



Matter of Thought

Unite and act

A call to end violence against women

The International Fortnight for the Elimination of Violence Against Women is observed globally, highlighting the persistent and multifaceted issue of violence against women. This pervasive problem affects women not only in India but also worldwide, manifesting in various forms such as physical abuse, acid attacks, dowry-related violence, honor killings, rape, and the darker aspects of the digital age. Beyond these physical manifestations, the mental health repercussions are profound yet often overlooked. Mental disorders resulting from such violence are frequently neglected, and societal awareness regarding this aspect remains insufficient. The stigma surrounding mental health issues further complicates the acceptance and treatment of these conditions. Efforts to combat violence against women are underway, but the problem is deeply rooted in societal structures and individual behaviors. Addressing this issue requires comprehensive and multifaceted strategies. While laws exist to protect women, their effectiveness in delivering swift justice is often questionable. Delays in investigations and legal proceedings not only demoralize victims but also discourage others from seeking justice. The principle of justice dictates that an innocent person should not be punished. However, delays in legal processes can lead to a sense of helplessness among victims, potentially causing them to endure violence in silence. The perception that "nothing is happening" may compel them to tolerate abuse. Therefore, it is imperative that laws are capable of providing prompt justice, a responsibility that lies with the government. Many women lack awareness that any form of violence, especially domestic violence, is an injustice. Cultural norms often lead women to believe that enduring abuse is part of their marital duties. The National Family Health Survey has reported that a significant number of women agree with this notion. Education plays a crucial role in changing this mindset, enabling women to recognize their individual rights and the importance of self-worth. Empowering women through education fosters self-awareness and the realization that they deserve respect and dignity. This awareness is essential for breaking the cycle of violence and promoting gender equality. In today's digital era, it is vital for women to familiarize themselves with modern technology to navigate the online world safely. Understanding the potential risks and learning how to protect oneself from cyber threats are crucial steps in safeguarding against digital abuse. Societal attitudes often perpetuate the notion that women are complicit in their own victimization, especially in cases of domestic violence. This mindset must be challenged. Women should support each other in the pursuit of justice, recognizing that collective action is a powerful tool against injustice. The theme for this year's International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women is "Unite to end violence against women." This underscores the urgency of collective action to prevent violence. The question remains: will women recognize the significance of "Come together and act"? It is imperative that women unite, support one another, and take collective action to eliminate violence. By raising our voices, educating ourselves and others, and holding perpetrators accountable, we can create a society where women are free from violence and discrimination. This requires a concerted effort from all sectors of society, including government, law enforcement, communities, and individuals. In conclusion, the fight against violence towards women is a collective responsibility. By coming together and acting decisively, we can work towards a world where women live free from fear and violence, enjoying their fundamental rights and freedoms.

50 e-buses cleared for Nashik

Rollout expected in new year

NASHIK: With the assembly election code of conduct now lifted, development projects in Nashik are regaining momentum. Among these, the Nashik Municipal Corporation (NMC) has intensified its efforts to secure a fleet of 50 electric buses under the PM-eBus Sewa Scheme.

The central government has approved 50 electric buses for Nashik, with JBM Ecolife Mobility Private Limited appointed as the operator. The process of finalizing the agreement, delayed by successive election codes of conduct, is now back on track. The e-buses are expected to be operational in the city by 2025.

The NMC took over city bus services in July 2021 after the MSRTC opted out due to financial losses. Currently, 250 buses—comprising 200 CNG and 50 diesel vehicles—operate across Nashik's routes.

The city aims to eventually deploy 400 buses, including 100 electric ones. Earlier attempts to secure funding for e-buses under the FAME and N-CAP schemes were unsuccessful. However, a proposal under the PM-eBus Sewa Scheme was

approved, enabling the procurement of 50 electric buses.

To support the new e-bus fleet, the NMC is constructing a state-of-the-art depot at the truck terminus premises in Adgaon. While designed to accommodate 100 buses, it will initially cater to the 50 e-buses expected under this scheme. The Municipal Construction Department is expediting the project to meet future needs.

A greener public transport future

Nashik's push for electric buses aligns with its broader goals of enhancing public transport while reducing its carbon footprint. The arrival of these e-buses is a step towards sustainable urban mobility, offering residents cleaner and more efficient travel options. With renewed focus and active follow-ups by the NMC, the project promises to significantly boost the city's public transportation system while setting a benchmark for green initiatives.



The clear sky, touched by a hint of fog, brings a crisp winter chill, as the Godavari River flows serenely, flanked by temples on both sides at Gangaghat, creating a picturesque scene.

Pic: Dr Vaishali Balajiwal

Relief to city commuters

NASHIK: Citilinc has launched a new bus service on Route No. 118, connecting New CBS to Triveni Heights, MHADA (Adgaon). This long-awaited service addresses the commuting difficulties faced by thousands of passengers in the area.

The decision to start this service follows a detailed survey conducted after residents of the locality demanded better connectivity. Citilinc buses on the new route began operations on Wednesday, fulfilling a key public demand. Nashik Mahanagar Parivahan Mahamandal Ltd. (Citilinc) operates 250 buses, offering services across various city routes and areas up to 20 km beyond the city limits. The addition of Route No. 118 strengthens this network, ensuring better access for residents in Adgaon and surrounding areas. Citilinc has urged passengers to take full advantage of this new service, which promises to enhance public transport connectivity and convenience in the area.



Route details

New CBS to Triveni Heights, MHADA (Adgaon): Via Hirawadi, Trikoni Bungalow, Sai Shiv Nagar, KK Wagh Agriculture College, Raut Mala, and Triveni Heights. The return journey follows the same path.

Bus timings

- From Tapovan Depot to Triveni Heights/MHADA (Adgaon): 6:10 AM, 8:00 AM
- From New CBS to Tapovan Depot: 8:00 AM
- From New CBS to Triveni Heights/MHADA (Adgaon): 7:15 AM, 8:45 AM, 10:30 AM, 12:00 PM, 1:45 PM, 3:15 PM, 5:00 PM, and 6:30 PM.
- From Triveni Heights/MHADA (Adgaon) to New CBS: 6:30 AM, 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:15 AM, 12:45 PM, 2:30 PM, 4:00 PM, 5:45 PM, and 7:15 PM.

Niphad @ 8°C, Nashik 10.5

NASHIK: After a season of heavy rains, winter has firmly arrived in Maharashtra, bringing a noticeable drop in temperatures. On Thursday, Nashik recorded a minimum temperature of 10.5°C, with a maximum of 27.4°C, a slight decrease from Wednesday's 10.6°C and 27.5°C. The cold winds were blowing since morning.

The chill was more pronounced in Niphad, where the minimum temperature fell to 8°C, down from 8.3°C the previous day. Ahmednagar (Ahilyanagar) remained the coldest spot in the state, with a low of 9.5°C.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) in Pune has forecasted isolated showers on December 2 and 3 across the Konkan, Madhya Maharashtra, Marathwada, and Vidarbha regions.

Although afternoons offer brief warmth, temperatures are expected to continue falling, with meteorologists predicting a sharper dip by the first week of December, marking the peak of winter in the region.

Meanwhile Maharashtra is likely to experience a further drop in temperatures in the next 24 hours due to the formation of Cyclone Fengal.

Unauthorized hoardings under scrutiny again



NASHIK: Despite earlier efforts for a banner-free city during the election code of conduct, unauthorized hoardings have resurfaced in Nashik following the announcement of assembly results. These banners, often congratulating newly elected MLAs and political parties, have drawn the attention of the Nashik Municipal Corporation (NMC).

The NMC has instructed its divisional offices to launch a renewed campaign to remove these banners. Action will be taken under police protection, as mandated by the administration.

Prior to the elections, the Bombay High Court had emphasized the removal of illegal hoardings across the state. During a hearing on November 18, the court criticized the lack of action by some municipalities and warned of stricter enforcement. The municipality's current drive aligns with these judicial directives.

The NMC's proactive measures aim to restore Nashik's skyline, ensuring compliance with legal and civic standards.

Renewed action plan

The municipality has directed the licensing department to inspect areas and remove all unauthorized political banners, hoardings, and posters. Officers have been told to photograph the removal process and submit the evidence to the Chief Licensing Department. A detailed report will then be forwarded to the Urban Development Department of the state government. Specific instructions have been sent to divisional offices in Nashik East, Nashik West, Nashik Central, Satpur, Panchavati, and Nashik Road to ensure strict compliance.

"As per the court's order, action will be taken as soon as possible at the places where illegal hoardings have been put up in the city. The municipal machinery is ready for this."

- Mayur Patil, Deputy Commissioner, anti-encroachment, NMC

4755 consumers avail amnesty scheme

NASHIK: Mahavitaran's Amnesty Scheme (Abhay Yojana) has brought relief to overdue electricity bill customers in the Nashik circle. Under the scheme, customers with permanently disconnected electricity connections can have their arrears waived by paying the outstanding amount in a lump sum, with the interest and late fees removed.

In the Nashik circle alone, 4,755 customers have cleared their dues totaling Rs 4.46 crore, becoming permanently free from arrears and eligible for new electricity connections.

The scheme is still in progress for the remaining customers who have applied. Eligible customers must complete payment by November 30, 2024 to avail of the benefits.

Breakdown

- Nashik Circle: 2,318 customers paid Rs 2.01 cr
- Malegaon: 566 customers paid Rs 48 lakh
- Ahilyanagar: 1,871 customers paid Rs 1.95 cr

Simhashta Kumbh Mela Review meetings on every Tuesday

NASHIK: As preparations for the 2027 Simhashta Kumbh Mela gather pace, the district administration has decided to hold weekly review meetings every Tuesday at 4 pm to assess the progress of various tasks. These meetings, chaired by the Divisional Commissioner, will focus on the work completed by different agencies involved in the event's organization.

District Collector Jalaj Sharma emphasized the importance of these reviews, highlighting that each concerned agency must have a representative present to provide updates on their respective tasks. "The weekly meetings will help track the progress and ensure that all necessary steps are being

taken for the success of the Kumbh Mela," said Sharma during a recent meeting.

In line with the instructions from the Divisional Commissioner, the district administration is urging all involved departments to work in close coordination, ensuring that every aspect of the event is covered comprehensively. The aim is to finalize a well-structured plan that addresses all aspects of the Simhashta Kumbh Mela. The event, scheduled to take place in Nashik city and Trimbakeshwar in 2027, is expected to attract millions of devotees from across the country. Given the scale of the event, meticulous planning and coordination among all agencies are critical to its success.