

Gangapur Road - A traffic bottleneck

Heavy traffic chaos at Ashok Stambh



NASHIK: Heavy traffic congestion continues to plague Gangapur Road, causing major inconvenience to commuters. With only one traffic signal at Gangapur Naka along

the 3-km stretch between Shahid Circle and Ashok Stambh, vehicles move unchecked, adding to the gridlock at Ashok Stambh. The lack of proper parking facilities further exacerbates the situation, as vehicles parked on both sides of the road contribute to congestion. Gangapur Road is home to colleges, schools, government offices, hospitals, private institutions, and

commercial establishments, leading to a continuous rush of students, employees, and residents. As a result, Ashok Stambh, a crucial city junction, experiences severe traffic snarls.

Peak hour traffic woes

Ashok Stambh connects Nashik city, Panchavati, Gangapur Road, and Ravivar Karanja, witnessing heavy traffic, especially during school, college, and office opening and closing hours. Experts suggest installing additional traffic signals between Ashok Stambh and Shahid Circle to regulate traffic flow, as the absence of signals causes vehicles to move unchecked into the already crowded intersection. Despite traffic police presence, managing the congestion during peak hours remains a challenge.

Smart parking system non-functional

Under the Smart City initiative, vehicle parking lots were set up at 15 locations across Nashik, including three on Gangapur Road. However, these facilities remain non-operational after the contractor withdrew during the Corona pandemic, worsening the parking crisis.

Measures needed

- NMC should establish more parking lots in Gangapur Road area.
- Curb parking in front of shops to free up road space.
- Install traffic signals at Prasad Circle, Veterinary Hospital, Khatib Dairy, and College Road corner for better traffic regulation.
- Develop a traffic management plan for Ashok Stambh to handle the heavy influx of vehicles.
- Set up designated traffic lots to clear roads and improve traffic flow.

Budget beneficial for middle class: Dr. Ahuja

NASHIK: The Union Budget presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is beneficial for the middle class in various aspects, said renowned income tax expert Dr. Girish Ahuja at a seminar organized by the Nashik branch of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI). Addressing a gathering of over 350 chartered accountants, Dr. Ahuja provided an in-depth analysis of the budget, simplifying complex provisions to help professionals understand key changes. He

emphasized that taxpayers need to grasp the modifications in Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) and Tax Collected at Source (TCS) thoroughly to make informed tax-saving decisions.

“The budget has introduced several provisions

that will impact middle-class taxpayers. Understanding these changes is essential for better financial planning,” he said. ICAI Nashik branch president CA Sanjeev Tambulwadikar highlighted the importance of such discussions in ensuring that tax professionals stay updated with evolving regulations. Vice president CA Jitendra Phapat, secretary Abhijit Modi, treasurer CA Manoj Tambe, and other office bearers played a key role in organizing the seminar.



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Encroachments grow in Panchavati area

NASHIK: The issue of encroachments in Nashik city is escalating, with public spaces increasingly occupied by vendors, particularly in the Panchavati area. Despite repeated complaints, unauthorized stalls and markets continue to thrive, causing congestion and hygiene concerns. The situation is particularly severe in major areas such as Peth Road, Phule Nagar, RTO Corner, Dindori Road, Mhasrul, Makhamalabad Road, and Nimani Chowk, where roads and footpaths are increasingly taken over. While the Nashik Municipal Corporation (NMC) has attempted action, resistance from vendors has made enforcement difficult. Vegetable markets on roads have become a significant issue, leading to

traffic congestion and sanitation problems. Vendors position themselves close to customers, often blocking entire roads. In Dindori area, sellers buy produce from the market committee and resell it along the roadside, creating daily traffic hurdles. A similar situation prevails on Peth Road, where garbage accumulation worsens hygiene conditions. In Nandur area, despite the availability of designated market space at Nilgiri Bag, vendors continue to set up stalls on the roads, causing frequent traffic disruptions. The vegetable market in Konark Nagar has also expanded

onto Jatra Road, further worsening congestion. Residents are calling for immediate and sustained action from the municipal anti-encroachment department in affected areas, including Panchavati, Adgaon, Nashik Road, Indiranagar, and Wadala-Pathardi Road.

CITY ISSUES



AI learning bus inaugurated

NASHIK: India's first Artificial Intelligence learning bus, developed under the 'Education on Wheels' initiative, was inaugurated by State School Education Minister Dada Bhuse, international thinker Sandeep Waslekar, MP Bhaskar Bhagare, and filmmaker Praveen Tarde. The bus, conceptualized by education scholar Sachin Joshi, aims to introduce AI, machine learning, data science, coding, and robotics to students, especially those from municipal, Zilla Parishad, and tribal schools. Speaking at the event, Bhuse emphasized the need to adopt AI technology to stay competitive globally while ensuring that the next generation



remains connected to its roots. He praised Joshi's innovative educational initiatives and highlighted efforts to create model schools integrating modern technology. Waslekar stressed the importance of providing modern education to marginalized students, suggesting that government

approval for such initiatives could transform secondary education. Tarde reflected on how innovation reshapes student and parental perspectives and called for recognition of visionary social workers contributing to education and agriculture. MIT professor Dr. Ramesh Raskar hailed

the AI Learning bus as a milestone in digital education, while Dr. Prajakta Joshi, director of Espalier School, noted that the initiative aligns with the school's mission to revolutionize education through technology. Previously, 19,000 students benefited from 'Education on Wheels,' and this new initiative aims to further modernize learning.

Free education for municipal & ZP Students

The AI learning bus will help students in grades 5 to 7 improve their reading, writing, and math skills through modern technology. It offers a structured learning programme, including a 2-hour workshop, a 15-day special training, and a 1-month intensive course. This education will be provided entirely free of cost for students of municipal and Zilla Parishad schools.

Healthy lifestyle key to disease prevention: Experts



NASHIK: Lifestyle changes over the years have increased the risk of various diseases. To stay healthy, one must adopt a nutritious diet, exercise regularly, and seek medical attention when needed, advised doctors at the 'Let's Talk About Health' seminar. The event, held at Sharma Mangal Karyalaya on the fourth anniversary of Narayani Hospital, featured expert doctors discussing key health concerns. Dr. Pankaj Rane emphasized

the importance of regular exercise and a balanced diet, while Dr. Anand Divan warned about stress and addiction leading to brain disorders. Dr. Dinesh Joshi addressed rising constipation issues, urging proper eating habits. Dr. Ajay Jadhav highlighted the dangers of tobacco consumption, linking it to various cancers. Dr. Manish Choksi spoke about bone and muscle weakness due to poor nutrition and lack of exercise. Dr. Mayuri Kelkar explained the

risks of Polycystic Ovarian Disease (PCOD) in women, including infertility and hormonal imbalances. Dr. Deepa Joshi raised concerns about excessive screen time affecting children's health, advising parents to limit mobile phone use before age five. Dr. Swapnil Sakhala provided insights into lung diseases and their prevention. The seminar concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Dr. Monali Rane.

NDCA Professional League 3 begins



NASHIK: The NDCA Professional League Season 3 (2024-25), organized by the Nashik District Cricket Association, started at Anant Kanhere Ground, Golf Club. Deputy District Collector Nitin Mundaware inaugurated the tournament. NDCA officials, including Chairman Vinod Shah, Secretary Sameer Rakte, and Treasurer Hemant Deshpande, were present. In the first match, Panchavati Warriors defeated JC Riders by nine wickets. JC Riders scored 143/8 in 20 overs, with Ganesh Chaudhary making 46 runs. Dhairyasheel Sonawane and Vishvesh took two wickets each. In response, Panchavati Warriors chased the target in 12.4 overs, with Swapnil Rajput scoring an unbeaten 86 off 41 balls. He was supported by Sanjay Pingale's 45 runs. In the second match, Pro Jumbo won against Maratha Warriors by three wickets. Maratha Warriors set a target of 196/5 in 20 overs, with Vishal Ghayal scoring 68 and Sameer Kale 58. Pro Jumbo chased it down in 19.1 overs, scoring 199/9. Contributions came from Harshal Salunke (31), Sandeep Bodke (33), and Vinay Bhambare (28). Puneet Maan took three wickets for Maratha Warriors.

Maratha High School players get scholarships



NASHIK: Sixteen players from Maratha High School, run by Maratha Vidya Prasarak Samaj Sanstha, have been awarded sports scholarships totalling Rs. 3.08 lakh under the Nashik Municipal Corporation's financial assistance scheme. The scholarships were

distributed in the presence of Deputy Municipal Commissioner (Social Welfare) Nitin Ner, Municipal sports department head Anand Bhalerao, school principal Purushottam Thorat, vice principal Rangnath Ugaile, supervisor Rajendra Shelke, and others. Books were presented to the

guests, and Ner informed students about various scholarship opportunities for players excelling in competitions. The school's under-14 boys' handball team, which secured first place in the state-level school handball competition, received scholarships of rs. 20,000 per player. Additionally, swimmer Rudra Bachhav was awarded Rs. 8,000.

The players trained under sports teachers Jayant Aher, Mangala Shinde, and Suhas Kharde. Sports teacher Anil Ugale completed the programme and supervisor Shankar Kotwal proposed the vote of thanks.

Students shine in JEE-Main exam

NASHIK: Students of AMRO Junior College of Arts, Science, and Commerce, Rajur Bahula, have delivered outstanding performances in the JEE-Main 2025 examination. The National Testing Agency recently announced the results for the first session. Om Gaidhani secured the highest score in the college with a 99.955 percentile. Seventeen other students, including Vedant Bhat (99.896), Harsh Mhaske (99.816), Ashish Rakibe (99.508), Prasad Wagh (99.409), Parth Achat (99.380), Shreyas Shukla (99.230), Ayush Bodke

(99.071), and Satej Kolhe (99.051), scored above the 99 percentile. Additionally, over 50 students achieved more than 95 percentile. The students were guided by principal Dr. Girish Patil, Prof. Vishal Aher, Prof. Darshana Aher, and other faculty members. AMRO Institute director Prof. Sunanda Soni, AMRO College of Hotel Management principal Dr. Rohan Soni, principal Dr. Girish Patil and Prof. Vishal Aher highlighted that the college has continued its tradition of producing top results in JEE-Main.

