

**TEMPERATURE**

Maximum 31.3°C Minimum 14.6°C

## Call for clean and beautiful rivers



**NASHIK:** Governor C P Radhakrishnan has emphasized the importance of keeping the country's rivers clean, highlighting their role as sources of spiritual and cultural inspiration. With the upcoming Simhastha Kumbh Mela in Nashik, he urged collective efforts to maintain the cleanliness and beauty of both the city and the Godavari river, aiming to establish Nashik's identity on an international level.

At an event organized by the Shri Ramteerth Goda-



vari Seva Samiti, Governor Radhakrishnan presented the Rashtra Jeevan Puraskar to Padmashri Mahesh Sharma,

a renowned expert in water and environmental conservation. The occasion also included a Goda Puja and Aarti led by the Governor.

Expressing concerns over pollution caused by population growth and industrialization, Governor Radhakrishnan welcomed the revival of traditional and cultural practices along the Godavari's banks. He stressed that conserving rivers is essential for sustaining life and highlighted Nashik's potential for growth. He further sug-

gested that linking the Nashik and Shirdi corridors by railway and expanding the Nashik-Mumbai highway to six lanes would significantly boost regional development. Padmashri Mahesh Sharma, upon receiving the award, dedicated the honor to the Bhil community in Jhabua, acknowledging their contribution to the water conservation movement. He credited local villagers for supporting the initiative, stating that he was merely a medium in their collective efforts.

## Traffic chaos in city

**NASHIK:** Massive traffic congestion brought Nashik to a standstill for few hours yesterday as the Parbhani to Mumbai long march caused severe disruptions at Dwarka Circle and along the Pune-Nashik and Mumbai-Dhule routes. Commuters, including office-goers and students, faced significant delays, struggling to navigate the gridlocked roads. Motorists and passengers endured prolonged travel times, causing widespread frustration across the city. The massive traffic jam at Dwarka Circle caused severe inconvenience for motorists and passengers, leaving them stranded for extended periods.

## Pre-marriage counselling centre

**NASHIK:** In a groundbreaking initiative to curb incidents of domestic violence and sexual exploitation against women, National Commission for Women (NCW) Chairperson Vijaya Rahatkar has announced the establishment of the country's first pre-marriage counselling centre in Nashik. The centre, set to be inaugurated at the District Collectorate, Nashik on International Women's Day (March 8), aims to educate couples on maintaining healthy family relationships and preventing conflicts that could lead to domestic abuse.

The increasing number of cases of sexual exploitation and domestic violence in government offices has raised serious concerns. To address this issue, a joint meeting of various government departments in Nashik was held under the chairmanship of Vijaya Rahatkar at the District Collectorate. Speaking to the media after the meeting, she emphasized the need for proactive measures to support women facing abuse.

Rahatkar pointed out that many women experience sexual exploitation in government offices but hesitate to report incidents due to fear of social stigma. The NCW has been receiving a high volume of complaints, with nearly 45% of them related to domestic violence.

While legal action provides justice in such cases, prevention remains the ultimate goal. To achieve this, the establishment of pre-marriage counselling centres is crucial, as they will help educate couples about the responsibilities and challenges of married life.

"This will be the first pre-marriage counselling centre in the country. Following its launch in Nashik, similar centres will be established in all 36 districts of Maharashtra in a phased manner," Rahatkar stated.

## e-KYC mandatory for ration

**NASHIK:** The central government has made it mandatory for all beneficiaries under the fair price ration distribution system to complete their e-KYC (electronic Know Your Customer) process. Beneficiaries who fail to comply will no longer be eligible to receive ration benefits.

District Supply Officer (In-charge) Kailash Pawar has reported that 2,175 ben-

eficiaries in Nashik district have yet to complete their e-KYC. As a result, these individuals may face the risk of being excluded from receiving essential ration supplies. In Nashik city, 779 beneficiaries remained non-compliant. Under the Public Distribution System (PDS), the central government is providing free grains through fair price ration shops until 2029.

## RO post: Decision next week?

**NASHIK:** The long-pending decision on the Nashik MIDC Regional Officer (RO) post has reached the state industries department after the Maharashtra Administrative Tribunal (MAT) concluded its hearing in Mumbai. With Industries Minister currently unavailable due to post-Davos tours, a resolution is expected next week.

The post has been in limbo since the transfer of former RO Nitin Gavali on July 31, 2024. Initially, Ganesh Rathod was appointed to the vacant position by the forest and revenue department, but his appointment was stayed, and Deepak Patil was named instead. Rathod challenged this decision in Mumbai MAT, leading to months of hearings.

## 72% water stock in district dams

**NASHIK:** As of February 7, 2025, the water stock in 24 major and medium-sized dams across Nashik district stands at 72.02%. Following the abundant monsoon season last year, most of the dams were filled to capacity.

However, with summer fast approaching and temperatures already rising in early February, the available water reserves will need to be managed judiciously to meet the irrigation and non-irrigation needs over the next four months.

One of the most crucial reservoirs, the Gangapur Dam, which supplies water to Nashik city, currently holds 82.27% of its total capacity. The Gangapur Dam Complex, which includes Gangapur, Kashyapi, Gautami Godavari, and Alandi reservoirs, collectively maintains a water stock of 74.88%.

Several major and medium water projects, including Alandi, Karanjvan, Waghad, Ojharkhed, Nandur Madhyameshwar, Tisgaon, Bhavli, Valdevi, Bhojapur, Haranbari, Kelzar, and Manikpunj, had overflowed during last year's monsoon due to substantial rainfall. However, as of now, the water stock in these dams has decreased by approximately 27% due to continuous usage and evaporation. Despite favorable rainfall that improved water storage in dams, filter ponds, and wells, rising temperatures -- reaching up to 33 degrees Celsius in the district -- have raised concerns about the adequacy of the water supply during the peak summer months. Authorities are now shifting focus to efficient water management strategies to ensure uninterrupted supply.