

Direction signs in disarray

Faulty signboards create confusion



NASHIK: Directional arches and boards installed to guide devotees and tourists visiting Nashik are in a poor state. Many signboards across the city are either broken or missing, making it difficult for visitors to find their way. As a result, tourists face unnecessary confusion and inconvenience. Citizens have urged the Nashik Municipal Corporation (NMC) to take immediate action and address the issue.

The municipal corporation had installed directional arches and boards on key routes leading to major religious sites such as Trimbakeshwar, Panchavati, Kalaram Temple, Saptashrungi Gad, and other pilgrimage destinations.

However, at several locations, the text on these signs has faded, and in some cases, the boards have completely collapsed. Due to this, devotees and tourists are receiving incor-

rect or no guidance, leading to wasted time and money. Despite repeated complaints, no effective steps have been taken so far.

With an increasing number of devotees expected in the coming months, citizens are demanding immediate repairs and installation of new directional boards. Proper signage is crucial to ensure that visitors can navigate the city without difficulty.

Need for clearly visible signboards

Nashik is one of the country's most important religious and tourist destinations, yet its direction boards are in a terrible state. Many are missing, broken, or have illegible text, making it difficult for devotees to find their way. While some visitors rely on digital navigation, online maps often lead them through narrow lanes, causing

additional problems. Vehicles frequently get stuck in these cramped spaces, creating inconvenience for both visitors and locals.

Not all devotees own smartphones, and many elderly visitors are not familiar with digital navigation. This makes it essential to have properly placed direction boards at every major junction and square in the city.

Current situation

- Several important locations lack proper direction boards, making navigation difficult.
- Devotees visiting Panchavati and Godaghat struggle due to the absence of signboards to head for different ghats.
- Trimbakeshwar, despite being a major pilgrimage site, many directional boards on the route are missing.
- The number of direction boards on the way to Saptashrungi Gad is insufficient, causing confusion among devotees.
- Thousands of travelers pass through the main bus stand and Mumbai-Agra highway daily, but clear signage for key routes is lacking.

Healthcare services

District civil hospital tops state



NASHIK: A recent survey has revealed that Nashik district's government hospitals, including the district civil hospital, rural hospitals, sub-district hospitals, and general hospitals, have provided the highest number of healthcare services in Maharashtra during the current financial year.

According to the hospital index compiled by the state health department, Nashik district civil hospital ranked first in terms of patient care and treatment facilities.

The number of patients receiving treatment in the hospital is higher compared to other hospitals, claimed the hospital administration. The review assessed

government hospitals across the state from April 2024 to January 25, 2025. Various factors were considered, including patient management, availability of medical facilities, accurate diagnosis by specialists, necessary medical examinations, timely surgeries, supportive treatments, and overall healthcare efficiency. Nashik hospitals outperformed others in multiple categories, securing the top position in the district-wise hospital index.

Nashik district's healthcare network, consisting of 32 hospitals including the district civil hospital, sub-district hospitals, rural hospitals, and general hospitals, recorded the

This success has been achieved due to the teamwork of health officers and staff from the district civil hospital, sub-district, rural, and general hospitals. The people of Nashik district are benefiting from improved healthcare services. Our medical teams work tirelessly to ensure high-quality treatment, and this recognition reflects their dedication.

- Dr. Charudatta Shinde, district civil surgeon

highest number of patient treatments in Maharashtra.

Nashik's government hospitals have consistently provided superior healthcare services, ensuring that patients receive timely medical attention and necessary treatments.

The district's performance in OPD and IPD treatments, surgical procedures, and diagnostic tests surpasses that of other major districts, including Pune and Amravati.

Nashik district civil hospital

Treatment Type	2nd-ranked district
OPD	- 21,69,633 patients
IPD	- 1,82,636 patients
Major surgeries	- 16,188
Minor surgeries	- 4 1,823
Laboratory tests	- 20,43,024
X-rays	- 1,80,726

Sahil selected for BCCI U-19 elite camp

NASHIK: Nashik's young cricketing talent, Sahil Parakh, has earned a spot in the Under-19 elite camp of the National Cricket Academy (NCA), organized by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). The camp, led by former Test cricketer VVS Laxman, will take place from April 2 to 28 under the BCCI's Center of Excellence in Bengaluru.



The camp will be conducted at multiple locations across India, with six players from the Maharashtra Cricket Association making the cut. Sahil Parakh and Yogesh Chavan have been placed in Team C for the elite camp in Puducherry, while Shubham Kadam, Sahil Nalge, Neeraj Joshi, and Sushrut Sawant will train at other venues.

Sahil has been making waves in Indian cricket.

In September 2024, during an ODI series against Australia, he showcased his talent with an unbeaten 109 off just 75 balls, including 14 fours and 5 sixes, leading India to a nine-wicket victory in 22 overs. His stellar performance also earned him the vice-captaincy of the Maharashtra U-19 team for the Vinoo Mankad Trophy.

This is Sahil's third selection for the NCA's national-level special camp, a testament to his consistent performances at state and national levels. His achievement has been met with great enthusiasm in Nashik's cricketing circles. Nashik District Cricket Association chairman Vinod Shah, secretary Sameer Rakate, team coach and other office bearers have extended their congratulations and best wishes for his future endeavours.

Bhumika wins bronze in athletics c'ship



NASHIK: Nashik's young sprinter, Bhumika Nehte, clinched a bronze medal in the 200-metre race at the 20th National Athletics Championship for the youth category, held in Patilputra, Bihar, from March 10 to 12. She clocked an impressive 24.99 seconds to secure third place, bringing glory to Maharashtra.

Bhumika has been training consistently for the past four years at the Late Meentai Thackeray divisional sports complex in Panchavati under the guidance of national N.I.S. coach Siddharth Wagh.

District Athletics Association president Hemant Pandey, secretary Sunil Tavargiri, and others from the sports fraternity congratulated her on this success.

NMC education officer Patil under investigation

NASHIK: Following a motion moved by Nashik teacher's constituency MLC Kishore Darade in the State Assembly, Minister Uday Samant has ordered an investigation into Nashik Municipal Corporation (NMC) education officer Bapusaheb Patil. Patil has been transferred, and Additional Municipal Commissioner Pradeep Chaudhary has been directed to submit an investigation report within 15 days.

As part of the inquiry, the investigation committee has taken possession of key documents related to the alleged corruption cases from the NMC education department. These documents will be thoroughly examined before

the final report is submitted. Despite the ongoing investigation, Patil has yet to receive official orders regarding his transfer and continues to work at the NMC headquarters. Patil is accused of financial irregularities in teacher adjustment transfers and principal appointments. The issue gained attention in the State Legislature, leading to calls for a formal probe. The inquiry committee, comprising Additional Municipal Commissioner Pradeep Chaudhary, Deputy Municipal Commissioner (Administration) Laxmikant Satalkar, Chief Accounts Officer Dattatray Pathrut, and Chief Auditor Balwant Gaikwad, has begun its work.

Political recommendations?

It is understood that ruling MLAs have reportedly issued recommendation letters for 52 teachers recruited by the Municipal Corporation from the Zilla Parishad and other institutions.

Swar SaVaNa tomorrow

NASHIK: The eighth edition of Swar SaVaNa, a cultural musical programme organized by Sarvajani Vachanalaya (SaVaNa), will take place tomorrow (March 15). This year's programme will feature a performance by renowned classical and semi-classical singer Harshad Golekar, known for his expertise in Raag-Rang, Abhangs, and Natya Sangeet.

Golekar will be accompanied by Venkatesh Tambe on tabla, Sanskar Janorkar on harmonium, Vikas Chavan on tanpura, and Sachin Tidke handling the sound. The programme is conceptualized by SaVaNa, Nashik.

Prominent developer Prakash Patil will grace the event as the chief guest, while SaVaNa president Prof. Dilip Phadke will preside over the programme. The programme will commence at 6 pm at M.S. Aurangabadkar hall in the SaVaNa campus.

Women's health is vital: Dr. Bangar

NASHIK: Advanced medical technology has made treatments for fertility,



cancer, and other diseases more accessible. Women should prioritize their health while making use of these facilities, as a healthy society depends on the well-being of women, said Dr. Anita Bangar, director of Sparsh women's hospital.

She was speaking as the chief guest at a programme organized by Chetana Luxaria Mahila Mandal and Mhalsai Laughter Club on the eve of International Women's Day at Chetna Luxaria in Chetanagar on Friday (March 7). Social worker Sujata Shirsath, Sanjay Sanap, Jitendra Yeole, Prashant Patil, and others were also present.

Dr. Bangar emphasized that while women take care of their families, their own health often gets neglected. She urged women to prioritize their well-being and seek timely medical advice without fear, as modern treatment options are available. The programme also featured laughter demonstrations by Seema Devdas and Mansi Gadekar.

Holi celebrations

The Nalanda Academy



The festival of Holi, also known as Vasant Utsav, was celebrated with great enthusiasm at The Nalanda Academy Kindergarten. The festival, which marks the arrival of spring and holds deep cultural significance, was joyously embraced by the little ones, spreading colours of happiness all around.

Dressed in pristine white attire, the tiny tots celebrated Holi in an eco-friendly way using colourful flower petals. Teachers took the opportunity to educate the young learners about the importance of conserving water and the significance of Holi, emphasizing the need to avoid harmful chemical colours.

The celebration was filled with cheer as the children joyfully participated in the festivities while learning valuable lessons about safety and environmental responsibility. The spirit of Holi was truly brought to life as the little ones exhibited enthusiasm and happiness, making the event a memorable one.

Global School



Global School celebrated Holi festival in its campus, aimed at educating students about the significance of this ancient festival.

The evening began with a special assembly where teachers explained the legend of Holika Dahan, narrating the story of Prahlad, Holika, and the victory of good over evil. Students enthusiastically participated in discussions on the festival's importance, understanding how it symbolizes the triumph of righteousness and the burning away of negativity.

The highlight of the celebration was the ritual bonfire, set up in the school courtyard with eco-friendly materials. Students, along with faculty members, gathered around the sacred

flames, offering prayers and chanting traditional hymns. The school emphasized the environmental aspect, urging students to celebrate responsibly by avoiding harmful substances in Holi celebrations. Speaking on the occasion, the school principal said, "Festivals like Holika Dahan are not just about rituals; they teach us valuable

life lessons. Through such celebrations, we aim to connect our students with their cultural roots and inspire them to uphold moral values in life."

The event concluded with students sharing their thoughts on the relevance of Holika Dahan in today's world, reinforcing the message of truth, resilience, and positivity.

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Quality of Godavari water sparks debate

Officials further asserted that the flowing water—as opposed to stagnant sections—fell within the "best to excellent" category. This led to public speculation about whether Godavari water could be as clean as mineral water, despite persistent reports of pollution.

However, environmentalists and local activists working on the Godavari pollution issue strongly disagree with these findings. The Bombay High Court, in response to a petition regarding river pollution, had previously in 2018 had issued orders to the authorities to display boards on the banks of river Godavari declaring

that the water is not safe for health and unfit for use. Since that time, years down the line the situation of the water in Godavari hardly seems to have changed.

Given the presence of untreated sewage discharge, invasive hyacinths, and solid waste dumping, many are questioning how the water can be classified as "medium to excellent." The contradictions between official reports and visible pollution have left the public confused about the river's actual condition.

For thousands of devotees, the Godavari River is sacred, with many consuming its water as Teerth

(holy water). The upcoming Simhastha Kumbh Mela is expected to attract millions of pilgrims, who will take ritual baths in the river.

With MPCB's claims of good water quality conflicting with environmental realities, concerns are being raised about potential health risks associated with consuming or bathing in contaminated water.

Environmentalists have accused MPCB officials of misleading the public with reports that do not reflect ground reality.

They emphasize that clean water should not just exist on paper but must be ensured through actual pollution control efforts.