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**RIVERS CHOKING**

# Pollution continues as measures fall short

**NASHIK:** Despite continuous efforts for the conservation of the Godavari river, the pollution issue remains unresolved as the measures taken by the administration appear ineffective. Citizens have raised concerns over the persistent discharge of untreated sewage into the river through natural nallas from various settlements.

Sewage from Gangapur village itself is mixing with the Godavari, exacerbating pollution levels. The lack of a proper drainage system means that wastewater from urban settlements directly enters the river through multiple nallas. While the municipal administration has set up a sewage treatment plant at Gangapur, untreated sewage continues to flow into the river through five to six nallas, rendering the situation critical.

To address this, a team from

IIT Mumbai was consulted under the Namami Goda project. The team studied the nallas and submitted a proposal to the mu-



nicipal administration outlining solutions. However, it remains unclear whether any action has been taken, as sewage from these nallas continues to pollute the

river. Several major nallas contribute to this problem. The nalla passing along Kavade farm in Gangapur carries sewage from

the Shivajinagar area, while the Someshwar nalla near Someshwar temple brings wastewater from Shramiknagar. Another nalla passes through the Carbon Com-

pany premises, while the Chikhali nalla flows along Bendkule Farm. Additionally, monsoon sewage lines near Nashya Ganpati temple and the Anandvalli nalla, which carries sewage from Anandvalli village near the pipeline signal, also discharge wastewater into the river.

Further worsening the issue, several sewage line chambers along the riverbanks are broken, leading to direct contamination. This has resulted in a thick layer of algae forming in the river stretch between Anandvalli and Chopda Lawns, with excessive waterweed growth fueled by pollution.

There is an urgent need to divert these nallas and treat the wastewater before it is discharged. Without immediate intervention, the Godavari river's pollution crisis will continue to escalate, affecting both ecology and public health.

## Good wishes for HSC students

# Success is a journey, be confident

As the Class 12 Board exams begin today, I want to take a moment-not as an official, but as a well-wisher who understands the emotions that come with this crucial phase-to share a few words with students and their parents. You have put in months of hard work, anxiety may set in. You might feel as if you have forgotten everything or fear that your mind will go blank in the exam hall. Let me assure you this is a common experience and does not indicate a lack of preparation.

In moments of self-doubt, take a deep breath and remind yourself of your capabilities. Visualize success-picture yourself confidently entering the exam hall, reading the question paper calmly, and writing your answers with clarity. Practicing this mental exercise daily can ease your nerves and help you stay focused when it matters most.

After your first paper, you will likely feel a boost in confidence. Approach each subject with a calm mind, attempt every question diligently, and if time permits, review your answers before submitting your paper. A quick revision can often make a significant difference.

Dear parents, exams are not just a test



for students they are a journey for parents too. Your support has been unwavering throughout the year, and now, in these final moments, your role is more crucial than ever. Encourage your children to do their best, but also remind them that exams are just one chapter in life, not the final verdict on their future.

I have seen many students who were considered average in school go on to achieve extraordinary success in life. The world today offers diverse opportunities, and every individual has unique strengths. Instead of adding to their stress, instill in them the confidence that they are capable, valued, and supported.

**A final word**

To all students give your best effort, but remember that no exam defines your entire life. Success is a journey, and this is just one step along the way. Stay confident, be patient, and always believe in your potential.

*Wishing you the very best for your exams and beyond.*

**- Ravinder Kumar Singal, Police Commissioner Nagpur**

# Encroachments galore in Panchavati area



**NASHIK:** The Nashik Municipal Corporation (NMC) has been cracking down on encroachments in various parts of the city. However, areas like Panchavati, Adgaon, and Mhasrul seem to have been overlooked, raising questions about the Corporation's selective approach. Citizens are questioning why encroachments are being removed in some areas while others remain untouched.

Several unauthorized structures have been flagged by citizens, including: Shops opposite Nashik APMC entrance; sweet shops near Reliance petrol pump Chowk; Unauthorized hotels and eateries in Nandur Naka and illegally parked vehicles. These illegal businesses and

encroachments contribute to traffic congestion, with vehicles parked haphazardly and footpaths being blocked.

The Panchavati area is connected to major roads like Mumbai-Agra Highway, Peth Road, Dindori Road, and Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar Road. Encroachments along these roads obstruct traffic flow. Similar situations exist in Dindori Naka, Peth Road, and Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar squares, where unauthorized shops and roadside stalls disrupt movement.

The problem is aggravated by the high footfall in Panchavati, a major religious pilgrimage hub. Thousands of devotees visiting Godaghat, Sita Cave, Kalaram temple, and Kapaleshwar temple face

difficulty navigating through narrow, congested roads. Encroachments further worsen traffic conditions and contribute to noise and air pollution.

Signboards, rooftop extensions, and temporary sheds have taken over roads in Adgaon, Nandur, Mamkhamalbad, Mhasrul, and key religious areas. At Dindori Naka, encroachments extend onto the main road, making movement difficult. Items for sale spill onto roads, reducing space for pedestrians and vehicles.

## Citizens Demand Strict Action

*Residents demand firm and permanent action against encroachments. They are calling for more than just the seizure of illegal structures—they want criminal cases registered against repeat offenders. The public expects the municipal team to take strict measures and ensure encroachments do not return after temporary removals.*

# Police at Your Doorstep tomorrow

**NASHIK:** As part of a 100-day action plan set by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis to enhance public service, the Nashik city police will once again implement the 'Police Commissioner at Your Doorstep' initiative tomorrow, February 12. Citizens have been urged to participate and voice their grievances for resolution.

The state government's 100-day action plan aims to improve governance by focusing on public grievance redressal, ease of living, cleanliness, office infrastructure. Following these directives, the Nashik Police Commissionerate has launched proactive measures to address citizen complaints effectively.

The initiative will commence at 11 am tomorrow at Dudhbaraz Police Chowki, Bhadrakali, in the presence of City Police Commissioner Sandeep Karnik. Senior police officers will also be present at various locations across the city to directly engage with the public and resolve their concerns on the spot.

# Ramkal Path project

# Structural audit of 28 wadas



*A structural audit of 28 old wadas on the proposed 'Ramkal Path' route will be conducted to assess their strength. Further action will be taken based on the report.*

**- Sanjay Agarwal, city engineer, NMC**

**NASHIK:** The Nashik Municipal Corporation (NMC) will implement the Ramkal Path project in the Ramkund and Godaghat areas ahead of the upcoming Simhashta Kumbh Mela. However, the presence of dilapidated and potentially hazardous wadas along the project route poses a serious risk. To address this concern, the municipal construction department will conduct a structural audit of 28 wadas that are in a dangerous condition. Based on the audit report, the authorities will decide on demolition or alternative safety measures.

The Central government has sanctioned Rs. 100 crore for the Ramkal Path project, which aims to create a spiritual corridor in Nashik's mythological sites, including Ramkund, Godaghat, Kalaram temple, and Sita Cave. The project will feature sculptures depicting key events from the Ramayan. To oversee the execution, the NMC has appointed Gujarat-based consultancy firm HCP.

However, many wadas in this area, some 150 to 200 years old, have deteriorated significantly. While many are vacant, some still house residents. Given their condition, these wadas pose a serious safety risk, especially during the Simhashta Kumbh Mela, which will bring a massive influx of devotees. The structural audit will assess their stability and determine whether repairs or demolition is necessary. The NMC aims to complete the Ramkal Path project by December 2026.

## Previous controversy

*A similar issue arose during the last Simhashta Kumbh Mela, when the then Police Commissioner urged the NMC to demolish dangerous wadas in the Shahi Marg area. This led to a dispute between the Municipal Corporation and the police administration. With the upcoming Kumbh Mela, a fresh controversy over these wadas is anticipated.*

# Nirbhay Kanya Abhiyan workshop at Kakasaheb Wagh College

**NASHIK:** Education up to graduation is essential for appearing in competitive exams, and setting clear goals is crucial for success, said Deputy Collector Swati Thavil at a one-day Nirbhay Kanya Abhiyan workshop, organized by Savitribai Phule Pune University and the Student Development Board at Karmaveer Kakasaheb Wagh College, Pimpalgaon Baswant.

Speaking on exam preparation, Thavil emphasized the importance of determination, perseverance, and hard work. She advised students to read regularly, manage time efficiently, solve practice papers, stay updated on current affairs, use social media wisely, and master language skills to unlock greater opportunities.

"Face challenges with courage, become financially independent, and stand on your own feet," she encouraged. Medical officer Dr. Vaishali Kadam highlighted that education is not just for employment but plays a vital role in shaping future generations. She urged students to use their knowledge wisely, uphold values from Jijabai to Savitribai Phule, and reject gender discrimination.

# KTHM College honours meritorious students

**NASHIK:** The annual felicitation programme for meritorious students was held at KTHM College on Saturday (Feb 8), with MP Bhaskar Bhagare as the chief guest. Addressing the students, Bhagare, an alumnus of the college, emphasized the importance of hard work and dedication in achieving success.

"I studied here 30 years ago. The field you choose should lead you to great heights, but success requires effort. Be prepared to work hard, and you will succeed in life," he said.

The programme was presided over by MVP general secretary Adv. Nitin Thakare. Chairman Balasaheb Kshirsagar, vice president Vishwas More, secretary Dilip Dalvi, deputy chairman D. B. Mogal, principal Dr. S. S. Kale and others were also present.

Principal Dr. Kale presented



the college's annual academic review, while vice principal Dr. S. K. Shinde delivered the introductory speech. Chairman Kshirsagar highlighted the college's growing reputation and commitment to quality education, emphasizing all-round development for students.

During the programme, outstanding students in academics and sports were felicitated.

Vice principal Dr. Shinde was also honoured by Adv. Thakare for being elected state president of the Junior College Teachers Association.

Speaking at the programme, Adv. Thakare, also an alumnus, praised the college for its holistic approach to education. He noted that the institution provides admission to visually impaired students for a nominal fee of Rs. 10, with 150 such students currently enrolled.

Thakare also announced plans for a new auditorium, citing the growing student population. He emphasized that cultural activities and sports are just as important as academics in a student's life.

The programme was completed by Prof. Dada Kadam, while Prof. Kiran Redgaonkar proposed the vote of thanks.

# Kusumagraj National Award presentation tomorrow

**NASHIK:** The Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University (YCMOU) will present the Kusumagraj National Award in a programme tomorrow, February 12, 2025. The award for the year 2022 will be conferred on renowned Bengali poet Amitabh Gupta, while the award for the year 2023 will be given to acclaimed Assamese poet Neelam Kumar.

The programme will take place at 5:30 pm at the M S Aurangabadkar hall, Sarvajanik Vachanalaya. YCMOU Vice Chancellor Prof. Sanjeev Sonawane will preside over the programme. Poet and translator Dr. Chandrakant Patil, who also chairs the award selection committee, along with University Pro-Vice Chancellor Dr. Jogendrasingh Bisen, will be present as chief guests.

Established in 2010, the Kusumagraj National Award is presented annually to a distinguished non-Marathi poet for their contributions to Indian literature. Previous recipients include Chandrakant Devtale (Hindi), K. Sachchidanandan (Malayalam), Sitanshu Yashachandra (Gujarati), Surjit Patar (Punjabi), Tamsula Aao (English), Vishnu Khare (Hindi), H. S. Shivprakash (Kannada), and poet Gulzar.

The award carries a cash prize of Rs. 1 lakh, along with a citation and a memento. University registrar Dilip Bharad and Kusumagraj Dais head Dilip Dhondge have appealed to poetry and literature enthusiasts to attend the programme in large numbers.



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