

Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty

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Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty Latest News

Recently, the central government invoked the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty with Singapore over the singer's death.

About Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty

- It 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**.
- It aims to ensure that **the criminals do not escape or sabotage** the due process of law for want of evidence available in different countries.
- India provides mutual legal assistance in criminal matters through Bilateral Treaties/Agreements, **Multilateral Treaties/Agreements or International Conventions** or on the basis of assurance of reciprocity.
- The Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties (MLATs) in criminal matters are the bilateral treaties entered between the countries for providing international cooperation and assistance.

- India has entered into Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties **with more than 45 countries**.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- **Common forms of assistance provided to or sought by India are as follows:**
 - Identifying and locating persons and objects;
 - Taking evidence and obtaining statements; assisting in the availability of person in custody or others to give evidence or assist in investigations or appear as a witness;
 - Effecting service of judicial documents;
 - Executing searches and seizures;
 - Providing information, documents, records and other evidentiary items;
 - Taking measures to identify, locate, attach, freeze, restrain, confiscate or forfeit the proceeds and [7]instrumentalities of crime;

Source: TH

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