

NHRC, India takes *suo motu* cognizance of the reported death of a worker and injury to another while cleaning a sewage tank at a residential accommodation in New Ashok Nagar, East Delhi

Issues notices to the Delhi Municipal Commissioner and Police Commissioner, calling for a detailed report on the matter within two weeks

The status of investigation of the case as well as compensation, if any, paid to the NoK of the deceased person and to the injured sought

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The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India, has taken *suo motu* cognizance of a media report about the death of a worker and injury to another while cleaning a sewage tank at a residential accommodation in New Ashok Nagar, East Delhi on 24th May 2026. Reportedly, the house owner had engaged a contractor, who deployed the two workers for the work, but did not provide them with protective gear, oxygen support, masks or safety kits.

The Commission has observed that the contents of the news report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of human rights. Therefore, it has issued notices to the Delhi Municipal Commissioner and the Police Commissioner, calling for a detailed report on the matter within two weeks. The report is expected to include the status of the investigation of the case as well as compensation, if any, paid to the NoK (Next of Kin) of the deceased person and to the injured worker.

According to the media report, carried on 26th May 2026, both workers allegedly fell unconscious within minutes of entering the tank. They were rushed to a hospital, where doctors declared one of them dead on arrival, while the other remains critical.

NSK

