

# World Toilet Day 2025

**Prelims:** Current events of national and international importance | Infrastructure & Governance

### Why in news?

The Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) launched new campaigns and showcased progress under SBM-U 2.0 on account of World Toilet Day.

World Toilet Day - November 19.

- **Purpose** To raise awareness and inspire action to tackle the global sanitation crisis and ensure safe toilets and sanitation for all.
- Theme, 2025 "Sanitation: Collective Responsibility for Dignity and Planet"
- It emphasizes dignity, inclusivity, and environmental stewardship and aligns with SDG-6 and India's climate-resilient sanitation goals.

#### World Toilet Summit 2025

- Co-hosted by Sulabh International, World Toilet Organization, Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) and Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation.
- Attended by Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs & Jal Shakti, delegates from <u>25 countries</u>, including South Africa, Sri Lanka, Bhutan.
- Partners World Bank, Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL), Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF).

## Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U) 2.0 & Aspirational Toilets

- Entered a new phase of urban sanitation the journey from <u>Open</u>
  <u>Defection Free (ODF) to ODF+ and to ODF++ status</u>, most importantly safe sanitation.
- 29,000 Aspirational Toilet seats approved with smart, inclusive, and ecofriendly designs.

#### Features include -

- smart features and user-friendly designs,
- accessible and inclusive infrastructure,
- gender-neutral and child-friendly facilities,
- environmentally sustainable technologies.

### SBM Achievements -

- India declared <u>ODF in 2019</u>, just 5 years after Swachh Bharat Mission began in 2014.
- Rural sanitation 12 crore toilets were constructed built, saving nearly 3 lakh children annually from diarrhoea-related deaths.
- Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) report, 2024 Nearly 55 million urban residents in India have gained access to improved sanitation in 2 years.

## **Urban Innovations & Partnerships**

- **Initiatives** Swachhata Startup Challenge and Toilet Design Challenge launched to foster innovation.
- **MoUs signed** With HUL for PPP models in community toilets & Sulabh International for maintenance in high-footfall zones.
- Campaigns launched -
  - 'Toilet Paas Hai' and 'Main Saaf Hi Achha Hoon' to promote responsible toilet use.
  - Swachh Aadatein 21 Dinon Ka Prashikshan Pathyakram for early hygiene education.
- **Training modules** released for CT/PT design and SafaiMitras' dignity and safety.

#### Reference

PIB | World Toilet Day, 2025

