

## Unseasonal rains hamper wildlife census

**NASHIK:** A wildlife census conducted at Nandurmadhyameshwar Wildlife Sanctuary on the occasion of Buddha Pournima was disrupted by persistent unseasonal rains, dampening the efforts of forest officials and wildlife enthusiasts. Despite the setbacks, a few rare sightings, including that of a wild rabbit, brought some cheer.

The census was part of a state-wide initiative, and extensive preparations had been made by the Forest Department for its successful execution across the Nashik forest belt, including both Nandurmadhyameshwar—Maharashtra's first Ramsar site—and the Kalsubai-Harishchandragad Sanctuary. However, unexpected weather conditions threw the plan off course.

Rains lashed the sanctuary region for four consecutive days, including the night preceding the census on Monday (May 12), leading to a drastic reduction in animal visibility. Despite the weather, dedicated forest guards, bird watchers, and volunteers stationed themselves on elevated scaffolds throughout the night to conduct the count. While

major wildlife sightings were limited, several nocturnal birds such as nightjars, bats, and night herons were spotted. A few reptiles, including the Ghonus snake and a water snake, were also observed.

Among the notable participants in the census at Nandurmadhyameshwar were Assistant Conservator of Forests Hemant Ubale, For-ester Sandeep Kale, Forest Guard Asha Wankhede, and key members of the Nature Club of Nashik including Prof. Anand Bora, Dr. Anil Mali, Umesh Kumar Nagare, and others. Their efforts helped gather partial data, even under adverse conditions. In contrast, the wildlife census scheduled at Kalsubai-Harishchandragad Sanctuary had to be entirely called off due to relentless rains on Buddha Pournima. Forest officials expressed disappointment but remained hopeful that a rescheduled effort may be possible once the weather stabilizes. The census, traditionally held on Buddha Pournima due to favorable night conditions and high wildlife activity, plays a crucial role in monitoring biodiversity and assessing ecological health.

## Teacher adjustment scam

### Transfer of 58 teachers cancelled

**NASHIK:** The controversial transfer of 58 teachers to municipal schools—carried out by then Municipal Education Officer Bapusaheb Patil in violation of official procedures—has finally been cancelled. As per the directive issued by the State Education Department on Thursday (May 15), all 58 teachers will now be sent back to their original postings under the Zilla Parishad. This development comes as a major setback for the suspended officer, who now faces the possibility of dismissal.

The irregularities in Patil's tenure continue to surface, with his actions regarding teacher adjustments, unauthorized transfers, and appointments of centre heads drawing widespread criticism. The entire process has sparked major controversy, with allegations of procedural breaches and financial misconduct.

The issue was raised in the state legislature by MLC Kishore Da-

rade, prompting Minister Uday Samant to instruct the Municipal Additional Commissioner to conduct an inquiry and submit a report within 15 days. Following the submission of the report, it was confirmed that the adjustments made by Patil were prima facie illegal. Subsequently, he was removed from his post by the Municipal Commissioner and later suspended by the State Education Department.

The Municipal Commissioner had earlier cancelled the transfer of 70 teachers made during Patil's tenure and instructed them to return to their previous Zilla Parishad schools. Now, the latest decision affects 58 additional teachers, who were integrated into the Municipal Education Department without proper sanction. These teachers will also be repatriated to their original Zilla Parishad institutions, effectively nullifying Patil's unauthorized adjustment process.

(Contd. from P 1)

## We informed Pak before launching.....

“Once they got hit as badly as they did, on the morning of May 10, and all of you have seen the satellite pictures which bring out very graphically how much damage we did. By the way the satellite pictures also bring out how little damage they did (to India), these pictures will tell you what a hit they took.

“The same people who were not willing to stand down on 7th May are willing to talk and stand down the 10th of May; it is very clear who wanted the cessation of firing,” the EAM said.

On dealings with Pakistan, he said they will be purely bilateral: “Where our dealings with Pakistan are concerned, they will be bilateral and

strictly bilateral.

“That is a national consensus for many years, and there is absolutely no change in that consensus that dealings with Pakistan will be bilateral.”

On talks with Pakistan, he said, “I think the PM made it very clear, that the only talks with Pakistan will be on terror; that Pakistan has a list of terrorists who need to be handed over, they have to shut down the terrorist infrastructure, they know what to do.

“We are prepared to discuss with them on what is to be done on terrorism, those are the talks which are feasible.”

On the Indus Waters Treaty, he said: “The Indus Waters Treaty is held in abeyance

and will continue to be held in abeyance until cross border terrorism by Pakistan is credibly and irrevocably stopped.”

On the Kashmir issue being raked up by Pakistan, and also by the US, he said;

“Sometimes the Kashmir issue has been brought up. Again the only thing that remains to be discussed on Kashmir, is the vacation of the illegally occupied Indian territory, in POK. We are open to discussing that, with Pakistan,” he added.

“We have achieved the goals that we set out to do, by destroying the terrorist infrastructure, in Bahawalpur, Muridke, Muzaffarabad and other places.”

## CIPET project

### Land allotted free of cost at Govardhan

**NASHIK:** In a major step towards enhancing vocational training infrastructure in Nashik district, Revenue Minister Chandrashekhwar Bawankule on Thursday announced that land belonging to the revenue department will be provided free of cost for the Central Institute of Petrochemical Engineering and Technology (CIPET) at Govardhan. The decision was taken during a meeting held at the Revenue Minister's cell at the state secretariat in Mumbai.

MLA Seema Hiray, who participated in the meeting via video conferencing, had earlier requested that government-owned barren land be allotted for the establishment of the CIPET centre. Responding positively, Minister Bawankule approved the allocation of the land, waiving all occupancy charges and revenue costs as per the provisions of the Maharashtra Land Revenue (Disposal of Government Land) Rules, 1971.

CIPET, a premier institute under the Central Government, will benefit from this allocation of land valued at approximately Rs. 30.38 crore. The land will be handed over as per the finance department's guidelines. The Skill Development, Employment and Entrepreneurship Department has also committed to managing the construction and development work, with both the state and central governments sharing 50 percent participation in the project.

## Give priority to women in tribal development schemes: Dr. Uike

**NASHIK:** State Tribal Development Minister Dr. Ashok Uike has directed that women and school-going students must be given priority in the implementation of schemes under the Tribal Development Department. Emphasizing inclusive and targeted growth, he called for stronger efforts to bring tribal women into the mainstream through dedicated support systems.

During a comprehensive review meeting held at the State Secretariat in Mumbai on Thursday, Dr. Uike discussed the status and future plans of tribal welfare initiatives with key department officials including Secretary Vijay Waghmare, Commissioner Leena Bansod, and other senior representatives.

Dr. Uike stressed that empowering tribal women is essential for sustainable development. He suggested forming exclusive self-help groups for tribal women and ensuring that



schemes prioritize such groups. He also instructed that a special cell be created within the Shabari Tribal Corporation to oversee and expand women-centric initiatives for the 2025–2026 financial year.

Focusing on student welfare, the Minister directed that comprehensive medical check-ups be conducted for all children in government-run ashramshalas after the academic year begins. Health cards must be issued for each student. In addition, Dr. Uike emphasized the need to set up hostel committees to improve hostel management and ensure complete transparency in the transfer of teachers and

staff across tribal educational institutions.

Dr. Uike stated that the upcoming academic year, which begins on June 16, should start on an encouraging note. He instructed that officers be physically present on the first day to welcome students to government ashramshalas. A list of officers assigned to each ashramshala will be prepared, and guardian officers will be appointed to help improve the academic standards. Additionally, a special initiative will be launched to felicitate meritorious students and reward schools that achieve 100 percent examination results.

## Entrepreneurs slam MSEDCL officials



**NASHIK:** Industrialists from Ambad, Satpur, Sinnar, and Gonde have expressed deep frustration over prolonged and erratic power outages, blaming the Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Limited (MSEDCL) officials for causing losses amounting to Rs. 100 crore. The outage surfaced during a heated meeting held at the AIMA Recreation Hall, where angry en-

trepreneurs took senior MSEDCL officials to task over repeated disruptions in electricity supply.

Entrepreneurs, who have been suffering for days due to inconsistent power supply, slammed the MSEDCL officials. Business owners recounted severe losses incurred due to frequent outages—power was reportedly unavailable for 18 hours in Satpur and 10 hours in Ambad

on certain days. Despite repeated complaints, they said, MSEDCL failed to take any concrete action. BOT chairman Dnyaneshwar Gopale warned that if the current state of affairs continues, it may push distressed entrepreneurs towards extreme steps, even hinting at self-immolation.

Executive Engineer of MSEDCL Chetan Wade assured that MSEDCL would resolve the elec-

tricity issues within the next 15 days and submit a report at the upcoming review meeting. He further assured immediate action to repair damaged lines, clear fallen tree debris, and address staff negligence.

Entrepreneurs made a series of strong demands during the meeting: Installation of double cables on the overloaded 132 kV feeders in Ambad, regular maintenance and technical audits of all feeders, timely communication regarding scheduled shutdowns, pruning of tree branches before the monsoon, upgradation of outdated equipment and repair of open Distribution Panels (DPs) and action against those officials who ignore phone calls or fail to respond to complaints.

## Tiranga rally in Nashik today

**NASHIK:** In the wake of the recent tragic killings of innocent tourists by militants in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, a strong wave of grief and outrage has swept across the country. In a resolute response, Indian Army jawans launched a counter-offensive, destroying militant hideouts in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and inside Pakistan itself. This firm and timely action by the armed forces has been widely hailed as a powerful message against terrorism.

To express solidarity with the brave soldiers of the Indian Army and to honour their courage and sacrifice, Nashikites will come together today for a Tiranga rally. The rally will be held in the presence of Maharashtra's Water Resources Minister Girish Mahajan.

The rally is scheduled to begin at 3:30 pm from Panchavati Karanja and will proceed through Malegaon Stand, Ravivar Karanja, Main Road, Dhupal Point, and Mahatma Gandhi Road. It will conclude at the Hutatma Smarak.

## KIMS Manavata Hospital inaugurated

**NASHIK:** The grand inauguration of KIMS Manavata Hospital was held on Wednesday, May 14, at 11 am at the Manavata Health Campus near Mumbai Naka on the Mumbai-Agra Highway. On this occasion, it was announced that hospital has made available an air ambulance service at highly affordable rates. The ceremony was graced by leading figures from the medical fraternity.

The hospital boasts the region's largest emergency department, a significant asset considering the upcoming Simhashta Kumbh Mela and the growing healthcare needs of Nashik. With expert doctors across all super-specialty departments and state-of-the-art medical infrastructure, KIMS Manavata is set to become a major centre for quality health-



care and medical tourism.

The hospital would always strive to deliver the highest standards of treatment to every patient, assured Prof. Dr. Raj Nagarkar, Managing Director of KIMS Manavata Cancer Centre and Head of Surgical Oncology and Robotic Ser-

vices at HCG Manavata.

He also reiterated the hospital's readiness to serve thousands of devotees expected during the Simhashta Kumbh Mela. The 725-bed hospital, he said, is fully equipped to deliver high-quality care to both local residents and visit-

ing patients from around the world.

The inauguration saw the presence of several distinguished guests, including Dr. B. Bhaskar Rao, Chairman and Managing Director of KIMS Hospitals; Dr. P. D. Patil, Chancellor of Dr. D. Y. Patil University, Pune; and Vasantrao Nagarkar, Director of Business Corporate Bank. Other notable attendees were Padma Shri awardee and eye surgeon Dr. Tatyrao Lahane, Padma Shri Dr. Ramakant Deshpande of the Asian Cancer Institute, Padma Shri and Dr. B. C. Roy Award recipient Dr. P. Raghu Ram of KIMS Ushalakshmi Centre for Breast Disease, and Dr. A. V. Gurva Reddy, MD of KIMS Sunshine Hospital, MP Dr. Shobha Bachhav and other dignitaries.

## SSC RESULTS

### Flying Colours students excel



**NASHIK:** Flying Colours English Medium School in Ashwin Nagar, Pathardi Phata, and Flying Colours The Universal School (CBSE) in Indiranagar, Nashik, have achieved outstanding results in the SSC board examination.

Both schools have continued their tradition of academic excellence, with their top five students being recognised for exceptional performance.

At Flying Colours Eng-

lish Medium School, the highest scorers are Purva Mahajan with 89.40%, followed closely by Bhavika Mahajan at 89.20%, Ritesh Pawar at 89.00%, Pranav Khare at 88.60%, and Kunal Raut also with 88.60%.

At Flying Colours The Universal School (CBSE), Aseet Khadse leads with 91.00%, followed by Kartika Girase with 84.40%, Priyal Khedkar with 82.80%, Tanvi Musmade with 82.40%, and Chirag Agrawal with 82.20%.

### New Grace Academy registers 100% results



**NASHIK:** The Grade X students of the 2024–2025 batch from New Grace Academy and Jr. College have once again made the institution proud by achieving a 100% pass rate in the SSC Board examinations—for the third consecutive year.

Antara Kumbhar topped the school with an impressive 94.80% and scored a perfect 100 in

Mathematics. Following her are Atharv Patil with 92.80% and Tejas Zope with 92.40%.

Out of 24 students who appeared for the examinations, 18 achieved distinction, three secured first class, and three earned second class. The school management congratulated all students for their hard work and outstanding performance.

### 14 visually impaired students achieve success



In an inspiring display of determination and academic achievement, 14 visually impaired students from tribal regions including Trimbakeshwar, Peth, Ahilyanagar, and Dindori have successfully passed the SSC examinations.

Among them, five girls from the Bhavana Chandak Mahanabschool for the Blind—a residential school run by the National Association for the Blind, Maharashtra Unit—appeared for the examinations. Vrushi Karpal, Savita Bhoje, Jaya Gangurde, Mangal Lote, and Gauri Bendkule, who is multiple disabled, along with Soham Pagar, have all cleared the examinations. Their success was applauded by the organization's president Rameshwar Kalantri, honorary general secretary Gopi

Mayur, and other dignitaries including Mangala Kalantri, Dr. Mukteshwar Munshettiwar, and Jayveer Virmani. These students were supported academically by Matoshree Rampyaribai Sarda Girls School, along with hostel principal Varsha Salunke and dedicated teachers Smita Soni, Lata Awahad, and Vaishali Lahre.

Additionally, under the Integrated Education Scheme of NAB Maharashtra, eight more visually impaired students received special guidance from educators Pooja Pandey and Pinky Mandge. Yasraj Shinde, Vaishnavi Maid, Pranav Mahajan, Soham Gangurde, Aryan Gunjal, Pushkar Toke, Shantanu Pawar, and Shardul Dingle all passed the examinations with commendable marks.