

Traffic chaos continues as Ramwadi bridge work misses deadline



NASHIK: Thousands of commuters, particularly in the Panchavati area, continued to face severe traffic congestion on Sunday as roadwork near the Ramwadi bridge extended beyond the deadline announced by the city traffic police.

According to the traffic diversion notification, restrictions related to the drainage

pipeline work near Siddheshwar temple and Gharpure Ghat were scheduled to remain in force only until June 6. However, the Nashik Municipal Corporation (NMC) and the contractor continued work on Sunday, forcing the main road to remain closed and triggering widespread traffic snarls across the city.

The excavation work, un-

dertaken as part of a drainage pipeline project, had already disrupted traffic on June 5 and 6. Long queues of vehicles were reported from Ramwadi to the Old Gangapur Naka signal. Although authorities had indicated that normal traffic movement would resume on Sunday, commuters instead encountered major congestion at

Ravivar Karanja, Meher Signal, M.G. Road and adjoining areas.

Motorists remained stranded for long periods in the heat, while traffic police and wardens struggled to manage the situation. The problem was further compounded as several alternative internal roads suggested for diversion had also been

dug up for ongoing civic works.

Meanwhile, traffic pressure increased at key junctions such as Shalimar Chowk, where vehicles from Main Road and Dahipool created long queues, making it difficult and unsafe for pedestrians, particularly senior citizens, women and children, to cross the road.

The continuation of work beyond the officially announced deadline has triggered public anger. Residents questioned why the project was not completed within the stipulated period and criticised the administration for allowing multiple roads to be dug up simultaneously, leading to widespread inconvenience.

Holkar bridge bears the burden

With the Ramwadi bridge route closed, much of the traffic connecting Panchavati, Gangapur Road and Ravivar Karanja has been diverted through Ahilyadevi Holkar bridge. The situation worsened due to political meetings held on M.G. Road, resulting in a heavy influx of vehicles and severe congestion around Meher Signal.

Main Road, Saraf Bazaar choked

Traffic congestion has also intensified on Main Road, Dahipool and Saraf Bazaar. Residents blame the growing number of vehicles entering the narrow market lanes, including luxury four-wheelers driven by shoppers and traders. The resulting bottlenecks have made pedestrian movement difficult, with many citizens expressing frustration over the daily traffic ordeal.

Ring road alignment dispute

Farmers to gherao BJP office today

NASHIK: Farmers opposing the proposed outer ring road project have announced a gherao of the BJP city office today (June 8) at 11 am, alleging that the administration has failed to address their concerns over the project's alignment and land acquisition process despite repeated assurances.

The 66.5-km outer ring road is being planned to manage traffic and crowds during the upcoming Simhastha Kumbh Mela. However, farmers from several villages

have strongly opposed the project, claiming that the proposed alignment would affect fertile agricultural land and residential properties.

The affected farmers, under the banner of the Chhava Krantiveer Sena, had earlier given the district administration a deadline until Monday, June 8 to resolve issues related to the alignment and alleged irregularities in land acquisition. They contend that no concrete action has been taken despite the deadline.

District Collector Ay-

ush Prasad had previously held discussions with the farmers and assured them that their concerns regarding the alignment and acquisition process would be addressed. Last week, farmers also staged a protest outside the residence of minister Narhari Zirwal, following which the minister directed the district administration to resolve the issue by Monday.

Claiming that no visible progress has been made, the farmers have now decided to intensify their agitation by gheraoing the BJP city office.

District Collector Ay-

The proposed alignment will cause substantial losses to farmers, and there are several flaws in the land acquisition process. We have repeatedly protested and given the administration time to find a positive solution. Since no decision appears forthcoming, we will gherao the BJP office on Monday.

- Karan Gaikar, president, Chhava Krantiveer Sena

Tree plantation drive held at Temple Hill

NASHIK: The Deolali Camp Cantonment Board organized a tree plantation



drive at Temple Hill to mark World Environment Day as part of its 'Green Deolali' campaign.

Saplings were planted in the Temple Hill area with the objective of promoting environmental conservation, increasing green cover and reducing pollution. The initiative witnessed the participation of Cantonment Board

officials, including engineer Swapnil Kshatriya, Piyush Patil and health inspector Vijay Salve, along with other staff members.

Officials said the campaign aims to maintain ecological balance through large-scale plantation efforts in the area. They also appealed to citizens to actively participate in tree plantation activities and take responsibility for nurturing the saplings to ensure their survival.

The Cantonment Board emphasized that public participation is essential for the success of the 'Green Deolali' initiative and for creating a cleaner and greener environment.

World Environment Day celebration at Horizon Academy

NASHIK: On the occasion of World Environment Day, Horizon Academy, Pimpalgaon conducted a unique and meaningful activity. Students prepared seed balls by mixing seeds with soil and shaping them into small balls. These seed balls will be dispersed across suitable locations on the school campus during the monsoon season, where rainwater will help them germinate and grow into plants, promoting a greener environment.

The programme also included informative speeches by Miska Jadhav, Mayank Gawali, and Vedant Rayte, who highlighted the importance of environmental conservation and

encouraged everyone to protect nature.



The activity saw enthusiastic participation of principal, teachers, and non-teaching staff. Principal Anita Naidu addressed the students and emphasized the importance of protecting the environment. She

encouraged everyone to adopt eco-friendly practices and contribute to building a greener future.

This initiative inspired students to take small but effective steps toward sustainability and instilled a sense of responsibility towards nature.

Nashik rural police recruitment

Final selection list announced

NASHIK: The final selection list for the recruitment of 210 police constable posts in the Nashik rural police force has been announced. District Superintendent of Police Dr. D. S. Swami released the final merit list and waiting list on June 5 after addressing objections and grievances related to the provisional list published on April 11, 2026.

The results reflect intense competition among candidates in both the written examination and physical tests. In the Open category, Suraj Dadaji Pawar secured the top rank with 140 marks. Adesh Dattu Kande, Akshay Subhash Gosavi and Shubham Popat Dhage followed closely with 139 marks each.

Among women candidates in the Open category, Mayuri Ramkrishna Ahire scored 138 marks, while

Mayuri Rajendra Ahire and Rutuja Vasant Pagar secured 136 marks each. From the OBC category, Mahesh Sahebrao Ahire, Shantanu Prakash Dhikale and Prathamesh Prasad Pimple qualified for the final list with 136 marks each.

In the SC category, Vishal Balu Rokade topped with 144 marks, followed by Akash Popat Jadhav with 131 marks. Dinesh Nana Pimple (133 marks) and Mahendra Rangnath Gawali (132 marks) led the ST category. Under the EWS category, Ritik Nana Deore secured 130 marks, while Mujamil Shaikat Shaikh scored 129 marks to earn selection.

The selected candidates will be informed separately about the schedule for medical examinations and final document verification.

Five candidates decline police jobs

NASHIK: A significant development marked the final stage of the Nashik rural police recruitment process, as five selected candidates voluntarily declined their appointments, paving the way for six candidates from the waiting list to secure places in the final selection list.

District Superintendent of Police Dr. D. S. Swami announced the final selection list on June 5. However, before the publication of the final list, several administrative changes took place. The provisional list for 210 police constable posts had been released on April 11, 2026, following recruitment trials conducted at the Adgaon Police Parade Ground.

During the final verification process, five candidates from the provisional selection list submitted written

requests expressing their unwillingness to join the police force. In addition, one candidate was found ineligible due to discrepancies in submitted documents.

As a result, six vacancies became available. Following the prescribed recruitment rules and reservation criteria, six candidates from the waiting list were promoted to the final selection list.

The unexpected withdrawal of five selected candidates and the subsequent inclusion of six waiting-list candidates has become a notable aspect of this year's recruitment process in Nashik district. While the reasons for declining the appointments have not been officially disclosed, it is believed that some candidates may have secured opportunities in other recruitment processes or departments.

Three temple thefts in five days raise security concerns

NASHIK: A series of thefts at temples across the city within a span of five days has raised concerns among devotees and temple administrations. With gold and silver prices soaring, thieves have increasingly targeted temple donation boxes and valuable ornaments, prompting police to advise temples to strengthen security arrangements.

Police said the recent rise in precious metal prices has coincided with an increase in thefts of temple ornaments and cash donations. Separate cases have been registered and investigations are underway, but the culprits remain at large.

Donation box burgled at Mahalaxmi temple

Thieves broke open a steel donation box at the Nirmal Mahalaxmi temple in Lavhate Nagar under the Gangapur police station limits and allegedly stole around Rs 10,000 in cash. The theft was discovered by temple priest Ajinkya Mohalkar during the morning hours. Trustee Aparna Kulkarni has lodged a complaint with the police.

Two temples in Panchavati targeted

In another incident, unidentified persons broke the locks of the renowned Sandhyavarchi Devi temple and Kalbhairav temple in Panchavati area. The accused allegedly forced open three donation boxes, including the main donation box inside the Devi temple and two boxes near the Kalbhairav temple, and escaped with nearly Rs 10,000 in cash. A case has been registered at Panchavati police station based on a complaint filed by priest Rishikesh Avdhut.

Silver ornaments stolen from Dwarkadhish temple

Thieves also struck the Dwarkadhish temple in the Satpur area, stealing silver ornaments worth approximately Rs 45,000 from the deity's idol. Investigators suspect the theft may be linked to the sharp rise in silver prices, which has increased the attractiveness of such valuables to criminals. Police have appealed to temple trusts to install adequate surveillance systems and deploy private security personnel to prevent similar incidents. Investigations in all three cases are ongoing.

NMC-MHADA confusion stalls land transactions

NASHIK: Uncertainty surrounding inquiries into MHADA housing reservations has affected the sale and purchase of several land plots in the city, with questions being raised over the responsibilities of the Nashik Municipal Corporation (NMC) and MHADA.

According to sources, the Town Planning Department of the NMC submitted details of only 20 out of 59 layouts sought during an inquiry into MHADA's housing reservation cases. The absence of information regarding the remaining 39 layouts has created confusion and delayed the verification process.

Preliminary findings placed before a special committee headed by the Divisional Commissioner reportedly indicate that mandatory reservations for Low-Income Group (LIG) and Middle-Income Group (MIG) housing may not have been maintained in some cases. Certain approval procedures are also said to be incomplete.

As a result, sale and purchase transactions related to the affected survey numbers have been temporarily stayed until further orders. However, since the restrictions have been imposed based on survey numbers, even layouts that were approved in accordance with regulations have been impacted.

Kapaleshwar temple wada row

Head priest Gade alleges irregularities

NASHIK: The dispute surrounding the Bivalkar Wada located within the premises of the Shri Kapaleshwar Mahadev Temple has taken a fresh turn, with tensions escalating between the Nashik Municipal Corporation, the temple trust and the temple's head priest over the proposed anti-encroachment action.

On June 5, a team from the Municipal Corporation's anti-encroachment department arrived at the site with heavy police protection to carry out action against the structure. How-

ever, the operation was not executed and the team returned without taking any concrete steps.

Amid the ongoing controversy, head Gurav priest Hemant (Pappu) Gade addressed a press conference on Sunday and levelled several allegations against the temple trust and civic administration.

Gade claimed that his family has been performing hereditary religious duties at the temple for generations under official orders. He alleged that although the century-old wada had a government

valuation of around Rs 40 lakh, it was purchased by



the trust from the original owner for nearly Rs 80 lakh, raising questions about the transaction.

He further alleged that the wada was declared a

dangerous structure in coordination with civic officials as part of a plan to evict his family. According to Gade, notices were issued without following due legal procedure. He stated that a petition challenging the action has been filed before the Mumbai High Court and has been admitted for hearing.

The head priest also raised allegations regarding the functioning of the temple administration. He claimed that there was a lack of transparency in expenditure incurred on temple repairs and sand-

blasting works since 2004. He further alleged that false cases had been filed against his family and that CCTV footage from the temple premises was being manipulated.

Meanwhile, the temple trust has maintained that the structurally unsafe portion of the wada needs to be removed and that a Bhakta Niwas is proposed at the site. With allegations of financial irregularities, legal proceedings and claims of administrative collusion surfacing, the dispute appears set for further escalation in the coming days.

Citizens demand revival of Kapila river

NASHIK: Residents of ward number 3 have expressed concern over the deteriorating condition of the Kapila river in the Tapovan area and urged immediate action for its restoration. During an inspection visit, citizens apprised corporators Gaurav Govardhane, Priyanka Mane and Jui Shinde of the growing pollution in the river.

Residents alleged that sewage from various parts of the city is being discharged into the river, resulting in foul odour and unhygienic conditions. They said the pollution is causing inconvenience to devotees, tourists and local residents visiting the area.

Citizens pointed out that the Kapila river holds

immense religious and historical significance, with



links to the exile of Lord Ram, Sita and Laxman as well as the penance performed by Maharshi Kapila and Maharshi Gautam. Owing to this heritage, the area attracts pilgrims from across India and abroad. With the Simhastha Kumbh Mela approaching,

residents demanded immediate measures for the

rejuvenation, widening, conservation and beautification of the river. They also stressed the need for an extensive cleanliness drive, especially as a Sadhugram is proposed on both banks of the river during the mega religious event.