



Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT)

[Source: TH](#)

The Government of India has invoked the [Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty \(MLAT\)](#) with Singapore to ensure cooperation in the investigation into the death of singer Zubeen Garg, who died in Singapore.

- **Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties (MLATs):** These are **bilateral or multilateral** agreements that enable countries to **cooperate in criminal matters** such as terrorism, trafficking, cybercrime, smuggling, and financial frauds.
 - MLATs provide a **structured and legally binding framework** for investigation, evidence sharing, and prosecution, ensuring that criminals do not escape justice due to jurisdictional gaps.
- **Significance:** MLATs strengthen **international cooperation, reciprocity, and speed** in handling [transnational crimes](#).
- **India's Approach:** India provides **Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA)** through **bilateral/multilateral treaties, international conventions, or reciprocity**.
 - India has signed MLATs with 42 countries (as of 2019). In India the MLA requests are routed through the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**, which acts as the **Central Authority**, with support from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) when required through diplomatic channels.

India's International Conventions on Mutual Legal Assistance

- [United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime, 2000](#)
- [United Nations Convention Against Corruption, 2003](#)
- [United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988 \(Vienna Convention\)](#)
- [Hague Convention](#)
- [SAARC Convention](#)
- [Commonwealth Scheme \(Harare Scheme\)](#)

Read more: [India and International Law: Part-1](#)

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