From Occupational Risks to Safer and Dignified Work

Mr. Ramesh Babu Patil's Journey Towards Improved Workplace Safety

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For 42 year **Mr. Ramesh Babu Patil (name changed),** the PPE kit provided under the NAMASTE Scheme represented an important step towards safer and more dignified working conditions.

His journey reflects the importance of extending protective equipment and occupational safety support to sanitation workers, recognizing their contribution to public health and strengthening a safer and more inclusive sanitation ecosystem.

A sanitation worker from Maharashtra, has spent several years carrying out his duties amid exposure to waste, dust, harmful substances and unhygienic working conditions. The absence of adequate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) often left him vulnerable to illness and physical discomfort.

As the primary earning member of his family, his health concerns also posed challenges to his ability to continue working and support his family. Despite these difficulties, he aspired to work in a safer, healthier and more dignified environment.

A significant source of support came through the National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE) Scheme of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. During 2025–2026, he received a PPE kit comprising gloves, masks, safety shoes, uniforms and other essential protective gear. The support enabled him to carry out sanitation work with better protection and improved workplace hygiene.

With access to the protective equipment, Mr. Patil was able to perform his duties with greater confidence and a stronger sense of safety. His overall health condition improved considerably, and the frequency of illness reduced. This support also helped address some of the occupational risks associated with his work.



Today, Mr. Patil continues to perform his sanitation duties with greater confidence, protection and dignity. While no direct change in income has been reported, improved health and workplace safety have contributed positively to his well-being and ability to continue working.

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