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Speed breaker trouble in Nashik city

Faulty speed breakers spark safety concerns



**NASHIK:** The intended role of speed breakers in accident prevention is being questioned in Nashik, where poorly constructed speed breakers are becoming a hazard. Numerous speed breakers made of hard asphalt have been installed across the city, violating established guidelines. Rather than reducing accidents, these structures are contributing to fatalities and serious injuries.

Speed breakers of varying sizes and irregular dimensions have been installed indiscriminately on roads in Nashik city and its suburbs, including Panchavati, Mhasrul, and Adgaon Shivar. Experts point out that these constructions disregard rules on height, width, and type, resulting in unsafe driving conditions. Municipal Corporation officials, private organizations, and even some local residents have reportedly installed these speed breakers without consulting traffic safety experts or adhering to prescribed standards.

This lack of regulation has created significant issues for road users. Drivers often encounter these speed breakers unexpectedly, leading to vehicle skidding, loss of control, and tragic accidents.

In the past six to eight months, four individuals have lost their lives in accidents linked to defective speed breakers. A recent incident involved Adarsh Shridharan, a 24-year-old call centre employee. On September 27, while returning home on his two-wheeler, he skidded off a poorly constructed speed breaker near ESDS Circle in

Satpur MIDC. Despite being rushed to the district civil hospital, Adarsh succumbed to his injuries on November 28. Such incidents highlight the urgent need for corrective action. Faulty speed breakers, instead of controlling vehicle speeds, often catch drivers unawares, forcing sudden braking that leads to loss of control. The Municipal Corporation and associated contractors have come under scrutiny for arbitrary and unscientific installation of speed breakers. Guidelines require permissions from the Road Safety Committee, surveys, and proper assessments before constructing speed breakers. However, these protocols are often ignored, resulting in hazardous road conditions. While some irregular speed breakers were modified or removed following public complaints, many remain in place, posing ongoing risks.

Demand for action

Citizens and safety advocates are demanding the removal of unscientific speed breakers and stricter adherence to road safety standards. Speed breakers should be installed only where necessary, following proper surveys and approval processes. The Municipal Corporation bears the responsibility for ensuring that all speed breakers comply with safety norms to prevent further loss of life.

Problem areas

Key areas in Nashik where faulty speed breakers have been reported include: Nimali area, RP Vidyalaya vicinity, Adgaon Naka, Sardar Chowk, Tarwala Nagar Signal, Madhuban Colony, Shantinagar, Rau Hotel vicinity, Dhattrak Phata, Mhasrul area and Omkar Nagar. The presence of defective speed breakers on these roads has become a persistent issue for commuters.

Women should be self-reliant: CP Karnik



**NASHIK:** In today's era, women have made significant strides in self-development and have become more aware of their rights and existence, emphasized Commissioner of Police Sandeep Karnik. He urged women to focus on becoming financially empowered and self-reliant through education.

Karnik's remarks came at the conclusion of the 'No to Violence' fortnight, organized by the Police Commissionerate, Vishwas Dnyanprabodhini and Research Institute, and Radio Vishwas 90.8 Community Radio. The programme was held at the Police Commissionerate. The Police Commissioner highlighted the

importance of women coming together through NGOs to raise their voices on societal issues. He referenced social reformers like Mahatma Jyotiba Phule, Savitribai Phule, and Rajaram Mohan Roy, who fought for women's rights and development, urging the need to carry forward their legacy. He assured that the police department is committed to ensuring women's safety and well-being.

Radio Vishwas 90.8 Community Radio coordinator Ruchita Thakur shared how the platform helps connect with the grassroots level, providing justice, security, and addressing women's grievances.

Citilinc service

Need for sustainable policies

**NASHIK:** Launched by the Nashik Municipal Corporation (NMC) in July 2022, the Citilinc city bus service has consistently operated at a loss, placing a significant strain on the municipal budget. To date, the NMC has spent a staggering Rs 220 crore to cover the deficit of the bus service.

Critics argue that the service's ongoing losses warrant a reevaluation of its viability. Questions are being raised about whether the bus service is primarily benefiting contractors rather than serving the public efficiently.

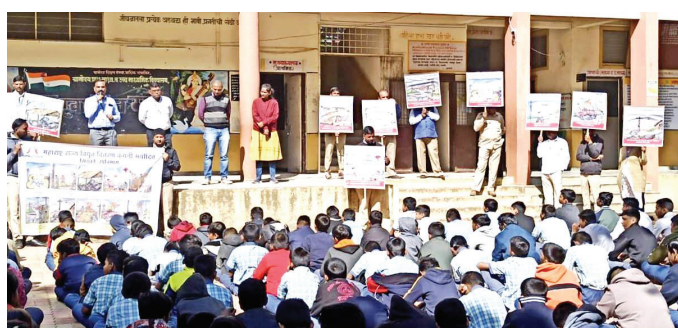
Initially envisioned as a flagship project by the BJP, the city bus service is now viewed as a financial burden for the NMC. The service started with 50 buses and has gradually expanded to 250 buses operating across various routes. While some long-distance routes, like those to Sinner and Bhagur, are well-utilized, many

buses are running empty on less-traveled routes, contributing to rising losses. Currently, the fleet includes 200 diesel buses and 50 CNG buses, with services managed from two depots: Nashik Road and Tapovan.

*Need for a proper strategy to balance the city's bus service's income and expenses. While Nashikites deserve reliable public transport, it should not place an undue burden on the NMC's finances. Why the service was profitable when initially run by the ST corporation, but has since become a financial drain after its takeover by NMC. This issue warrants thorough investigation.*

- Sudhakar Badgujar, District Chief, UBT group

MSEDCL guides students on electrical safety



**NASHIK:** To raise awareness about electrical safety and prevent accidents during the kite-flying season, the New Nashik sub-division of Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Ltd. (MSEDCL) provided a guidance to the students in a programme organised at Gramodaya Vidyalaya in New Nashik area.

Kite flying is a popular activity during the Makar Sankranti festival in Nashik and its surrounding areas. However, it also poses risks of electrical mishaps, especially when kites come into contact with live wires. To address this, MSEDCL conducts regular awareness campaigns to educate the public on safety precautions. This year, the initiative extended to students, aiming to equip them with knowledge to avoid accidents.

Rajendra Bhambar, Additional executive engineer of the New Nashik sub-division, led the session and provided students with practical advice on electrical safety. The session emphasized the importance of staying vigilant around electrical infrastructure, especially during kite flying, and outlined measures to prevent accidents.

MSEDCL announced plans to extend this awareness drive to other schools in the New Nashik area. By targeting young audiences, the campaign aims to instill a culture of safety and precaution in the community.

The programme saw active participation from Gramodaya Vidyalaya's principal Deepak Hyalij, teaching staff, and students. MSEDCL officials, including assistant engineers Aleshkumar Lanke and Rahul Shinde, junior engineer Sheetal Khatale and Janamitras were also present.

YCMOU introduces cyber security course

**NASHIK:** Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University (YCMOU) has introduced a 'Cyber Security' course following University Grants Commission (UGC) directives. The course aims to raise cyber security awareness, promote safe technology use, and equip students to tackle rising cyber crimes globally.

In October 2022, during Cyber Awareness Day, universities across India were directed to offer a cyber security course.

YCMOU has implemented this directive for all undergraduate and postgraduate students from the academic year 2024-25 under the guidance of Vice Chancellor Prof. Sanjeev Sonawane. Students enrolling directly in the second year of courses like B.C.A. are also eligible.

Aarav shines with a stunning 140

**NASHIK:** Aarav Ahire delivered a stellar performance in the Maharashtra Cricket Association's State-level Invitation Cricket Tournament for under-14 players. Representing Secretary 11 in the first round against CDA, Pune, Aarav smashed an impressive 140 runs off 138 balls, including 27 boundaries.

Secretary 11, batting first in the two-day match in Pune, recovered from a precarious 27/4 to post a formidable 463/7. In response, CDA managed 167 runs in their first innings. Following on, they scored 88/1 to draw the match, but Secretary 11 secured the first-innings lead.

Physique competition held at KBT College



**NASHIK:** The Nashik Divisional Inter-Collegiate Physique (M) Competition, organized by the Nashik District Divisional Sports Committee in collaboration with Savitribai Phule Pune University and Karmaveer Adv. Baburao Ganpatrao Thakare (KBT) Engineering College, was held at KBT College, run by the Maratha Vidya Prasarak Samaj Sanstha. Participants from 21 colleges across the district competed in six weight categories. Ganesh Bhagde from Igatpuri College was crowned the best inter-collegiate bodybuilder.

The competition was inaugurated by Adv. Nitin Thakare, general secretary of MVP. It was conducted under the guidance of Gopinath Rode, vice president of the Nashik District Amateur Bodybuilding Association, along with Gopal Gaikwad and other association members. Dr. Narendra Nikam, Dr. S. R. Devane, Dr. V. M. Birari, and Shrushti Shinde were present. Dr. R S Kare coordinated the competition.

Results

- 60 kg: 1st: Vetalu Abhishek (Vagdadi Chandwad College), 2nd: Deepak Sangale (KBT Engineering College)
- 65 kg: 1st: Pandharinath Bode (Igatpuri College), 2nd: Sarthak Pachore (GMD Sinner College)
- 70 kg: 1st: Ganesh Bhagde (Igatpuri College), 2nd: Roshan Jadhav (KTHM College)
- 75 kg: 1st: Harshal Handage (PVG College), 2nd: Darshan Waghmare (MVP Ojhar College)
- 80 kg: 1st: Nelson Joseph (Bhonsala College), 2nd: Aditya Pagar (MVP Ojhar College)
- 85 kg: 1st: Mohammad Qureshi (LVH College)

Horizon Academy observes Police Memorial Week



**NASHIK:** Police Memorial Week was observed enthusiastically from October 21 to October 31, following the instructions of the Police Commissioner. Various cultural and educational events were organized as part of the week, with the painting competition being a highlight.

The painting competition featured three main themes: Police Our Friend, Role of Police in Nation Building and Our Role as Conscious Students. A total of 150 students from 37 schools in Nashik participated in the competition. All participants were awarded certificates, with Jia Sandhan, an 8th-grade student from Horizon Academy, securing third place, and Durva Patil, a 6th-grade student, receiving a consolation prize.

On October 21, 2024, students from

Horizon Academy paid a unique tribute to the martyr police officers by cleaning the Shaheed Memorial at Shaheed Chowk on Gangapur Road. They also offered flowers and paid homage, chanting slogans like 'Shaheed Jawan Amar Rahe' and 'Vande Mataram', which reverberated throughout the area.

The success of the event was largely attributed to the excellent planning and guidance of the Art teacher Pratik Shinde with the help of police personnel Sachin Jadhav. The leadership of Police Commissioner Sandeep Karnik and the contributions of other school staff were also crucial in making the event a success. Deputy Commissioners of Police Kiran Kumar Chavan, Prashant Bachhav, Monica Raut Maam, Chandrakant Khandavi were present for the programme.

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