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NCSK Marks Foundation Day; Law Minister Calls for Mechanisation of Sanitation Work

23 August 2026

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NCSK Marks Foundation Day; Law Minister Calls for Mechanisation of Sanitation Work

23 August 2026 · 1 min read ·

✓ Every fact web-verified against primary sources

*The National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK) observed its Foundation Day in New Delhi on **August 23, 2026**, with Union Law and Justice Minister **Arjun Ram Meghwal** calling for reducing manual intervention in sanitation work through mechanisation.*

What Was Discussed

Meghwal stressed safety gear, training, health insurance, and timely accident compensation for sanitation workers, including those employed in private establishments. NCSK is currently a **non-statutory body**, functioning under Government Resolutions through the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, since the **NCSK Act, 1993**, under which it was originally constituted as a statutory body on August 12, 1994, lapsed on February 29, 2004.

Why This Matters

Manual scavenging deaths persist despite the **Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013**, highlighting enforcement gaps that mechanisation, such as sewer-cleaning robots, aims to address by eliminating hazardous manual entry into sewers and septic tanks.

UPSC Relevance

This connects GS2 welfare mechanisms for vulnerable sections with constitutional provisions under Article 17 (abolition of untouchability). A useful Mains angle examines whether statutory revival of NCSK's powers and universal insurance coverage under the **NAMASTE** scheme could close persistent enforcement gaps in eliminating manual scavenging.

 FACTS CORNER, KNOWLEDGE PEDIA**NCSK FOUNDATION DAY:**

NCSK constituted as a statutory body: August 12, 1994, under the NCSK Act, 1993

Act lapsed: February 29, 2004; NCSK now non-statutory, under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

Key legislation: Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers Act, 2013

Related scheme: NAMASTE (National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem)

OTHER RELEVANT FACTS:

Manual scavenging is also linked to Article 17 of the Constitution, abolishing untouchability

Sources: PIB, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

Source: NCSK Marks Foundation Day; Law Minister Calls for Mechanisation of Sanitation Work — Ujjayari.com |
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