



# **NAMASTE Scheme Reflects The Government's Unwavering Commitment To Ensuring That Every Sanitation Worker Is Able To Work With Dignity, Safety And Social Security; Scheme Aligns With The Vision Of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas' : Union Minister Of Social Justice And Empowerment Dr. Virendra Kumar**

**Over 89, 000 Sewer And Septic Tank Workers, Over 2,81,000 Waste Pickers Validated Under The Scheme; Over 87,000 PPE Kits Distributed Among Sewer And Septic Tank Workers And 1,84,118 PPE Kits To Waste Pickers; Health Cards Issued To Over 76,000 Sewer And Septic Tank Workers And Over 1,04,000 Waste Pickers Across The Country.**

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The Government of India is implementing the **National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE)** as a flagship initiative to ensure the safety, dignity and social security of sanitation workers while accelerating the transition towards mechanised sanitation across the country.

Jointly implemented by the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** and the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs**, the scheme aims to eliminate hazardous manual cleaning of sewers and septic tanks by promoting mechanised cleaning practices, skill development and comprehensive welfare measures for sanitation workers.

Highlighting the Government's commitment to the welfare of sanitation workers, **Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment Dr. Virendra Kumar** said that the NAMASTE Scheme reflects the Government's unwavering commitment to ensuring that every sanitation worker is able to work with dignity, safety and social security. He said through mechanisation, skill development, healthcare and livelihood support, we are transforming sanitation work into a safer and more dignified profession while moving towards the vision of zero fatalities in sanitation work.

The Minister said that the Government has adopted a holistic approach that combines technology, occupational safety, health protection and entrepreneurship opportunities to improve the lives of sanitation workers and their families. He emphasized that the scheme aligns with the vision of '**Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas**' by ensuring that those who contribute to public health and sanitation receive the respect, protection and opportunities they deserve.



Under the NAMASTE Scheme, sanitation workers are being identified, profiled and provided with a range of benefits including Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), health insurance, Ayushman Bharat coverage, occupational safety training, skill development, financial assistance for self-employment and access to modern mechanised sanitation equipment. Emergency Response Sanitation Units (ERSUs) are also being strengthened with advanced safety devices to ensure safe sanitation operations.

The scheme seeks to achieve zero fatalities in sanitation work, eliminate direct human contact with hazardous waste, ensure that sanitation operations are carried out through mechanised equipment, build a skilled sanitation workforce and promote entrepreneurship among sanitation workers through Self-Help Groups and other livelihood opportunities.

As part of its latest achievements, **89,915 Sewer and Septic Tank Workers** and **2,81,117 Waste Pickers** have been validated under the scheme. A total of **87,037 PPE kits** have been distributed among Sewer and Septic Tank Workers and **1,84,118 PPE kits** to Waste Pickers. **Health Cards** have been issued to **76,845 Sewer and Septic Tank Workers** and **1,04,729 Waste Pickers**, while **753 Emergency Response Sanitation Units (ERSUs)** have been equipped with modern safety devices to strengthen emergency sanitation services across the country.

The Government continues to work closely with States, Union Territories, Urban Local Bodies and implementing agencies to expand mechanised sanitation services, strengthen occupational safety standards and improve the socio-economic well-being of sanitation workers.

Through sustained collaboration and community participation, the NAMASTE Scheme is contributing towards building a cleaner, safer and more inclusive India while ensuring dignity and respect for those who play a vital role in safeguarding public health.

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