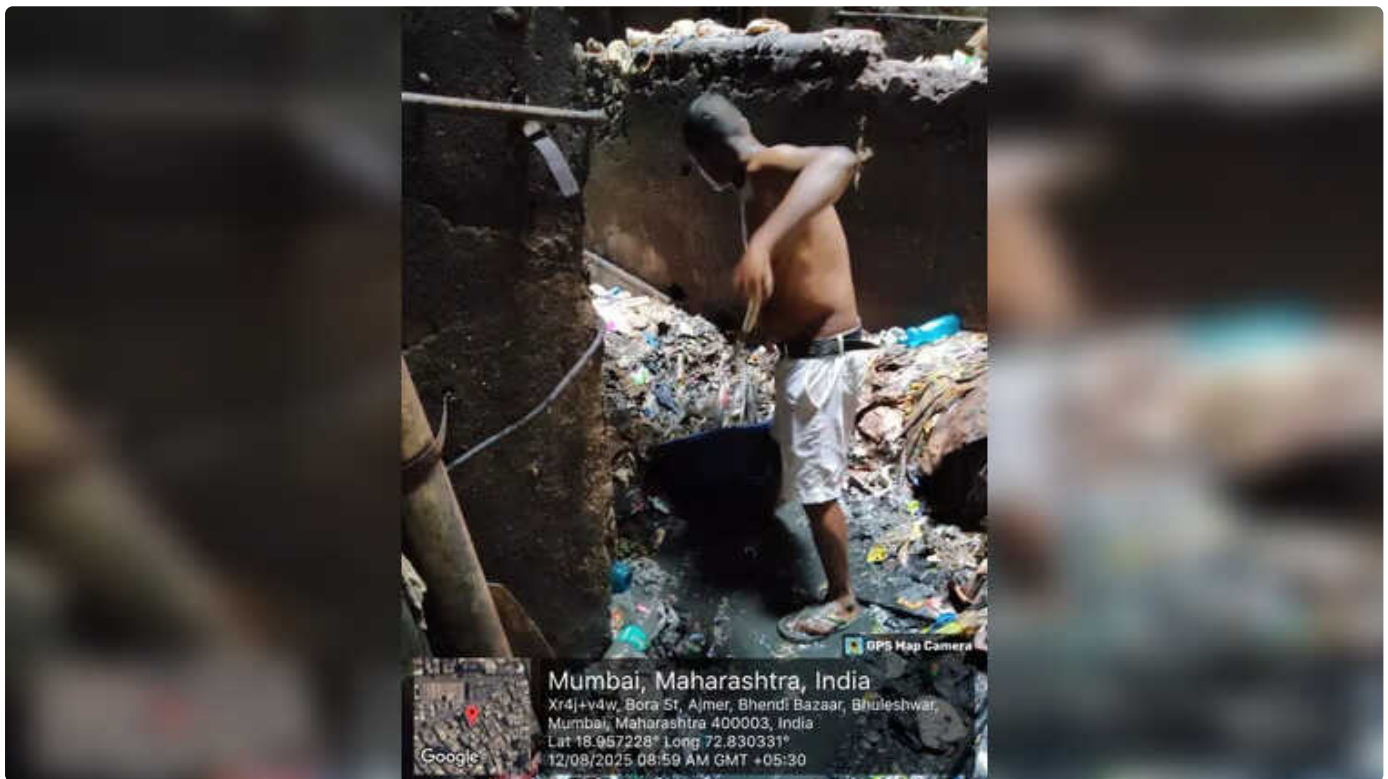


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No gloves, no masks, no safety for C ward sanitation workers

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The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation's (BMC) contractual conservancy labour in C Ward are battling life-threatening conditions on the job. Workers allege their contractor fails to provide essential safety gear such as gloves, gumboots, and masks. Struggling with a monthly wage of Rs 15-16 thousand, these sanitation workers face daily risks without the basic protection needed to safeguard their health. "We deserve to work safely," one worker stated, highlighting the urgent need for the government to intervene and ensure proper safety measures are in place. On Sunday, while cleaning a house gully in Ghoghari Mohalla near Bhendi Bazar, human waste fell on a labourer named Ramdas Ghadge. "This always happens. We are not even getting safety gear like gloves, gumboots, or masks. If we complain, we face the threat of transfer or job loss," said Ghadge. "I've been working for the last 12 years but have never received safety gear."

Another worker alongside Ghadge added, "When we try to complain, we get threats about losing our jobs. If we lose our jobs, what will we feed our families? We need to clear waste from the house gully, which is now like a gutter. We never get gloves or shoes. It's a risk to my health, but what choice do I have?"

Milind Ranade, President of the Kachara Vahatuk Shramik Sangha, which works with contract labour, said, "This is the plight of contractual labour mainly in C Ward. Most of the chawls have old drainage pipes that are broken. During cleaning, a lot of human waste falls on the labourers. Also, these house gullies are always full of waste and sewage water. These workers never get their rights. We will write a letter to the Deputy Municipal Commissioner of Solid Waste Management to take action."

Explaining house gullies, a BMC official said, "This is a passage between two chawls, which mainly sees the old Mumbai in areas like Kalbadevi, Marine Lines, and Girgaon. There are around 7,000 contractual sanitation workers appointed by the BMC."

"According to the BMC contract agreement, the contractor must provide safety gear to the labourers," said another BMC official. Deputy Municipal Commissioner Kiran Dighawkar added, "I will ask the concerned official to inquire about the issue and take appropriate action."

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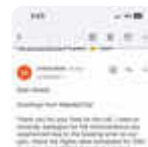
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