

Biometric attendance begins amid protest from workers

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Nashik: The Nashik Municipal Corporation (NMC) on Monday implemented the biometric selfie attendance system for its sanitary employees for eight days on an experimental basis.

This system will ensure transparency in the work of sanitary employees and also do justice to those working overtime. The experiment is expected to help the NMC study the system, which will be implemented on a permanent basis soon.

"The intention behind introducing the biometric selfie attendance system is that it will become easy to pay employees for working overtime. Many employees work overtime, but only those not doing so are opposing this attendance system," said municipal commissioner Praveen Gedam.

Sanitary employees had met Gedam to voice their opposition and also agitated in front of his office. They later agitated at the entrance of the NMC headquarters, Rajiv Gandhi Bhavan. The agitating employees had to be mellowed by summoning the police. They were demanding all the facilities as per the Lad Committee's recommendations as well as additional staff.

"We have asked the contractors concerned to provide safety gears to the sanitary workers and send us their photos in morning and evening. We have also written to the government for additional sanitary employees," Gedam said.

"Those having office duties can record their attendance in the office. But we cannot install attendance machines everywhere. Moreover, biometric attendance will also give us their exact locations," the municipal commissioner said. Gedam added that

senior civic officials such as additional municipal commissioner and deputy municipal commissioner will visit every division, try to understand the problems faced by the workers and take action accordingly.