NAMASTE Scheme Promotes Safer Working Conditions And Dignity For A Sanitation Worker Mr Sinu In Palakkad, Kerala

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For 47-year-old Sinu **(name changed)**, the PPE kit represents more than protective equipment. It reflects recognition of the occupational risks faced by sanitation workers and reinforces the importance of safety, dignity and respect for those who play an essential role in maintaining clean and healthy communities.

For years, Mr Sinu, sanitation worker from Palakkad, Kerala, had carried out his duties while facing daily exposure to waste, dust and potentially harmful gases. The absence of adequate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) exposed him to occupational health risks, including respiratory conditions, skin infections and other work-related illnesses.

As the primary earning member and sole financial support for his family, any health setback could have affected the well-being and financial stability of his household. Despite these challenges, he remained committed to his work and aspired to perform his duties in safer conditions, with dignity and confidence.

Mr Sinu got opportunity on 7 October 2025, when he received a complete PPE kit under the National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE) Scheme of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. This proved a significant step towards improving his working conditions. The kit included a safety helmet, safety goggles, a gas mask with filter, nitrile gloves, gum boots and full-body protective clothing.



The protective equipment has helped reduce his direct exposure to hazardous substances while carrying out sanitation-related activities. With access to essential safety gear, he is now able to perform his duties with greater confidence and an improved sense of workplace security.

The intervention has brought a meaningful improvement to his working conditions by addressing a longstanding concern about occupational safety. Although the assistance did not result in a direct change in income, it has helped lower potential health risks and strengthened his confidence in continuing his livelihood while taking better precautions for his well-being.

Through the NAMASTE Scheme, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment continues to promote the safety, dignity and well-being of sanitation workers by facilitating access to protective equipment and safer working practices. The initiative reflects the Government's commitment to ensuring that sanitation workers can carry out their essential duties with greater protection and dignity.

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