

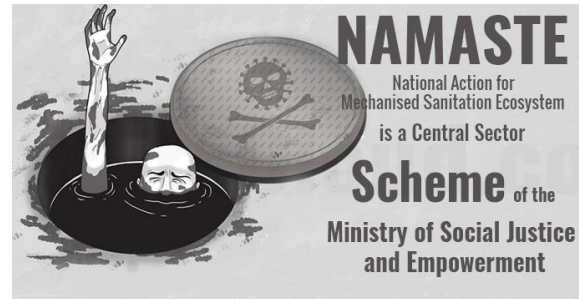


NAMASTE Scheme

News:

❖ **530 districts reported as free of manual scavenging: Centre.**
(The Hindu)

- Manipur, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, and Jharkhand are among the States and Union Territories that have the highest number of districts yet to declare themselves free of **Manual Scavenging**, showed data submitted by the Social Justice **Ministry in the Rajya Sabha** on Wednesday.



What is the NAMASTE Scheme?

- It was launched in 2022 as a **Central Sector Scheme**.
- The scheme is being undertaken jointly by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and the **Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (MoSJE)** 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 collectivised 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.

What are the Key Features of the Scheme to be Implemented in all ULBs?

- **Identification:** NAMASTE envisages identifying the Sewer/Septic Tank Workers (SSWs).
- **Occupational Training and distribution of PPE Kits to SSWs.**



- **Assistance for Safety Devices to Sanitation Response Units (SRUs).**
- **Extending Health Insurance Scheme Benefits** to identified SSWs and their families under the Ayushman Bharat- Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY).
- **Livelihood Assistance:** The Action Plan will promote mechanization and enterprise development by providing funding support and subsidy (capital +interest) to the sanitation workers, to procure sanitation related equipments.
- **IEC (Information Education and Communication) Campaign:** Massive campaigns would be undertaken jointly by the ULBs & NSKFDC (National Safai Karamcharis Finance & Development Corporation) to spread awareness about the interventions of NAMASTE.