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Traffic woes in city

Growing signal violations

NASHIK: While traffic signal systems have been installed at almost every intersection in Nashik city to manage increasing traffic flow, a growing number of drivers continue to flout traffic rules, especially at red lights. Despite signals in place, many two-wheeler riders and car drivers continue speeding through intersections, creating unsafe conditions.

Drivers who obey the signals often face honking from those behind them, pushing them to move before the light turns green. In some areas, signal poles are poorly placed, making them difficult to see for vehicle owners, leading to confusion. Additionally, certain signal systems have

malfunctioning LED bulbs and timers, further contributing to the disregard for traffic rules. As a result, many drivers ignore the signals altogether. The Na-



shik Municipal Corporation has worked to install traffic signals at key intersections in accordance with traffic police recommendations. Although these systems have been in place for sev-

eral months, many signals remain faulty. Given the surge in vehicle numbers and frequent traffic jams at busy intersections, the installation of signals at more locations is planned, according to a survey conducted by the Municipal Corporation and the city's traffic police.

While the intention behind these signals is to

regulate traffic without needing constant police presence, there are still places where traffic police are assigned to manage flow. However, as police personnel are often absent in areas where their presence is most needed, leading to further disruptions. The city faces increasing challenges with traffic jams as the number of vehicles grows, compounded by the lack of consistent enforcement. Drivers who ignore the rules are not limited to two-wheeler riders. Four-wheeler drivers, too, are frequently seen speeding through red lights, particularly in areas with little to no police supervision. Pedestrian crossings are often blocked by vehicles, fur-

ther exacerbating the problem. Despite some actions taken by the traffic police, inconsistency in enforcement has allowed unruly behavior to persist, with many drivers continuing to violate signals.

The city traffic department is grappling with limited manpower, which has contributed to the ineffectiveness of the traffic signal system. As the number of vehicles

continues to rise, particularly in areas like the intersection from Adgaon on Nashik Road to Satpur, and from Pandav Leni to Chamar Leni, the need for more signal systems becomes increasingly apparent. However, the lack of sufficient police personnel to monitor these signals means that drivers often disregard the rules, resulting in traffic-prone intersections.

Khadkali signal: A dangerous intersection

One particularly problematic area is the Khadkali (Ganjmal) Chowk, a major intersection providing access to Satpur and Nashik Road from the Shalimar area. This busy 24-hour intersection has had a signal system in place for years, but a staggering 95% of vehicle owners ignore the signal. The frequent violations at this junction make it one of the most dangerous in the city, contributing to the rising concerns about traffic management and safety.

Simhastha Kumbh Mela

Review meet today

NASHIK: With less than two years remaining for the Simhastha Kumbh Mela, the government has begun organizing the preparations for the grand event. A planning review meeting will be held today, December 3, chaired by Divisional Commissioner Dr. Pravin Gedam. The meeting will focus exclusively on tasks related to the Simhastha Kumbh Mela, as agreed upon in previous discussions. Projects that can be handled under other plans or budgets will not be part of the draft plan. Departments are expected to present their necessary proposals for the event today.

Although regular review meetings were scheduled for every Tuesday, they were delayed due to the Lok Sabha and State Assembly elections. With the Model Code of Conduct now lifted, the district administration has organized today's crucial meeting.

Representatives from various departments, including the Municipal Corporation, Public Works Department, Water Resources, Archaeological Department, and Health, will present their draft plans specifically related to the Simhastha Kumbh Mela. The primary goal is to ensure that only essential works are included in the draft plan. It is anticipated that some projects, such as interlink roads, Sadhugram, and river bridges, will be managed by the Public Works Department, while the Municipal Corporation may exclude certain non-essential works from its plan. The focus will be on prioritizing key infrastructure and services for the event.

National Lok Adalat on Dec 14

NASHIK: A National Lok Adalat will be held across Maharashtra on December 14, following orders from the National Legal Services Authority. The Lok Adalat in Nashik will be organized under the guidance of Nashik District Legal Services Authority chairman S D Jagmalani, with the aim of resolving pre-litigation and pending cases.

M V Burade, the secretary of the District Legal Services Authority, informed that preparations are underway to ensure the maximum number of cases are disposed of during the Lok Adalat. To facilitate this, meetings will be held with judicial officers, Bar Association members, as well as officials from financial institutions, banks,

government departments, and insurance companies.

The cases to be addressed include a variety of civil, criminal, and financial matters, such as recovery cases, criminal compromise-eligible cases, electricity theft compromises, land acquisition disputes, accident insurance claims, matrimonial issues, dishonoured cheques, income and water tax recovery, and recovery cases from banks and financial institutions.

Special panels will be appointed across various courts, including the district court, Nashik Road court, taluka-level courts, industrial-labour courts, family courts, cooperative courts, and motor vehicle courts.

22,742 CASES SETTLED

In the last two National Lok Adalats, over 35.8 lakh cases were resolved statewide. In Nashik, 22,742 cases were settled, with a total compromise fee of Rs. 198.38 crore recovered.

Ishwari, Tejaswini in Maharashtra team

NASHIK: Ishwari Savkar and Tejaswini Batwal, both from the Nashik District Cricket Association, have been selected to represent Maharashtra's senior women's cricket team in the upcoming Senior Women's One-Day International Tournament, organized by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). The tournament will be held in New Delhi from December 4 to 16, where Maharashtra will face teams from across India.

Ishwari Savkar, a seasoned player, has a strong track record with Maharashtra's women's cricket team. She has previously played at various age levels, including Under-19, Under-23, and senior categories. Last season, she was honoured with the captaincy of Maharashtra's Under-19 team, leading them to the semi-finals in the National Under-19 Women's One-Day International Tournament. After the Women's T20 Tournament, she was again entrusted with leadership by the Maharashtra Cricket Association for the Under-19 Women's One-Day International tournament, which further showcased her leadership and cricketing skills. Recently, Ishwari also represented Maharashtra in the Senior Women's T20 Cricket Tournament.

Tejaswini Batwal, a wicketkeeper and batsman, has also made significant con-

tributions to Maharashtra's cricketing achievements. Like Ishwari, Tejaswini has



Ishwari Savkar represented the state at various age levels, including senior and Under-19 teams, earning a reputation as a reliable player.

The BCCI Senior Women's One-Day International Tournament will kick off on December 4 in New Delhi. Maharashtra will compete in league matches against Saurashtra (December 4), Haryana (December 8), Uttar Pradesh (December 10), Vidarbha (December 12), Bihar (December 14), and Punjab (December 16).

The Nashik District Cricket Association chairman Vinod Shah and secretary Sameer Rakate extended their greetings to both Ishwari and Tejaswini for their achievement and wished them the best of luck in the tournament.

Fake crop insurance claims exposed

NASHIK: A verification drive by the district agriculture superintendent's office has revealed a significant case of bogus crop insurance claims. The agriculture department discovered that onion was not cultivated on 3,670 hectares of land in the district. Discrepancies were found across 199.54 hectares of land, involving 500 farmers, resulting in a savings of Rs 8.71 lakh. The state and central governments together saved Rs 3.88 crore that would have been paid to the insurance company, according to District Agriculture Superintendent Kailash Shirsath.

The issue surfaced when it was reported that the government had been defrauded of Rs 4 crore by showing fake crop insurance on 500 hectares of land during the current Kharif season in Maleg-

aoon taluka. However, the agriculture department clarified that the government's funds were saved through this verification process.

This year, 81,623 farmers in Nashik district enrolled in the Prime Minister's Crop Insurance Scheme, insuring onion crops across 46,687 hectares of land. The insurance is provided by Oriental Insurance Company, with a coverage amount of Rs 81,422 per hectare.

The premium rate is 13% (Rs 10,593 per hectare), of which the farmer contributes 5% (Rs 4,071), with the central and state governments each contributing 4% (Rs 3,261). The state government pays Rs 4,070 of the farmer's share.

During a field-level verification ordered by the Pune Agriculture Commissionerate, dis-

crepancies were found in 3,670 hectares of insured land. Of this, onion was not cultivated on 2,025 hectares, while 1,503 hectares had more insured land than was actually cultivated. Additionally, 92 hectares showed mismatches in group numbers or changes in land areas.

Due to this verification, the insurance premium that would have been deposited by the central and state governments for the non-cultivated areas has been saved, amounting to Rs 3.88 crore.

A report on this issue has been submitted to the Agriculture Commissioner in Pune. Kailash Shirsath has urged farmers to ensure that they claim crop insurance only for areas where crops are actually planted, in order to avoid further discrepancies.

DISTRICT CRICKET TOURNEY

Horizon Academy triumphs



NASHIK: Horizon Academy, located in Makhmalabad and run by the Maratha Vidya Prasarak Samaj Sanstha, claimed a decisive victory in the District Level Tennis Ball Cricket Tournament for girls Under 19 years. The team emerged victorious in the final match against JMCT School.

Vedika Mankar, Kirti

Kute, Chetna Gavit, Pratiksha Shinde, and Dimple Pardeshi were instrumental in the win, delivering exceptional performances with the bat. With this win, the team earned a spot in the upcoming divisional tournament in Jalgaon.

MVP general secretary Adv. Nitin Thakare, president Dr. Sunil Dhikale, chairman Balasaheb

Kshirsagar, vice-chairman Vishwas More, deputy chairman Deoram Mogal, and principal Sonali Gaiker extended their heartfelt congratulations to the winning players.

The mentors—Shailendra Singh, Rahul Nandale, and Aadesh Patole—were also praised for their guidance and dedication in preparing the team.

State level science exhibition

BMS wins 1st prize

NASHIK: Students from Bhonsala Military School, run by the Central Hindu Military Education Society, made a remarkable achievement at the state-level science exhibition 'Pragyan-2024' held at K K Wagh Polytechnic College on November 29th and 30th, 2024.

A total of 246 projects participated in the exhibition, and Bhonsala Military School secured the first prize for their innovative project on the 'Iron Thruster'. This cutting-edge device is designed to increase satellite speed by generating thrust without any moving parts, making it an essential

technology for satellite systems.

The project was presented by students Ramdandi Vasu Chaudhary, Ramdandi Aditya More, and Ramdandi N. Mayank. For their achievement, the team was awarded a memento, certificate, and a cash prize of Rs 11,000.

The school's chairman, Anand Deshpande, Commandant Colonel Sandeep Puri (Retd.), and educational coordinator Rajendra Jagtap, congratulated and honoured the winners, as well as their science teachers Swati Shinde, Geetanjali Joshi, Vaishali Dhomse, Sharad Kor, and Kajal Pal.



AIDS awareness rally held



NASHIK: An AIDS awareness rally was organized in Nashik city on Monday to spread awareness and educate the public about HIV/AIDS. The rally, which was organized by the Nursing College, run by Maratha Vidya Prasarak Samaj Sanstha in collaboration with the district civil hospital, aimed to address misconceptions surrounding AIDS and promote preventive measures to

combat this global health challenge.

The rally commenced at the district civil hospital after unveiling of the World AIDS Day slogan by district civil surgeon Dr. Charudutt Shinde and the National Service Scheme (NSS) program officer of the college.

Post-rally, Dr. Pournima Naik, principal of the Nursing College, addressed the students and volunteers. She ap-

pealed to them to act as ambassadors of awareness, encouraging open discussions about AIDS in their neighborhoods and communities. She emphasized the crucial role of youth in breaking down societal barriers and misconceptions about the disease.

The rally was coordinated by NSS programme officer Hemant Dange and assistant programme officer Bhavesh Battise.