# Strengthening Occupational Safety and Dignity of Sanitation Worker Mr. Roshan Kumar in Mysuru, Karnataka, through NAMASTE Scheme

## Ministry-Supported Occupational Safety and Mechanised Sanitation Training Enables Beneficiary to Adopt Safer Working Practices, Reduce Occupational Health Risks and Enhance Personal Well-being

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Access to occupational safety training, mechanised sanitation practices and awareness about Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) plays a significant role in safeguarding the health, dignity and professional well-being of sanitation workers engaged in sewer and septic tank cleaning operations.

Mr Roshan Kumar's **(name changed)** journey from occupational health risks to the adoption of safer working practices highlights the significance of targeted capacity-building interventions in strengthening occupational safety, promoting dignity of labour and bringing positive changes in the lives of sanitation workers.

Mr Roshan, a 38-year-old sanitation worker belonging to the Scheduled Caste (SC) community in Mysuru, Karnataka, adopted safer working practices through the National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE) Scheme of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India.

Having worked as an outsourced sewer and septic tank worker with the Mysore City Corporation for the past ten years, Roshan has remained committed to his professional responsibilities. However, challenges associated with employment insecurity, limited wages and prolonged exposure to hazardous waste affected his occupational health and personal well-being. While residing in Mysuru for work, his family continues to live in his native village.

In 2026, Roshan received Occupational Safety and Mechanised Sanitation Training under the NAMASTE Scheme as part of a batch of 45 sanitation workers. The training focused on safe sanitation practices, occupational health awareness, mechanised sanitation and the long-term benefits of consistently using Personal Protective Equipment.

For sanitation workers engaged in sewer and septic tank cleaning operations, access to structured training and capacity-building opportunities is an important enabler of occupational safety and behavioural transformation. These interventions helped Roshan develop a comprehensive understanding of workplace hazards, preventive safety measures and the importance of prioritising his health and well-being.




Following the training, Roshan has consistently adopted the use of Personal Protective Equipment while performing his professional duties. With enhanced occupational safety awareness, he now approaches his work with a greater sense of confidence and responsibility towards his personal safety.

While the training assistance was non-monetary and did not result in a direct increase in his income, it has enabled him to adopt practices that reduce occupational health risks and promote safer working conditions. He continues to aspire towards greater employment stability and a secure future for his family.

Beyond imparting occupational safety training, the NAMASTE Scheme seeks to promote mechanised sanitation, behavioural transformation, capacity building and the socio-economic empowerment of sanitation workers, thereby enabling them to lead healthier, safer and more dignified lives.

The initiative reflects the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment's sustained commitment towards occupational safety, mechanised sanitation, social empowerment and inclusive socio-economic development, contributing to the larger vision of a Swachh Bharat and Viksit Bharat@2047.

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