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TACKLING NASHIK'S WATER CHALLENGES

Expansion of water pipelines for smooth water supply

NASHIK: Nashik stands out in Maharashtra for its relatively abundant water supply, especially compared to some other cities in the state. To ensure a steady and smooth distribution of water, the Nashik Municipal Corporation (NMC) has increased the number of water tanks in the city. A total of 120 additional tanks have been set up, improving water availability for residents. According to the established norms, water is supplied at a rate of 135 litres per person per day, assuming five people in a household.

As part of an agreement with the water resources department, the NMC's water supply department draws about 570 million litres of water daily. Of this, approximately 80% is allocated for drinking water purposes, while the remaining portion is used for other needs. The city's population is estimated at 2.6 million, and the water supply system is designed based on this assumption. However, as the population grows rapidly, the water supply infrastructure is under increasing pressure.

There have been rising complaints from residents about low water pressure in several areas. Additionally, outdated pipelines have been causing water leakage, leading to inefficiencies in the distribution system. While the NMC had previously carried out

temporary repairs to address these issues, the frequent occurrence of pipeline problems has prompted a larger, more permanent solution.

The NMC has decided to invest Rs 350 crore in a major expansion and upgrading project, financed through the Amrut 2 scheme. The project will focus on replacing old pipelines, laying new ones in expanding colonies, increasing the number of water tanks, and enhancing the capacity of water purification centers. The central and state governments will each contribute 25% of the total project cost, while the NMC will cover the remaining 50%.

This significant investment is aimed at ensuring uninterrupted water supply to the growing population and is expected to be completed in time for the Simhashta Kumbh Mela, a major religious event that draws large crowds to the city.

Thanks to heavy rainfall in Marathwada and Nashik this year, the region's dams, including the key Jayakwadi dam, have overflowed. This ensures there will be no need to release water from these reservoirs to meet regional water needs. With the ample rainfall, the NMC has been granted a water reservation of 6,300 MCFt from the water resources department to meet the city's needs for the year.

The process for water allocation is organized annually. On October 15, a meeting is held between the district administration and the water resources department to reserve water for different users. In previous years, especially during dry spells, there had been challenges in securing sufficient water, as dams were not full enough to meet the demands of both Nashik and Marathwada. However, the situation this year is more favourable due to the heavy rains, which have replenished the reservoirs.

In the previous year, water was reserved for the city under strained conditions, with the NMC initially requesting 6,100 MCFt. Due to a lower than expected reservoir level, the demand was reduced to 5,300 MCFt. This shortage created water stress in the city. However, this year, the situation has improved significantly, as Jayakwadi dam is at full capacity, and there will be no need to release water to meet external demands.

To address the issue of water wastage due to unauthorized connections and leakage, the NMC is launching a major drive to identify and disconnect illegal water connections. A large-scale, door-to-door inspection will be carried out to check for unauthorized taps and the use of water motors. The NMC has recognized that water leakage in the city is significant, and the

existing authorized water connections do not match the volume of water being released, indicating that there may be widespread unauthorized use.

Interestingly, the NMC has decided to outsource the task of detecting unauthorized connections to a private organization due to manpower shortages. The Municipal Corporation has not conducted recruitment for 25 years, leading to a significant gap in the workforce needed to handle the growing tasks. As part of this initiative, the bill distribution system for water and property taxes will also be privatized. This decision follows the recommendation of a committee tasked with increasing the revenue generation capacity of the Corporation.

The first phase of the campaign will involve gathering detailed information about all properties in the city, including the name, address, mobile number, and email ID of property owners. This data will be compiled into a database and shared with various tax departments to help with accurate billing and the identification of unauthorized water connections. Through this thorough inspection and data collection, the NMC hopes to improve revenue collection, reduce water leakage, and ensure that water resources are being used efficiently.

Foodgrain distribution disrupted

NASHIK: Citizens with ration cards are facing hardships as they are unable to get foodgrains due to ongoing issues in the Ration Card Management System (RCMS). The system, which has been running slowly for months, continues to malfunction. Additionally, some card holders have not received their 12-digit numbers, preventing updates to their ration cards and further delaying foodgrain distribution. The distribution process is further hampered by frequent disruptions in the e-POS system, leaving both officials and shopkeepers helpless. Local officials state that since the RCMS system is controlled at the central level, they have limited options. Efforts by NIC to resolve the problem provide temporary relief, but the system frequently shuts down again, often during customer visits. This has led to disputes between shopkeepers and customers.

In December, only 22 percent of the total foodgrains have been distributed across the state. With just 13 days remaining in the month, 78 percent of the grains are yet to be distributed. Adding to the backlog, 25 percent of November's foodgrains and 10 percent of October's supply remain undelivered.

Cyclothon held



NASHIK: To support Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Fit India' initiative, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports organized a nationwide cycling programme yesterday as part of the 'Fit India Week' celebrations.

In Nashik city, the cycle ride was flagged off at the martyr Anant Kanhere ground by senior cyclist Chandrakant Naik, who also addressed participants about the importance of fitness under the Fit India movement. The cycle ride began with enthusiastic slogans such as 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai', 'Hum Fit Toh India Fit', 'Cycle Chalwa Paryavaran Vachwa', and 'Pollution Ka Solution - Cycle'. Cyclists covered a

designated route passing through key landmarks including Golf Club ground, Mico Circle, City Centre Mall, ABB Circle, Jehan Circle, Old Ganga-pur Naka, Ashok Stambh, CBS, Trimbak Naka, and back to Golf Club. The ride created public awareness about fitness and eco-friendly commuting. Citizens were encouraged to adopt cycling as a sustainable and healthy lifestyle choice.

Nashik Cyclists Foundation president Kishore Kale, vice president Arun Pawar, Dr. Manisha Raundal, and other office bearers, along with a large number of cyclists, actively participated in the programme.

Organ donation awareness by Rotary Club



NASHIK: The Rotary Club of Nashik has been actively conducting initiatives to raise awareness about organ donation. These long-term social activities are commendable, said Rotary District Governor Rajinder Khurana during the inauguration of the organ donation awareness programme.

It was inaugurated by Rotary District Governor Rajinder Khurana, alongside Sheetal Shah, Enclave Chair Avtar Singh, Wisdom High School Director Ritu Agarwal, and Rotary Club of Nashik President

Omprakash Rawat. In his opening remarks, president Omprakash Rawat shared details about the programme. Dr. Rajendra Nehete from the Rotary Skin Bank provided guidance on skin donation, while Dr. Bhausaheb More, who underwent India's first liver transplant, shared his personal experience.

The attendees resolved to dispel misconceptions about organ donation and emphasized the importance of saving lives through this noble act. A street play promoting organ donation awareness

was performed by Rotary Club Nashik Midtown. The programme was attended by Rotary office bearers and members from Nashik, Pune, and Nagpur, including Salim Batada, Asha Venugopal, Dada Deshmukh, Manisha Vispute, Dilipsingh Beniwal, and Vijay Dinani. Students from the MVP Medical College Rotaract Club also participated.

Dr. Sonali Chindhade compered the programme, and Secretary Shilpa Parakh proposed the vote of thanks.

Research guidance workshop at YCMOU

NASHIK: "Before starting research, we must understand the world around us, its problems, and the existing work on those issues. Identifying the knowledge gap helps decide the direction of our research," said Prof. Sanjeev Sonawane, Vice Chancellor of Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University (YCMOU).

He was speaking at the inauguration of a two-day workshop for heads and advisors of the university's M.A. Education programme, aligned with the new National Education Policy. The workshop took place at the Yash Inn auditorium.

University management board member and director of the faculty of education, Prof. Dr. Sanjeevani Mahale, was also present.

Addressing the topic 'Areas of Research in the 21st Century', Prof.

Sonawane highlighted ongoing research in artificial intelligence, cyber security, environment, disaster management, gender equality, and water-soil-air issues worldwide.

He emphasized the growing use of mixed research methods and the importance of research in knowledge creation, which is a continuous process.

"Researchers must develop critical questions and find topics from societal and environmental problems. We must ask how our research can solve these problems and benefit society," he added.

Prof. Snehal Manjarekar, Prof. Vijaykumar Paikrao, Prof. Dr. Sanjeevani Mahale, Pradeep Pawar, Chandrakant Pawar, Dr. Rajkumar Nanware, Dr. Subhash Sonune, Dr. Dayaram Pawar, Dr. Prakash Barve, and Prof. Sajjan Thool will also address the workshop.



Anil Naik wins International Robotics Competition

NASHIK: Anil Naik, a Class IX student of Horizon International Academy, Ashwin Nagar, has made the school proud by securing the first position in the prestigious International Mechathlon Robotics Competition. It was organized by Orchid International School in Bangalore and witnessed participation from talented students across various regions.

Out of over 1,500 participants who regis-

tered for the competition, only 350 made it to the final zonal round. In this highly competitive stage, Anil demonstrated exceptional skill, creativity, and technical knowledge, clinching the coveted first place.

The achievement has brought immense pride to Horizon International Academy, which is run by the Maratha Vidya Prasarak (MVP) Samaj. Adv. Nitin Thakare, general secretary of MVP,

lauded Anil's success, stating, "This accomplishment has brought great honor to the organization and reflects the dedication and talent of our students."

MVP director Adv. Sandeep Gulve, Adv. Laxman Landage, principal Richa Pekhale, and other office bearers, extended their heartfelt congratulations to Anil. They also wished him continued success in his future endeavours.



Cross Country Competition on Dec 21

NASHIK: The Nashik District Athletics Association has organized a cross country competition for athletes from across Nashik district on Saturday, December 21, 2024. It will take place in the MET Bhujbal Knowledge City Road in Adgaon, Nashik area. The competition includes the following categories and distances: 10 km for men and women, 8 km for boys under 20 years, 6 km for girls under 20 years, 6 km for boys under 18 years, 4 km for girls under 18 years and 2 km for boys and girls under 16 years.

For boys and girls under 20 years: Date of birth between January 13, 2005, and January 12, 2007. For boys and girls under 18 years: Date of birth between January 13, 2007, and January 12, 2009. For boys and girls under 16

years: Date of birth between January 13, 2009, and January 12, 2011.

Participants must compete in their respective age groups and are required to provide a birth certificate issued by the Municipal Corporation, Municipal Council, or Panchayat Samiti, along with a 10th pass certificate.

The competition will be conducted in accordance with the official technical regulations of the Athletics Federation of India. The top-performing athletes will be selected to represent Nashik district in the Maharashtra State Championship, scheduled to take place in Amravati on December 30, 2024. Athletes and coaches interested in participating should contact the joint secretaries of the Nashik District Athletics Association, Vajjayant Kale or Sandeep Phugat.

New Era felicitates academic achievers

NASHIK: New Era English School, Nashik, hosted a grand felicitation ceremony to honour its outstanding students who excelled in academics for the academic year 2023-24. The event was graced by Babasaheb Pardhe, Additional Collector, as the chief guest.

In his address, Babasaheb Pardhe congratulated the students on their remarkable achievements and encouraged them to continue striving for excellence. He emphasized the importance of hard work, dedication, and consistent learning in building a bright future.

The ceremony highlighted the exceptional academic performances of students across various grades, recognizing their efforts and commitment. The achievers were presented with certificates and books as a token of appreciation.

In his speech, Pardhe applauded the school's efforts in shaping young minds and appreciated the creativity and dedication evident in the retro-themed event. He encouraged students to strive for excellence and contribute meaningfully to society. He urged the students inculcate reading habits. He also emphasized and stated that failures are the stepping stones to success.



The felicitation ceremony was attended by parents, teachers, and students. The event concluded with a vote of thanks and a resounding applause for the achievers, motivating all students to aim high and achieve their goals.

The winners of champion of champion trophy in three interschool events and was a perfect blend of celebration of excellence.