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News: Namaste Scheme

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.