

14o 17 – 08 – 2022

News: India, Italy negotiate legal assistance treaty

- **India and Italy are fine tuning a Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT)** that will help the two countries obtain formal assistance in investigation related to criminal cases.
- Though the two countries have held two rounds of negotiation, the final agreement is said to be **stuck amid concerns that maximum punishment for heinous crimes in India is the “death penalty”, which has been abolished in Italy.**
- Earlier, **Germany had also refused to sign the MLAT with India** on death penalty grounds.

Mutual Legal Assistance

- Mutual Legal Assistance is a **mechanism whereby countries cooperate with one another in order to provide and obtain formal assistance in prevention, suppression, investigation and prosecution of crime to ensure that the criminals do not escape or sabotage the due process of law for want of evidence available in different countries.**
- India has so far signed MLAT with **45 countries.**

News: Fundamental Duties

- Recently, Chief Justice of India said Fundamental Duties in the Constitution are not merely to serve a "pedantic or technical" purpose, but they were incorporated as the key to social transformation.

Fundamental Duties

- The idea of Fundamental Duties is inspired from the Constitution of Russia (erstwhile Soviet Union).
- These were incorporated in Part IV-A of the Constitution by the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976 on the recommendations of the Swaran Singh Committee.
- Originally 10 in number, one more duty were added through the 86th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2002.
- All the eleven duties are listed in Article 51-A of the Constitution (the sole Article in Part-IV-A).
- Like the Directive Principles of State Policy, Fundamental duties are also non-justiciable in nature.

News: Manual Scavengers Enumeration Exercise

- The **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJ&E)** is preparing to undertake a nationwide survey to enumerate all Sanitation workers engaged in cleaning of sewers and septic tanks.

Manual Scavengers Enumeration Exercise

- The enumeration exercise is part of the National Action Plan for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE) Scheme and will be conducted across 500 AMRUT (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation) cities.
- It will merge with and replace the Self-Employment Scheme for the Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS), which was started in 2007.
- Programme Monitoring Units (PMUs) for the 500 AMRUT cities will be set up to carry out the exercise.
- Once this exercise is completed across the 500 cities, it **will be expanded nationwide**, making it easier to bring government benefits like upskilling and loan and capital subsidies to them.

National Action Plan for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE) Scheme

- National Action Plan for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE) Scheme was launched in July 2022 jointly by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and aims to eradicate unsafe sewer and septic tank cleaning practices.

Objectives

- Zero fatalities in sanitation work in India.
- All sanitation work is performed by skilled workers.
- No sanitation workers come in direct contact with human faecal matter.
- Sanitation workers are collectivized into Self Help Groups (SHGs) and are empowered to run sanitation enterprises.
- Strengthened supervisory and monitoring systems at National, State and Urban Local Body (ULB) levels to ensure enforcement and monitoring of safe sanitation work.
- Increased awareness among sanitation services seekers (individuals and institutions) to seek services from registered and skilled sanitation workers.

News: Chronic Fatigue Syndrome / Myalgic Encephalomyelitis

- A petition has been filed in the Delhi High Court to stop a person, who has been suffering from Chronic Fatigue Syndrome since 2014, from travelling to Europe to undergo a physician-assisted euthanasia.

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome / Myalgic Encephalomyelitis

- Chronic Fatigue Syndrome also known as **Myalgic Encephalomyelitis** is a serious and debilitating disease that affects the nervous system, the immune system and the body's production of energy.
- Its potential results are **viral or bacterial infection, hormonal imbalances and genetic predispositions.**
- It can affect anyone, **from children to adults of all ages.**

Symptoms

- **Significantly lowered ability to do activities** that were performed before the illness.
- **At least 6 months (or longer) of debilitating fatigue** that is more severe than everyday feelings of tiredness.

- Most recognizable symptom is Post-Exertional Malaise (PEM).
- A “crash” in physical/mental energy following even minor activities like

Other Symptoms

- Trouble sleeping, difficulty in thinking, memory retention and concentration, dizziness/light-headedness, headaches, muscle pain, joint ache, flu-like symptoms, tender lymph nodes and digestive issues.

Treatment

- There is no specific test for the disease, and doctors have to rely on medical examinations, blood and urine tests.
- Doctors have recommended ways to deal with the symptoms of the disease like “Pacing” in which patients learn to balance rest and activity to prevent crashes caused by exertion.