Bilateral Agreement between India and Morocco

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance | Bilateral relation*

Why in News?

Recently, Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties (MLAT) agreement was signed between India and Morocco.

MLAT *is an agreement between two or more countries for the purpose of gathering and exchanging information, evidence and other forms of legal assistance for criminal investigations and prosecutions.*

- **Aim -** The Bilateral agreement aims to promote cooperation in the Judicial and legal spheres.
- It facilitates the widest measures of mutual legal assistance in civil and commercial matters in accordance with national laws.
- **Assistance under the agreement -**The service of summons and other judicial documents or processes;
- The taking of evidence by means of Letters of Request;
- The execution of judicial judgments (in the case of the Kingdom of Morocco), decrees (in the case of the Republic of India), settlements, and arbitral awards.
- **Key features**
    - **Exchange of Expertise -** Sharing experiences and expertise related to the functioning of the respective *Ministries and judicial systems.*
    - **Legislation Exchange -** Mutual sharing of legal publications, bulletins, and legislative materials to enhance legal understanding and cooperation.
    - **Capacity Building -** Organising symposiums, conferences, and joint courses on various legal issues and applications.
    - **Legal Training and Delegation Exchange -** Facilitating visits and training opportunities for lawyers and legal experts, including participation in each other's training programs.
    - **Judicial Information Systems -** Cooperation in developing national legal information systems and related technological advancements through shared digital practices and tools in justice delivery.
    - **Implementation Mechanism -** Formation of a joint coordination committee responsible for planning annual cooperation programs that are practical and within the financial capabilities of both parties.
- **Significance -** It contribute to institutional strengthening, capacity development, and

modernization of legal frameworks, ultimately promoting rule of law and justice cooperation.

Reference

PIB| Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties (MLAT)