

Simhastha Kumbh Mela

# NTKMA, NMC crack down on delayed road works

**NASHIK:** The Nashik Trimbakeshwar Kumbh Mela Authority (NTKMA) and Nashik Municipal Corporation (NMC) have initiated strict action against contractors responsible for delays and quality lapses in road infrastructure projects being undertaken ahead of Simhastha Kumbh Mela 2027.

During a review meeting, NTKMA Commissioner Shekhar Singh and NMC Commissioner Manisha Khatri assessed the progress of Simhastha Kumbh Mela-related road works, road restoration projects, underground utility works and monsoon preparedness

measures. Expressing dissatisfaction over the pace of work at several locations, they directed officials to issue show-cause notices and impose penalties on contractors failing to meet deadlines and prescribed quality standards.

The Commissioners adopted a zero-tolerance approach towards negligence and instructed contractors to deploy additional manpower, machinery and resources to accelerate project execution. They warned that penalties would be increased if visible improvement is not achieved within the stipulated time. The review also highlighted shortcomings

observed during recent site inspections, including incomplete works, quality deficiencies and inadequate safety measures. All executing agencies were directed to immediately rectify these issues and minimise inconvenience to the public during ongoing works. NMC Commissioner Manisha Khatri said the civic body has adopted a zero-tolerance policy towards delays and poor-quality work. "Contractors who fail to follow timelines and quality parameters will face strict penalties. Municipal officials responsible for monitoring these projects will also be held accountable," she said.

# Five stations undergo makeover

**NASHIK:** Central Railway's Bhusawal division has accelerated infrastructure development at Devlali, Nashik Road, Odha, Kherwadi and Kasbe Sukene stations in preparation for Simhastha Kumbh Mela 2027.

The projects aim to improve passenger handling, operational flexibility, crowd management and amenities through additional platforms, yard remodelling, Electronic Interlocking (EI), loop and stabling lines, Foot Over Bridges (FOBs), platform shelters, holding areas, water supply systems, toilets, sewage treatment plants and staff facilities.

At Devlali, work is underway on two 555-metre high-level platforms, EI involving 73 routes, FOBs with ramps, a 100 KLD Sewage Treatment Plant, stabling lines, pit and sick lines, track machine huts and staff quarters.

Nashik Road station is being upgraded with 12-metre and 6-metre-wide FOBs, expanded platform shelters, improved circulation areas, additional water supply and



toilet facilities, with special focus on crowd dispersal during Simhastha Parvani days.

Odha station is getting addi-

tional loop lines, six stabling lines, EI works, FOBs and holding areas. Possession of 3.43 hectares of acquired land was taken on May 19, 2026, while acquisition of an additional 0.1 hectare has also been completed.

At Kherwadi, plans include an island platform, stabling lines, FOBs with ramps, passenger amenities and circulating area development. Land acquisition and yard remodelling works are progressing.

Kasbe Sukene station is being strengthened with loop and stabling lines, platform development, FOBs, passenger amenities and holding areas. Land acquisition procedures are also advancing.

Dedicated holding areas, additional toilets, shelters and enhanced water storage facilities are

being developed at all five stations. Railway officials said civil, track, signalling, electrical and traction works are being executed in a coordinated manner to ensure timely completion with minimal impact on train operations.

According to Central Railway officials, civil, track, signalling and telecommunications, traction distribution and electrical works are being executed in a coordinated and phased manner. Continuous monitoring is being undertaken at the divisional level to ensure timely completion of the projects with minimal disruption to train operations.

With Simhastha Kumbh Mela 2027 expected to attract lakhs of devotees to Nashik and Trimbakeshwar, Central Railway said the infrastructure upgrades will help provide safe, efficient and comfortable travel facilities during one of the country's largest religious gatherings.

# NTKMA Commissioner reviews project quality checks



**NASHIK:** With several infrastructure works gaining momentum for the upcoming Simhastha Kumbh Mela 2027, Nashik Trimbakeshwar Kumbh Mela Authority (NTKMA) Commissioner Shekhar Singh on Tuesday visited the Third Party Quality Control (TPQC) laboratory to review the testing procedures and quality assurance mechanisms being implemented for various ongoing projects. During the visit, NTKMA Commissioner Shekhar Singh

reviewed the laboratory facilities, testing processes, documentation systems and mechanisms adopted for ensuring compliance with prescribed technical standards. He interacted with officials and technical teams regarding various quality parameters, including material testing, concrete quality assessment and adherence to approved specifications.

The Commissioner directed officials to further strengthen the quality monitoring framework by introduc-

ing a mobile testing laboratory mechanism to enable timely testing directly at project sites. He emphasised that apart from routine testing based on Requests for Inspection (RFI), random quality checks should also be carried out across project locations to maintain consistent standards.

He further instructed that all tests mentioned under the approved project scope should be carried out as per the defined schedule and relevant specifications. A comprehensive digital and physical record of all quality tests, including reports, results, dates and site details, should be maintained to ensure effective monitoring and review.

The Commissioner also reviewed the procedures followed for concrete quality testing and instructed that tests should strictly comply with approved design mix parameters and technical norms. He directed contractors, consultants and supervising agencies to work in coordination and further strengthen quality assurance systems at every stage of project execution.

# Ring Road project

# No notices to affected farmers until final meet



**NASHIK:** A delegation of farmers affected by the Ring Road project, led by MLA Devyani Pharande, held a detailed meeting with District Collector Ayush Prasad to discuss pending issues related to land acquisition and compensation.

During the meeting, farmers raised concerns

over assurances previously given by the administration that are yet to be implemented. Following the discussion, the District Collector directed officials not to issue any notices to farmers from Makhmalabad, Matori, Mungare, Jalalpur, Mahadevpur and Govardhan villages until the final review meeting is held.

The farmers also sought details of the four Ring Road alignments submitted to the High Court. Concerns regarding low compensation for high-way-side land in Mad-sangvi were discussed, following which the Collector ordered corrections in official maps and a re-

assessment of land rates. Positive discussions were also held on re-evaluating compensation in Pathardi, Vadner Dumala, Gaulane, Vihitgaon, Pimpalgaon Bahula and Madsangvi.

MLA Pharande said farmers are not opposed to development but must receive fair compensation for their land. The Collector assured that village-wise meetings and site inspections would be conducted over the next three days.

A final review meeting is scheduled on June 8 in the presence of ministers Girish Mahajan, Chhagan Bhujbal, Narhari Zirwal and Dada Bhuse, along with other public representatives, to decide the next course of action on the Ring Road project.

# Rising industrial demand puts pressure on fuel supply chain

**NASHIK:** Irregular fuel supplies over the past few months have disrupted the fuel distribution chain, leading to a sharp rise in demand at retail petrol pumps and raising concerns over potential shortages in the district.

Despite the government's special mechanism to ensure adequate fuel supply for industries, large consumers such as road contractors and companies maintaining private fuel storage facilities are not receiving sufficient allocations. As a result, they have increasingly turned to retail petrol pumps to meet their requirements.

abroad. However, these supply channels have either reduced significantly or stopped altogether, making it difficult to meet industrial fuel requirements.

The shift of industrial consumers to retail outlets has led to a sudden surge in fuel sales at petrol pumps, placing pressure on inventories.

Pump operators say they are facing challenges in maintaining adequate stocks of diesel and petrol, while shortages have started emerging in some areas.

Meanwhile, the district administration has attributed supply disruptions to delays in RTGS payments by petrol pump operators. However, the Petrol Pump Owners' Association has strongly denied the allegation.

# FAMPEDA seeks crackdown on illegal fuel sales

**NASHIK:** The Federation of All Maharashtra Petrol Dealers Association (FAMPEDA) has urged the state government to take strict action against the growing illegal fuel trade while ensuring that compliant petrol pump dealers are not subjected to unnecessary harassment.

In a memorandum submitted to the government and concerned departments, the association demanded a clear and uniform policy for fuel sales and distribution across the state. While supporting strict action against illegal fuel traders, FAMPEDA said honest petrol pump operators should not suffer due to enforcement measures.

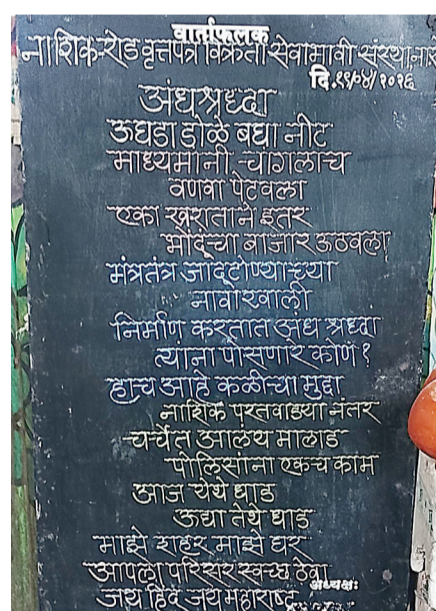
The association pointed out that diesel-like products are being widely used in boilers, industrial gen-

erators, stone crushers and agro-processing units, and called for clear government guidelines on the sale and distribution of such products.

"If the current situation continues, it could seriously affect the petrol pump business. Dealers are already facing difficulties in complying with administrative and oil company regulations, leading to growing uncertainty in the sector," said Amit Gupta, president of FAMPEDA.

The association also demanded an end to unnecessary punitive actions against petrol pump dealers and called on the state government, district administration, oil marketing companies and other stakeholders to formulate practical and uniform guidelines to streamline the fuel distribution system.

# Weekly board writings keep readers engaged in Nashik Road



**NASHIK:** In an era dominated by digital media and the internet, the Nashik Road Newspaper Vendors' Sevabhavi Sanstha continues to attract public attention through its unique "Board Writing"

initiative. Located beneath the Swatantraveer V.D. Savarkar flyover opposite the Nashik Road police station, the public display board has been serving as a medium of awareness and information dissemination for several years.

Every Sunday, Sanstha member Ismail Pathan compiles key events from the previous week and presents them on the board through original poems, satirical verses and 'charolis' written in his distinctive handwriting. Situated at a busy junction, the board draws the attention of passersby and regular readers alike.

After the weekly update is completed, a digital photograph of the board is taken and widely shared across various social media platforms, helping the content reach a larger audience beyond the locality.

By tracking the events that unfold throughout the week and crafting poems based on them, we publish a new composition every Sunday. These poems also tend to go viral on a large scale across various social media platforms.

- Ismail Pathan, member, Nashik Road Newspaper Vendors' Sevabhavi Sanstha

(Contd. from P-1)

# New army aviators ...

For the first time, officers completing the Combat Aviators Course, Army Helicopter Instructor Course and Remotely Piloted Aircraft Instructor Course received their Flying Wings together, marking a significant step towards the Army's 'Manned-Unmanned Teaming' doctrine. The highlight of the event was Exercise Aviation Shakti, a large-scale combat demonstration featuring Chetak, Cheetah, Dhruv and Rudra helicopters, along with drones, artillery, infantry and armoured units. The exercise showcased coordinated battlefield operations involving multiple combat platforms.

honoured with distinguished awards, including the Lt Col Sumant Mahajan Award, Major Abhayeshkumar Singh Award, Captain Manish Giri (Silver Cheetah) Award and the Major Mohitraj (Chanakya Trophy).

**Predator drones**  
The Army is also set to strengthen its surveillance and strike capabilities with the induction of advanced MQ-9B Predator drones from the United States within the next two years. The drones will complement the existing Heron Mark-1 and Heron Mark-2 fleet, significantly enhancing India's long-range reconnaissance and precision-strike capabilities.

# NMC clears encroachments near Shri Guruji hospital

**NASHIK:** In a bid to ease traffic congestion and improve movement for commuters, the anti-encroachment department of the Nashik Municipal Corporation (NMC) carried out an encroachment removal drive in the areas surrounding Shri Guruji Hospital and Anandwadi Square on Tuesday.

The drive was undertaken following repeated complaints from citizens about traffic congestion and difficulties faced by motorists and pedestrians due to roadside encroachments in the busy locality. Acting on the directives of Municipal Commissioner Manisha Khatri, the anti-encroachment department conducted the drive to clear obstructions and restore smooth traffic flow in the area.

During the drive, the anti-encroachment department personnel removed seven unauthorized kiosks and seized a large quantity of encroached material. In total, three truckloads of material confiscated.

The drive was conducted under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner (Anti-Encroachment) Suvarna Dakhane and led by divisional officer Chandan Ghuge. Teams from the anti-encroachment department carried out the action with the support of personnel from the Nashik West and Satpur divisions.

Officials and staff members including Tanaji Nigal, Vinayak Jadhav, Swapnil Bhamre, Bhagwan Suryavanshi, Pramod Aware and Shinde actively participated in the operation.

# Two killed in accident

**NASHIK:** Two persons were killed and two others sustained serious injuries in an accident involving four vehicles on the Mumbai-Agra highway at Rahud Ghat in Chandwad taluka on Tuesday afternoon. The accident also led to traffic disruption on the busy highway for some time.

The mishap occurred around 4 pm near a speed breaker on a steep stretch of Rahud ghat when a Hydra crane, an Ape rickshaw, a pickup vehicle and an Eicher truck travelling from Chandwad towards Malegaon were involved in a collision.

The deceased were identified as Abdul Kayyum Abdul Razaq (62) and Abdul Ahil Abdul

Rehman (11), both residents of Mohanbaba Nagar in Malegaon. They died on the spot due to the severity of the impact.



Two others, Yogesh Ashok Baviskar (27) and Barku Subhash Vaidya (23), both residents of Khadki in Malegaon taluka, suffered serious injuries. They were rushed by ambulance to the sub-district hospital in Chandwad, where they received preliminary treatment before

being referred to a hospital in Malegaon for advanced medical care.

Following the accident, traffic movement through Rahud ghat was affected as police and rescue teams worked to clear the damaged vehicles and restore normal flow on the highway.

The Chandwad police have taken into custody Anuj Sanjay Singh (22), the driver of the trailer transporting the Hydra crane involved in the accident. On receiving information about the incident, relatives of the deceased and injured gathered at the Chandwad sub-district hospital.

Police inspector Kailas Wagh is supervising the investigation, and further inquiries are underway to ascertain the exact cause of the accident.