



**KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY**  
Only IAS Academy by Grandson of "Perunthalsivam Kamarajar"

# NAMASTE Scheme

Published On: 26-08-2023

**Why is in news?** NAMASTE - The scheme aims at formalization and Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers

Government has formulated a scheme "National Action Plan for Mechanized Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE)", a **joint project** of Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)**.

NAMASTE aims to **create an enabling ecosystem that recognizes Sewer and Septic Tank workers (SSWs)** as one of the key contributors in operations and maintenance of sanitation infrastructure (Sewer and Septic Tanks) thereby **providing sustainable livelihood and enhancing their occupational safety** through capacity building and improved access to safety gear and machines.

**Coverage and Outlay:** NAMASTE is to be implemented in all 4800+ ULBs of the country, during the next three years **upto 2025-26** with an outlay of around Rs 350.00 crore.

The **National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC)** is the **implementing agency** for NAMASTE.

MoHUA has **shortlisted type of machineries and core equipments** required for maintenance works, safety gear for **Safai Mitras** (workers engaged in sewer maintenance and desludging operations).

The objectives are adequate availability of required equipment for mechanized desludging.

MoHUA also **developed a tool to calculate the required workforce and equipment for ULBs** to meet their requirements depending upon their population, existing sewer networks and peculiar issues faced by them which can help ULBs to plan for mechanized desludging.

Provision of **central financial assistance** for desludging has been **made available for less than 1 lakh population cities** under Swachh Bharat Mission – Urban.

Skill Development and trainings of Safai Mitras is being taken up with the support of the MoSJE through the National Safai Karamchari Finance Development Corporation (NSKFDC).

Various uniform designs, meant for different categories of sanitation workers have been disseminated to States/Union Territories.

"NAMASTE has a major component of **providing concessional loan to sewers and septic tank workers** for purchase of machines for cleaning of sewers and septic tanks.

Ministry also **promotes ULBs and Safai Mitras to avail loans** provided by MoSJE **under its Swachhta Udyami Yojna** to procure equipment and vehicles for cleaning sewers and septic tanks.

The Government has formulated various structures like Responsible Sanitation Authority (RSA) and Emergency Response Sanitation Unit (ERSU) to ensure that only trained professionals are exposed to any potential hazard with appropriate safety gear, as a last resort, if the mechanized equipment is unable to make necessary improvement.

**Kamaraj IAS Academy**

Plot A P.127, AF block, 6 th street, 11th Main Rd, Shanthi Colony, Anna Nagar, Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600040

Phone: **044 4353 9988 / 98403 94477 / Whatsapp : 09710729833**

**Expected outcomes:**

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.

All Sewer and Septic tank sanitation workers (SSWs) have access to alternative livelihoods.

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.