

Nashik makes its mark at UN Forum of Mayors: Mayor

NASHIK: Nashik's development journey, environmental conservation initiatives and preparations for the upcoming Simhashta Kumbh Mela were effectively showcased at an United Nations Forum of Mayors held in Geneva. The participation provided an opportunity to study urban development models from cities across the world, present Nashik's culture and raise the city's profile on the international stage, said Mayor Himgauri Aher-Adke at a press conference. She added that the Forum of Mayors also enabled her to interact with Mayors from various countries and exchange ideas on urban development.

The Mayor said the Simhashta Kumbh Mela should serve as a catalyst for the city's overall development, particularly in infrastructure, transport, sanitation, tourism and quality of life. International delegates were invited to visit Nashik during the upcoming event. Emphasising the vision of a green and eco-friendly city, she highlighted the target of providing five



Additional Municipal Commissioner Nilesh Bhadane felicitates Mayor Himgauri Aher-Adke.

square metres of green space per capita by 2030 and sought specialised financial and technical support to achieve it. Initiatives such as 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam', the 'Unnat Nashik' campaign, the National Clean Air Programme, the City Canal Policy and carbon credits were also presented.

The Mayor said the experience gained at the conference would help improve

planning for civic projects, with particular attention to timely execution, the use of artificial intelligence, beautification of city squares, bus-stop planning and the quality of basic infrastructure.

Municipal officials welcomed the Mayor at her official residence, 'Ramayan', for representing Nashik at the international forum. Those present included Additional Commissioner Nilesh Bhadane, Executive Engineer Bajirao Mali, Finance and Accounts Officer Dattatray Pathrut, Chief Auditor Balwant Gaikwad, Assistant Director of Town Planning Divyank Sonawane, Solid Waste Management Director Dr. Avesh Palod, Veterinary Officer Pramod Sonawane, Assistant Medical Officers of Health Dr. Prashant Shete and Dr. Jitendra Dhaneshwar, Education Administrative Officer Dr. Mita Chaudhari, Municipal Secretary Sanjay Nerkar, Public Relations Officer Nitin Gambhire, and Divisional Officers Nanasahab Salve, Chandan Ghuge and Anand Jadhav, among others.

Judicial employees stage protest over pending pay revision



NASHIK: Judicial employees of the Nashik district court staged a protest on Friday demanding equal pay for equal work. They wore black ribbons to register their protest.

Judicial employees across Maharashtra have launched a phased protest over the state government's failure to approve revised pay scales, despite a proposal approved by the Mumbai High Court being submitted on January 30, 2025. With the proposal pending for 20 months.

The state executive committee of judicial employees has unanimously decided to intensify the agitation while initially adopting peaceful measures to avoid inconvenience to litigants, lawyers and other stakeholders.

Judicial employees will also wear black ribbons today, October 17, 2026, while continuing their duties. Retired senior judicial staff will stage a symbolic sit-in today, October 17. Employees plan to take mass leave on November 5 (Vasubaras),

potentially bringing court work to a standstill. If their demands remain unmet by November 16, an indefinite strike across subordinate courts will begin on November 17.

Judicial employees have appealed to Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis to approve the pending pay revision proposal immediately. They hope the government's intervention will avert an indefinite strike and allow employees to celebrate Diwali with their families.

Dr Abdul Kalam jayanti celebrated at Gurukul Academy



NASHIK: The birth anniversary of former President of India and 'Missile Man of India' Dr A. P. J. Abdul Kalam was celebrated with enthusiasm at Gurukul Academy English Medium School.

The programme began with floral tributes to Dr. Kalam's portrait. Students were informed about his life, scientific contribu-

tions and values of simplicity, hard work and service to the nation. They participated in speeches, inspirational readings and other activities.

Dr. Kalam's life and achievements inspired students to dream big, acquire knowledge and contribute to the nation's progress. Reading Inspiration Day was also celebrated on

the occasion to cultivate a love of reading among students.

Principal Pratibha Gangurde, Yogita Pathak, Jayashree Badgujar, Pooja Surale, Kavita Gotarne, Lata Rathod and Ujjwala Bahiram guided and supported the programme.

The programme concluded in an enthusiastic atmosphere.

Logos on Trimbakeshwar flagpole trigger dispute

NASHIK: Controversies surrounding the upcoming Nashik-Trimbakeshwar Simhashta Kumbh Mela 2027 show no signs of abating, with a fresh dispute erupting over the display of the Trimbakeshwar Purohit Sangh's and the state government's logos on a flagpole erected at Kushavart Tirth in Trimbakeshwar.

On Thursday, puja was performed for the 31-ft flagpole intended for the flag-hoisting ceremony ahead of the upcoming Simhashta Kumbh Mela. Kumbh Mela Minister Girish Mahajan was invited to the ceremony. The flagpole features illustrations related to the Samudra Manthan (churning of the ocean) and the Simhashta Kumbh Mela. However, when residents noticed the

logos of the Purohit Sangh and the state government on its lower section, they expressed displeasure and raised objections. They questioned why the logos of only the Purohit Sangh and the state govt had been displayed when the Kumbh Mela belongs to everyone. They argued that the religious event represents a wider community and should not appear to be associated exclusively with particular organisations or authorities.

Responding to the objections, Manoj Thete, president of the Trimbakeshwar Purohit Sangh, defended the decision, saying the Nashik-Trimbakeshwar Kumbh Mela has a tradition of featuring flags representing the Purohit Sangh alongside those of the various akhadas.

1,500 students join 'Say No to Drugs' awareness walk



NASHIK: Nearly 1,500 students participated in a 'Say No to Drugs' awareness walk organised by Young Indians (Yi) Nashik at MVP KBT College, Gangapur Road, to raise awareness about substance abuse and encourage young people to lead drug-free lives.

The initiative brought together students, government officials, educators and Yi members to highlight the

importance of preventing substance abuse and promoting collective efforts to build a drug-free society.

Deputy Commissioner of Police Kirankumar Chavan and Additional Municipal Commissioner Nilesh Bhadane attended the event and addressed the gathering. They emphasised the importance of substance-abuse prevention and the role of young people, educational institutions and

the wider community in tackling the issue.

Adv. Nitin Thakare, general secretary of Maratha Vidya Prasarak Sanstha, also addressed the gathering. Principal Dr. S. R. Devane and Prof. P. N. Patil were present on the occasion. The initiative was led by Yi Nashik to encourage students to reject drugs and promote a healthy, drug-free lifestyle.

Streetlight glitch in Deolali

NASHIK: Residents of all eight wards of the Deolali Cantonment Board are facing inconvenience as streetlights repeatedly flicker and leave roads and residential areas in darkness at night.

Shiv Sena's Pramod Mojad and Dinesh Katare met Cantonment Board Electrical Engineer Bhushan Nerkar, who attributed the problem to an inconsistent power supply from MSEDCL. MSEDCL Engineer Amit Dhoran said a technical issue at the senior office level was triggering the automated system to switch the streetlight meters off and on. A report has been sent to the senior office in Mumbai, and the supply is expected to return to normal within two days. Dhoran added that a similar problem was affecting Nashik city. Mojad and Katare urged the Cantonment Board and MSEDCL to coordinate and resolve the issue promptly, citing public safety concerns.

Reading Inspiration, Handwashing Days celebrated at Vake School



NASHIK: Reading Inspiration Day, commemorating the birth anniversary of former President of India Dr A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, was celebrated with enthusiasm at Zilla Parishad Primary School in Vake, Malegaon taluka, Nashik district. Global Handwashing Day was also observed on the occasion.

Teachers demonstrated prop-

er handwashing techniques and explained their importance and health benefits through practical demonstrations and speeches. Students took a pledge to maintain personal and public hygiene by washing their hands regularly, safeguard their health, and spread awareness about cleanliness among their families and community members to help

build a healthy society.

The programme began with floral tributes to Dr. Kalam's portrait by the chief guests and teaching staff. Guests, teachers and students also delivered speeches highlighting his life, achievements and legacy.

Education extension officer Rajendra Khairnar, centre head Bhau Sonawane and school headmaster Dattu Karwal addressed the students and offered guidance and inspiration on the occasion of Reading Inspiration Day.

Teachers Laxman Kapadnis, Ratnabai Kaklij, Dinesh Bhuse, Pramod Bachhav, Sahebrao Bachhav, Rupali Bachhav and Nutan Bachhav, along with the school's students, attended the programme.

Meanwhile, education extension officer Khairnar and centre head Sonawane reviewed the school's functioning and provided administrative guidance.

Kalyanotsav at Shri Balaji temple today

NASHIK: The Kalyanotsav, the divine wedding ceremony of Shri Vyankatesh Balaji and Shri Laxmi, will be held today, October 17, at 5.30 pm at Shri Vyankatesh Balaji temple in Kapad Peth, Nashik as part of the ongoing Brahmotsav.

Coinciding with Ashwin Shukla Saptami and Moola Nakshatra, the ceremony will feature traditional wedding rituals, including Mangalashtakas, Vedic chants, puja, naivedya offerings and Mantrajagar, creating a devotional atmosphere at the temple.

Four hosts will participate in the special puja, and the ceremony will be conducted according to traditional rites under the guidance of Prasad Mandavgane Gururji and Pradyumnacharya Gururji.



The Kalyanotsav symbolises auspiciousness, prosperity and domestic harmony and holds special significance in Vaishnava tradition. The annual Brahmotsav is an integral part of Nashik's religious and cultural heritage. Shri Vyankatesh Balaji Sansthan has appealed to devotees to attend the ceremony and seek the blessings of the deities.

NMC removes shanties from New Shahi Marg

NASHIK: The anti-encroachment department of the Nashik Municipal Corporation has taken action against unauthorized shanties built on the footpath of the 'New Shahi Marg', located near the Gadge Maharaj bridge in the Ganga-Godavari area of Panchavati. These shanties had been encroaching upon the space for the past three to four years, with the number of structures eventually growing to approximately 20-25. The Nashik Municipal Corporation administration has now taken decisive action against this encroachment.

The operation was carried out under the directives of Municipal Commissioner Manisha Khatri, Additional Commissioner Bhadane, and Deputy Commissioner Suvarna Dakhane. Previous attempts by the anti-encroachment department to remove the shanties had been halted due to opposition from the residents. The issue persisted, as the shacks were consistently rebuilt whenever the municipal team departed.

During this latest drive, the municipal team removed the shanties; however, the residents' belongings—including clothing, utensils, and other items—remain at the site. Fearing that these items might be used to reconstruct the shacks, authorities have instructed the residents to remove their belongings immediately.

(Contd. from P3) Sahyadri's folk heritage...

From the artist's hands to the global stage: Veteran artist Shivram Ganga Chaudhari describes Bohada as a living tradition reflecting tribal life, a deep bond with nature and centuries-old history. Digital platforms can help preserve this heritage, reach wider audiences and create opportunities for future generations of artists.

Bohada on the tourism map: A Bohada Folk Information Centre has been established at Pimpalson in collaboration with the Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC). A tourist homestay facility is also being developed at Bhormal, around 12 kilometres away, to provide visitors an immersive experience of tribal culture and traditions.

Connecting tradition with livelihoods: Cultural tourism can generate employment for local artists, craftspeople, homestay operators, guides and entrepreneurs. By linking heritage with tourism, the initiative can support local livelihoods while encouraging the preservation of traditional skills.

A cultural journey to the world: Once performed at village festivals, Bohada has now reached global digital audiences. Its masks embody generations of tribal beliefs, memories, imagination and connection with nature. Digital documentation offers a new avenue to preserve this living heritage and pass it on to future generations.

Newspaper vendors vital link between readers and journalism: Pawar

NASHIK: Newspaper vendors play a vital role in connecting readers with journalism by delivering newspaper to homes every morning, regardless of weather conditions, said Chandrakant Pawar, president of the Nashik City Newspaper Vendors' Sanghatana.

He was speaking at an awards ceremony organised by the Newspaper Vendors' Sevabhavi Sanghatana, New Nashik, to honour vendors, their family members, meritorious students and achievers from various fields. The programme was presided over by senior journalist



Jayprakash Pawar. Lifetime Achievement Awards were presented to Jayprakash Pawar, Babu Chaudhari, Vijay Sonar, Narendra Dandgavhal, Vinod Kor and Kiran Karjodkar. Shravan Mahesh Nandurdikar, who scored 100% in the Class 10 examinations, Nikita Sanjay Shelar,

recognised for writing and acting in collegiate drama competitions, and Sai Narendra Dandgavhal, who excelled in B.E. Computer Engineering examinations, were also honoured. Prizes were distributed to encourage vendors' children, while women vendors and stall owners were felicitat-

ed and Paithani lucky-draw winners received prizes.

Senior journalist Abhijit Kulkarni, Dr. Rahul Ranalkar, Deepti Raut, Sampat Thete, Sachin Ahirrao, Baliram Pawar, Maharashtra State Newspaper Vendors' Sanghatana vice-president Ravindra Kulkarni, executive secretary Mahesh Kulthe and Nashik Road association president Sunil Magar were among those present. The programme was compered by Sonali Ghotekar and Savita Jondhale. Sanghatana president Dattatray Thakare and other members took efforts in organisation of the programme.

Husband seeks divorce from Nida Khan

NASHIK: Nida Ejaz Khan (26), a suspect in the alleged forced religious conversion case linked to the TCS facility in Nashik, is facing marital difficulties alongside the ongoing criminal proceedings. Her husband has filed for divorce at the Nashik Road Family Court, citing the strain surrounding the case.

During the first hearing, the couple underwent counselling at the court's mediation centre. While the husband is reportedly firm on seeking a divorce, Nida is making efforts to save the marriage. She is also facing the situation during her pregnancy. Advocates Shobha Tajanpure and Prakash Tajanpure are representing Nida, while Advocate Nitin Pandit is representing her husband. The next counselling session is scheduled for November 20.

The couple attended counselling during the first hearing at the Nashik Road Family Court. Further counselling is scheduled for November 20, after which the court will decide the next steps in the proceedings.