

Heritage Conservation Works Intensified in Nashik Ahead of 'Simhastha Kumbh Mela 2027 '

11 ASI-Protected Monuments in Under Conservation

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The Government has accelerated conservation, restoration and development works at heritage temples and archaeological monuments in Nashik district in preparation for the forthcoming 'Simhastha Kumbh Mela 2027.' The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and the Directorate of Archaeology and Museums, Government of Maharashtra, are implementing a series of projects.

There are 11 Centrally Protected Monuments under the care and maintenance of the Archaeological Survey of India in Nashik district, all of which are in a good state of preservation. Conservation works are undertaken based on the requirements of individual monuments and the availability of resources.

Ahead of Simhastha Kumbh Mela 2027, the ASI has taken up 4 ongoing and 12 proposed conservation projects at major heritage sites, including the Trimbakeshwar Temple, adjoining Gayatri and Shiv Temples, Pandavlena Caves, Anjaneri, Zodga and Ankai Caves. The proposed works include conservation of temple gateways, heritage illumination, visitor amenities, landscaping, scientific conservation and infrastructure improvement.

The Directorate of Archaeology and Museums, Government of Maharashtra, is also undertaking conservation works at 6 unprotected heritage structures in Nashik and 8 in Trimbakeshwar, while restoration of the State-protected Kushavart Kund is progressing as part of the preparations for the Kumbh Mela.

Over the past five years, the ASI has executed more than 20 conservation and development projects across protected monuments in Nashik district. These include temple conservation, development of tourist amenities, pathways, retaining walls, drainage systems, sanitation facilities and scientific preservation works. Visitor facilities such as multilingual information boards, drinking water, toilets, benches, garbage bins, CCTV surveillance and first-aid services have also been provided at major monuments.

The Government has informed that no delays, shortage of funds or administrative bottlenecks have been identified in the execution of these conservation projects.

The Maharashtra State Archaeology Department is implementing 16 heritage conservation and pilgrim amenity projects with a total tender value of ₹39.51 crore

in connection with the forthcoming Simhastha Kumbh Mela. These include conservation works at Naroshankar Temple, Kushavart Kund, Bilva Tirtha, Prayag Tirtha and several other important heritage sites.

Necessary coordination is being maintained among the Nashik-Trimbakeshwar Simhastha Kumbh Mela Authority, the Archaeological Survey of India, the Directorate of Archaeology and Museums, Government of Maharashtra and other concerned agencies to ensure timely completion of these projects.

This information was provided by Union Minister for Culture and Tourism, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, in a reply to an Unstarred Question in the Lok Sabha today.

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