive federalism**, inspiring states and cities to enhance urban governance.
- The annual exercise has helped:
 - Institutionalise waste segregation and recycling
 - Improve behavioural change communication
 - Foster innovation and public-private partnerships in sanitation
- It has also catalysed **job creation** in the waste management sector and promoted **entrepreneurship** in circular economy ventures.

Source: IE | PIB

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/swachh-survekshan-2024-25-ahmedabad-tops-as-indias-cleanest-city/>

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