

Protest by daily wage workers ends

NASHIK: The five-month-long protest by daily wage workers in front of the Tribal Development Commissionerate came to an end on Sunday. The decision followed a video conference discussion on Saturday with Tribal Development Minister Dr. Ashok Uike, in which the employees were assured that Class 4 and Class 3 daily wage workers would be recruited through outsourcing. The protest was officially called off at 12:30 pm in the presence of Police Commissioner Sandeep Karnik, reopening the road from Trimbak Naka to Gadkari Chowk.

Daily wage teachers from tribal ashramshalas had been protesting since July 9, demanding government orders for their recruitment. Multiple rounds of talks with au-

thorities initially failed, but the employees contin-



ued their agitation. While the government provided permanent appointments to those who had completed 10 years of service, the protest persisted as many did not accept the outsourcing-based recruitment. On November 20, the protesters finally accepted recruitment through outsourcing and submitted a letter to the government, but the issue remained unresolved.

During the video con-

ference on December 6, Minister Dr. Uike ad-

vised the concerns of the protesters, agreeing to provide jobs to Class 4 workers and daily wage Class 3 teachers through outsourcing. Additionally, he promised to appoint 50 teachers for state-level work.

Following this assurance, the protesters withdrew their agitation. "The protest caused significant traffic congestion and inconvenience to Nashikites. We apolo-

gize for the disruption and thank the public for their cooperation," said Lalit Kumar Chaudhary, president of the Sanghatana.

A follow-up meeting with the tribal minister has been scheduled in Nagpur tomorrow, December 9 at 6 pm, where it is expected that the remaining issues concerning daily wage teachers will be resolved.

Road breathing freely

The stretch from Trimbak Naka to Gadkari Chowk, which had been blocked due to the protest, was cleared after the agitation ended. Police teams removed the barricades, allowing smooth traffic flow and relief for vehicles drivers and commuters..

Objections over voter list

Verification drive speeds up

NASHIK: Following the filing of 9,772 objections against the ward-wise draft voter lists for the upcoming municipal elections, the civic administration has intensified its verification process. Additional staff has been deployed, and each objection will now be verified through on-site inspection.

So far, 5,181 objections have been scrutinized, and 952 voters have been issued notices. Officials will now visit every location mentioned by complainants to verify the remaining objections. With municipal elections likely in January, the administration is under pressure to complete the verification process on time.

The draft voter lists were found to contain over 88,000 duplicate entries, names of deceased persons, and serious errors, including voters being listed in the wrong wards. As a result, several political parties—Shiv Sena (UBT), Congress, NCP (Sharad Pawar),

CPI(M), BJP, and Shiv Sena (Shinde)—filed large num-

bers of objections. After re-

quests for an extension, the State Election Commission extended the deadline to December 3, taking the total objections to 9,772.

Work continues on holi-



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Municipal Commissioner and Administrator Manisha Khatri and Authorized Officer Laxmikant Satalkar, verification work is being carried out even on weekends. All objections must be resolved

mediate field inspections. With major discrepancies now identified, the administration is accelerating efforts to rectify the voter lists before the election schedule is announced.

Aayam Nashik's role important in Simhastha: Commissioner Singh

NASHIK: Simhastha Kumbh Mela Commissioner Shekhar Singh said Aayam Nashik's participation in the upcoming Simhastha Kumbh Mela will be significant, calling the event a "Mahakumbh of faith and unity." He was speaking at the two-day Godavari Samvad 2025, which concluded on Sunday.

During the programme, senior kirtankar Dr. Charudatta Afhale received the Swatantryaveer Savarkar Sanman Puraskar. Aayam Nashik president Dr. Bharat Kelkar explained the background of the award before Afhale delivered a spiritual discourse on Savarkar and social harmony.

Writer-thinkers Dr. Anand Ranganathan and Abhijit Jog addressed the first session, stressing the need for self-understanding, internal reform and updating colonial-era laws.

In another session, spiritual speaker Acharya Mithilesh Nandini Sharan discussed the Akhada

tradition and the spiritual history of Simhastha, giving examples



from the Vedas, Upanishads and the Bhagavad Gita.

A final session featuring Deepak Karanjikar, Abhijit Jog and Shefali Vaidya explored the theme "Besieged India," highlighting historic invasions, cultural attacks, and the need for unity and self-reliance as India faces modern external influence and internal challenges.

Demand to solve civic issues in Ward No 24

NASHIK: Shiv Sena (UBT) and the Satkarya Foundation have demanded to solve civic issues in Ward Number 24 — including areas such as Govindnagar, Pangre Farm, Khande Farm and Old Cidco and have warned of a strong agitation if long-pending civic issues are not resolved immediately. They submitted a statement to Municipal Commissioner Manisha Khatri, demanding urgent action.

According to the statement, multiple localities in Ward Number 24 are suffering due to poor roads, contaminated and inadequate water supply, neglected parks and jogging tracks, choked drainage lines, and the absence of proper rain gutters, which leads to water entering homes every monsoon. Garbage accumulation has further worsened hygiene conditions.

It has been mentioned that although Rs. 25 lakh was sanctioned for the road from Karmayoginagar to Bhamre Misal in Khodenagar and tenders were issued, the work has stalled due to lack of funds. They also demanded widening of the RD Circle-Bajiraoagar road to 24 metres and immediate work on the blocked Kalika Park rain sewage.

First case registered in Nashik against Rapido

NASHIK: The first offence in the city has been registered against the director of Rapido (Roppen Transportation Pvt. Ltd.) for illegally transporting passengers on two-wheelers. The Regional Transport Department has filed a complaint with Panchavati Police, further escalating Rapido's troubles

in Maharashtra.

A few days ago, Transport Minister Pratap Sar-naik directed the State Transport Department to take action against app-based bike taxi services like Rapido and Uber for violating rules, risking passenger safety, and operating without approval. Acting on these instruc-

tions, the Transport Department has intensified its crackdown.

Recently, the state government announced an e-bike policy, after which several app-based bike taxi services began operations. However, many platforms are appointing drivers without proper training in regulations and

passenger safety, while using private or regular bikes for rides.

This has raised serious concerns, especially after a recent passenger death involving such an illegal bike taxi. Despite the incident, these companies continue to operate in violation of government norms.

Follow the rules

Authorities stress that passenger safety must remain the top priority, and operations should comply with rules and safety standards without exploiting drivers. The crackdown will continue against app-based bike taxi companies that break regulations and endanger commuters. Notably, offences are being registered against company directors, not individual riders.

Offence in Nashik

According to Motor Vehicle Inspector Yogesh Gorakshnath Sapike of the Nashik RTO, no licence or permit has ever been issued to Rapido for operating petrol-engine bike taxis. Despite this, the company has continued transporting passengers via its app in Nashik city and collecting fares. The complaint states that this amounts to deceiving the government. The case is being investigated by Police Inspector Sumil Pawar.

Use of pvt vehicles for profit

The Nashik RTO's investigation found that Rapido has been ferrying passengers under the guise of "ride sharing". The vehicles used are privately owned, and the Motor Vehicles Act strictly prohibits using private vehicles for commercial passenger transport. Rapido has reportedly violated these rules for financial gain.

Vidya Prabhodini Prashala student wins medals



NASHIK: Vidya Prabhodini Prashala English Medium School (Secondary Section) celebrated a proud moment as its student excelled at the 22nd State Level Archery Competition 2025. Organized by the Maharashtra Archery Association in collaboration with the Washim District Archery Association, the event was held from December 4 to 7.

Ovi Khedekar represented the school and secured a silver medal in the team event, along with a bronze medal in the individual elimination round, bringing laurels to the school community.

Godavari Parikrama begins from Trimbakeshwar

NASHIK: The Godavari Parikrama, an ancient pilgrimage of deep religious, spiritual and mythological significance, commenced on Saturday at 11 am from Trimbakeshwar, the sacred origin of the Godavari river.

This year's Parikrama carries a special distinction as it will travel across four states — Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu — covering a vast spiritual landscape. More than 600 saints and mahants from India and abroad are participating, making it one of the most significant religious gatherings of recent times.

The event began with a ritual bath at Kushavart Tirth, followed by worship and anointment of Lord Trimbakeshwar Mahadev. After the initial ceremonies, the parikrama set out with traditional

religious slogans, bhajans and kirtans resonating through the pilgrimage route. The first halt



was at Paithan in the Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar district, where participants rested before continuing the journey.

The inauguration witnessed the presence of several eminent spiritual leaders, including: Jagadguru Dwaracharya Malook Peethadhishwar Swami Shri Rajendra Das Devacharya Ma-

haraj, Jagatguru Ramanandacharya Swami Ramakrishnacharya Mahayogi Siddhababa Maharaj from Nepal, Mahant Shri Laxmandasji Maharaj from Panchmukhi Darbar, Bhilwara (Rajasthan), Shri Tribhuvandasji Maharaj, Mahamandaleshwar Ishwardasji Maharaj (Rishikesh), Shri Girishdasji Maharaj (Ayodhya), Shri Gaurishankardasji Maharaj along with several other distinguished saints from Ayodhya, Vrindavan, Haridwar and the Mewar Mandal.

The Parikrama has been organized under the guidance of Peethadhishwar Jagatguru Mahayogi Ramanandacharya Siddhababa from Nepal, who has overseen the spiritual and organizational preparations.

The yatra will pass through multiple key religious locations and is scheduled to conclude on December 21 at Trimbakeshwar.

Bal Bhavan felicitates 185 prize-winning students



NASHIK: A total of 185 students from the city were felicitated for their outstanding performance in various competitions organized by the Sarvajanic Vachanalaya Bal Bhavan.

The programme began with an engaging magic show by magician Abhijeet Kannadkar, which delighted the students. Working president Sanjay Karanjkar and

chief secretary Suresh Gaidhani welcomed and felicitated the chief guests.

During the event, the chief guest encouraged children to develop a strong reading habit and to treat books as their lifelong companions. The programme was completed by Sunetra Mandal, while theatre secretary Jayesh Barve proposed the vote of thanks.

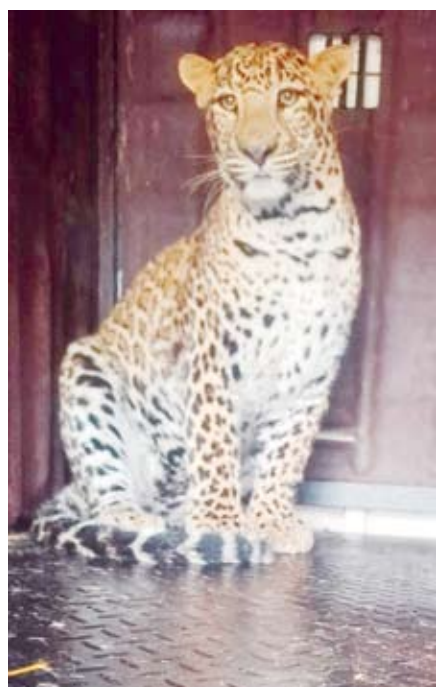
Leopard trapped in Gonde shivar

NASHIK: A female leopard that had been creating panic in the Katwan farm area of Gonde Shivar in Sinnar taluka of the district was successfully trapped by the forest department on Sunday morning.

For the past few days, continuous leopard movement had sparked fear among villagers. Dense maize crops in the area had offered suitable hiding spaces for the animal, putting farmers at risk during routine agricultural work. In response, the forest department intensified patrolling and monitored the animal's movements closely.

A cage had been placed several days ago in farm survey number 692 belonging to farmer Ganesh Bhima Tambe. After days of waiting, the leopard finally walked into the trap, bringing much-needed relief to the local community.

The rescue operation was carried out under the guidance of forest range officer Harshal Parekar, with support from forest conservator Kalpana Waghare, forester Pritesh Sarode, and forest guards Rupavali Gaikwad, Rohit Lonare, Nikhil Vaidya and Vasant Awhad. The trapped leopard has been shifted safely to the forest nursery in Mohdari.



Meanwhile, the forest department has urged citizens to remain cautious, avoid venturing out at night, and stay alert while working in the fields.

Vijay Merchant Trophy

Neel's 6-wicket burst stuns Hyderabad

NASHIK: Neel Chandratre of the Nashik District Cricket Association delivered a remarkable performance on the opening day of the BCCI Under-16 Vijay Merchant Trophy, taking six wickets in Maharashtra's first match of the season against Hyderabad at Mulapadu.

Neel's disciplined bowling proved crucial in restricting Hyderabad to 301 runs in 80.4 overs. His biggest breakthrough came when he dismissed Hyderabad's top scorer, Ram Charan, who rescued his team from 70 for 4 with a superb 148-run knock. Neel eventually ended Hyderabad's innings by taking his sixth wicket.

His exceptional bowling figures read: 21.4 overs, 6 maidens, 50 runs, 6 wickets, with an economy rate of 2.31 runs per over.

At stumps on Day 1, Ma-

harashtra began their reply and stood at 10 for no loss in 1 over.



The focus now shifts to how the team capitalizes on Neel's bowling brilliance on Day 2.

Maharashtra, placed in the Elite Group of the three-day format, will play five league matches between December 7 and 31.

Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 tourney

Sahil Parakh debuts in senior Maharashtra team

NASHIK: Sahil Parakh, Nashik District Cricket Association's international young talent and aggressive left-handed opener, has made his debut for the senior Maharashtra team. Currently leading Maharashtra in the BCCI 2025-26 Under-19 Cooch Behar Trophy, he earned an immediate call-up for the Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 match against Uttar Pradesh in Kolkata.

Batting first, Uttar Pradesh scored 131 runs in 19 overs, with Rinku Singh contributing a top score of 45. Maharashtra's bowlers kept tight control to restrict the innings. Chasing 132, Prithvi Shaw and Arshin Kulkarni set a strong

platform with a 53-run opening partnership. Making his debut at No. 3 against Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Kartik Tyagi, Sahil scored a useful 18 off 14 balls, including four boundaries. Maharashtra matched the target in 19 overs, finishing at 131 for 7.

Maharashtra next faces Goa today, December 8, in the tournament. The remaining league fixtures are scheduled against Andhra on December 8 in Pune and Karnataka on December 16 in Mysore. NDCA chairman Vinod Shah and secretary Sameer Rakate congratulated Sahil on his selection and extended their best wishes for his future achievements.

