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**Parking woes in Nashik city**

**Lack of parking facilities**



**NASHIK:** Nashik's rapid population growth, now at approximately 25 lakh, and expanding urban boundaries have exacerbated its traffic congestion problems. With the surge in vehicle numbers and inadequate parking systems, the city's streets face daily gridlock, frustrating both residents and visitors.

The absence of proper parking facilities is most evident along major roads such as Ashok Stambh to Trimbak

Naka, touted as a model stretch. Here, four-wheelers occupy cycle tracks, while two-wheelers encroach on footpaths, leaving pedestrians to navigate amidst heavy traffic. Similarly, College Road, Gangapur Road, and Trimbak Road are plagued by unregulated parking, disrupting smooth vehicular movement.

In crowded areas like MG Road, Ravivar Peth, and Ashok Stambh, vehicles are parked haphazardly on roadsides. The city's measures to tackle en-

croachments—such as towing illegally parked vehicles—have inconvenienced many citizens, especially shoppers, who often face hefty fines without clear guidance on alternative parking spots.

Experts and citizens alike emphasize the need for multi-level parking facilities across the city. Instead of constructing community halls or other structures on government-reserved lands, these spaces could be repurposed for vehicle parking to alleviate congestion. A systematic plan to develop parking lots in densely populated areas is essential to reduce roadside parking and streamline traffic flow.

The much-discussed Yashwant Mandai multi-storey parking project remains in limbo despite years of planning. Concerns are mounting over whether the facility will be completed before the upcoming Simhashta



Kumbh Mela, a major religious event that draws millions of visitors and further strains the city's infrastructure.

Nashik's ambitious smart parking initiative, launched under the Smart City project at a cost of several crores, has turned into a debacle. Introduced with electronic boards to streamline parking, the system became non-functional during the pandemic and has since fallen into disrepair. The defunct infrastructure now stands as a

glaring reminder of mismanagement and wasted public funds.

To address these pressing issues, Nashik Municipal Corporation must prioritize creating practical parking solutions, including reviving unused initiatives like the smart parking system and accelerating delayed projects. Collaborative efforts between the city administration, traffic police, and citizens are essential to ensure smoother traffic movement and a better quality of life for Nashikites.

**Silent march held**



**NASHIK:** A silent march was organized by ISKCON and Vishwa Hindu Parishad in the Panchvati area yesterday to protest against the atrocities against Hindus in Bangladesh.

The march began at the Panchmukhi Hanuman temple at Old Adgaon Naka and proceeded through Char Hatti Phul, Gajanan Chowk, Malviya Chowk, Panchvati Karanja, and Malegaon Stand, before culminating at Hutatma Chowk.

Hindutvawadi organizations participating in the march warned of potential consequences if the violence against Hindus in Bangladesh does not cease.

Mahant Bhakti Charandas Maharaj of the Panchmukhi Hanuman temple, Shivkumar Prabhujii of ISKCON, Ramtirthadas Maharaj, Dhananjay Pujari, former Someshwar Sansthan president Rahul Barve, BJP's Rahul Kulkarni, Digambar Dhumal, along with other Hindutvawadi activists and citizens of Panchvati, participated in the march.

**Kurtakoti Sangeet Mahotsav begins**

**NASHIK:** The Kurtakoti Sangeet Mahotsav, organized by Shankaracharya Nyas, has begun. This marks the 6th year of the festival. The Mahotsav started with an introductory speech by Dr. Ashish Kulkarni, chairman of the Shankaracharya Nyas.

The first session featured a performance of Rag Marwa by singer Nupur Kashid-Gadgil, accompanied by Dnyaneshwar Sonar on harmonium and Tanay Rege on tabla. The artists were felicitated by Nita Phadke.

The second session saw a performance by renowned sitar player Anupama Bhagwat, accompanied by Amit Kavathekar on tabla. The artists from the first session were honoured by Manjiri Aasnare-Kelkar, a noted singer and member of the Shankaracharya Nyas cultural department.

**District Collector visits public library**

**NASHIK:** The Library Week was launched on December 2nd at the public library of government employees in Irrigation Bhavan, Nashik, with the support of library enthusiasts and well-wishers.

District Collector Jalaj Sharma visited the library week, where he interacted with attendees and visited the government employees' library. During his visit, he also went to the Nashik irrigation department and planted saplings. He became the first District Collector to visit the water resources department.

At the library week inauguration, Jalaj Sharma learned about the 28-year journey of the government employees' library from its office bearers. He inaugurated the event by performing a ceremony of worshipping the books.

The library's president engineer Sonal Shahane welcomed the District



Collector and shared future plans for the library. Superintending engineer Rajesh Gowardhane felicitated Jalaj Sharma, expressing his joy that Nashik has a District Collector who appreciates books.

On the occasion, Laxman Joshi, the library's founder, outlined its journey over the past 28 years in his introductory speech.

Jalaj Sharma emphasized the importance

of integrating modern technology into libraries to better serve younger

generations. He praised the library as a unique initiative, the only public library run by government employees in Maharashtra, and suggested the addition of digital books alongside traditional ones.

Sonal Shahane proposed the idea of creating a library for all government officers and employees in Nashik, along with a study hall for students preparing for competitive examinations.

**Prohibitory orders issued in district**

**NASHIK:** The district administration has issued a prohibitory orders to prevent the assembly of people that could potentially turn unlawful.

Additional District Magistrate Rajendra Wagh issued the orders under Section 37 (1) (3) of the Mumbai Police Act 1951, banning the carrying of arms and gatherings in Nashik rural district (excluding the jurisdiction of the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Nashik city) from midnight December 3 until December 17 at 24:00 hours.

The orders do not apply to wedding functions, processions, taluka-level weekly bazaars, or funeral processions. It also exempts police officers, government officials on duty, and individuals who have obtained formal permission to organize public meetings or processions.

**Training programme for sanitation workers**



**NASHIK:** A special training programme for sanitation workers of the Nashik Municipal Corporation (NMC) was launched under the Quality City Nashik campaign by the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) on Friday. This is the first such programme in Maharashtra, held at the Lions Club Hall with Mayank Bhatnagar, national head of NSDC's state participation department, inaugurating it.

Around 1,800 sanitation workers from NMC will participate in the training, which will be

conducted in batches of 30. The programme will also extend to 4,000 office assistants, receptionists, drivers, and other workers in Nashik.

Mayank Bhatnagar spoke about the importance of continuous learning, stressing that sanitation work has evolved over time and that workers need to adapt to new techniques and tools. He encouraged workers to participate and motivate others. Dr. Avesh Palod, director of NMC's solid waste management department, assured full participation of the NMC workers.

Jitubhai Thakkar, promoter of Quality City Nashik, mentioned that the training would also focus on maintaining workers' health while they perform their duties. Swami Shrikanthanand of Shri Ramkrishna Arogya Sansthan reminded workers of the value of their work and the pride they should take in it.

Hemant Rathi made an introductory speech and Narendra Kulkarni of Credai proposed the vote of thanks. The programme was completed by Sachin Ahirrao, CEO of Nashik Citizens Forum.

**KTHM College's Uday Salunke gets gold medal**



**NASHIK:** At the 125th convocation ceremony of Savitribai Phule Pune University held on December 5, 2024, Uday Salunke, an alumnus of KTHM College, was awarded the prestigious Late Hirabai Balasaheb Sawant-Patil gold medal. Salunke secured this honour by achieving the highest marks in the M.Sc. (Environmental Science) examination, earning the top rank in the university.

The award was presented to Uday in the pres-

ence of Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Suresh Gosavi, chief guest Dr. Vijay Kumar Sawant and other dignitaries. Salunke received widespread praise at the university level for his remarkable achievement. Uday Salunke previously ranked first in the B.Sc. (Environmental Science) examination in 2020. Despite facing financial challenges, he has consistently excelled in academics. Alongside his M.Sc. studies, Salunke cleared the SET-NET national

level examinations and is currently working as a Junior Research Fellow at the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board.

Salunke credits his success to his parents' unwavering support. He has also received heartfelt congratulations from KTHM College principal Dr. S. S. Kale, IQAC coordinator Dr. N. D. Gaikwad, vice principals, environmental science department head Dr. Praveen Nalawade, and all faculty members and students.

**NDCA felicitates Ramkrishna Ghosh**



**NASHIK:** Nashik's all-rounder Ramkrishna Ghosh has been selected by Chennai Super Kings (CSK) for the IPL 2025 season. The Nashik District Cricket Association (NDCA) honoured him in a programme organised at the Martyr Anant Kanhere ground, yesterday. Former NDCA chairman Vilasbhai Lonari honoured Ghosh.

NDCA chairman Vinod Shah, joint secretary Yogesh-Munna-Hiray, treasurer Hemant Deshpande, secretary Sameer Rakate, other of-

vice bearers, coaches, and players were present on the occasion.

Vilasbhai Lonari and Vinod Shah spoke on the occasion, congratulating Ghosh and expressing confidence in his ability to shine in the IPL.

Ramkrishna Ghosh's father, Shekhar Ghosh, a former Ranji player and Maharashtra team coach, was also honoured. Both received congratulations and support from the NDCA members, who expressed confidence in Ramkrishna's performance in the IPL.

**State Table Tennis C'ship Nashik players excel**

**NASHIK:** Nashik's players delivered an outstanding performance at the 53rd Inter-District and 86th Maharashtra State Table Tennis Championship held in Pune, winning multiple medals across various categories.

Tanisha Kotecha secured the gold medal in the under-19 girls' singles, defeating Mumbai's top-seeded Ananya Chande in a nail-biting 4-3 match. The game extended to seven thrilling sets, with Tanisha clinching victory with scores of 11-9, 11-6, 7-11, 8-11, 11-7, 8-11, and 12-10. This win marks her fifth state championship title. Kushal Chopda, the top seed in the under-19 boys' singles, claimed his third consecutive state championship title by defeating Mumbai's second seed Sharvey Samant in straight sets (11-7, 11-5,

11-7, 11-8).  
Nashik's under-19 girls' Keshika Purkar, seeded the semifinals.



team, comprising Tanisha Kotecha, Mitali Purkar, Swara Karmarkar, and Umehani Dagainawala, won the silver medal. The under-19 boys' team, featuring Kushal Chopda, Anvay Pawar, and Avi Modi, secured the bronze medal.

Swara Karmarkar won a silver medal in the under-17 girls' singles, losing 3-1 in the final to Urvi Churi. She also earned a bronze medal in the under-15 girls' singles after a 3-0 loss to top-seeded Divyanshi Bhowmik of Mumbai in

second in the under-11 girls' singles, won a bronze medal after a close 3-2 defeat to fourth seed Mahika Susvirkar in the semifinals.

The players received valuable guidance from their coaches Jay Modak, Puneet Desai, and Purshotam Aher. Nashik District Table Tennis Association president Narendra Chhajed, Shekhar Bhandari, Milind Kachole and other office bearers congratulated the medal winners for their commendable performances.