

**Agam Report- 2025-2026**  
**MES Abasaheb Garware College**  
**ANNASAHEB KULKARNI DEPT. OF BIODIVERSITY**

Dr. Sonali Sudhakar Shinde  
Head of the Department

The present report of the department highlights primarily nine categories of activities carried out by the department, viz. as under (PS: the contents in the table are clickable)

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## Faculty achievements:

- Dr. Sonali Shinde was handed over the charge as a Head of Biodiversity & Environmental Science Department.
- Dr. Sonali Shinde completed Ph.D. in Environmental Science on the topic, 'Cost-benefit optimization in foraging strategies of pollinating insects on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2025.
- Dr. Sonali Shinde completed Advanced Training on Environmental Impact Assessment organized by Centre for Tropical Biodiversity Conservation from 10<sup>th</sup> Oct- 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2025.
- Ms. Saloni Bagade completed a three-day course on Carbon footprint analysis organized by ESGPro Mastery Institute from 24<sup>th</sup> Nov – 26<sup>th</sup> November 2025.
- Ms. Saloni Bagade registered for Ph.D. in Environmental Science on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2025 from Fergusson College, Research Centre.
- Dr. Sonali Shinde and Saloni Bagade participated in the 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Recent Trends in Bioengineering held at MIT-ADT University Pune from January 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> 2026.
- Dr. Sonali Shinde completed the 5-day workshop titled, Tree Diversity and Carbon Stock Estimation using Excel conducted from 9<sup>th</sup>- 13<sup>th</sup> March 2026 organized by Environmental and Humanity Foundation.
- Paper published: **Shinde, S. & C. Sonawane** (2026). First record with photographic evidence of Dhole *Cuon alpinus* (Pallas, 1811) from Panshet, Pune, Maharashtra, India. *Journal of Threatened Taxa* 18(1): 28249–28251.

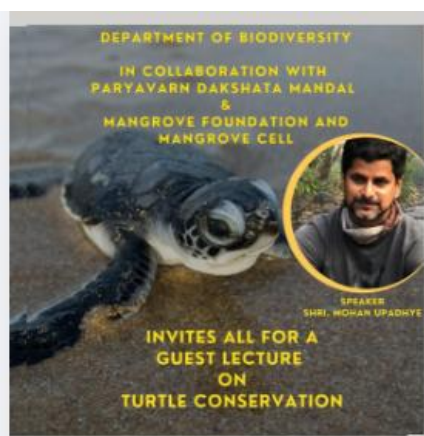
## Orientation session/Expert talks

- Dr. Milind Watve delivered a talk to B.Sc. Environmental Science and M.Sc. Biodiversity students regarding research projects and avenues after masters.
- Dr. Dhanashree Paranjpe delivered a talk to B.Sc. Environmental Science and M.Sc. Biodiversity students regarding scientific communication
- Dr. Arohi Kulkarni delivered a talk to B.Sc. Environmental Science and M.Sc. Biodiversity students regarding internship and dissertation.

- Priyadarshan Sahasrabudhe Founder of Vayu Foundation delivered a talk to B.Sc. Environmental Science and M.Sc. Biodiversity students regarding internship and dissertation.
- Dr. Medhavi Tadwalkar and Dr. Amruta Joglekar Founder Director of EcoVrat Foundation delivered a talk to B.Sc. Environmental Science and M.Sc. Biodiversity students regarding internship and dissertation.
- Dr. D.G. Naik project coordinator of MES delivered a talk to B.Sc. Environmental Science and M.Sc. Biodiversity students regarding his research in Union carbide.
- Mr. Siddharth Biniwale delivered a talk to B.Sc. Environmental Science and M.Sc. Biodiversity students regarding internship and dissertation.

## One day Seminar

- A seminar on turtle conservation was conducted by Shri Mohan Upadhye on 13th August 2025, in collaboration with Paryawarn Dakshata Mandal, Mangrove Foundation, and the Mangrove Cell. The session highlighted the importance of conserving marine turtles, their habitats, and their ecological role in coastal ecosystems. He also informed students about internship opportunities in turtle conservation, encouraging active participation in field-based conservation efforts.



(a)



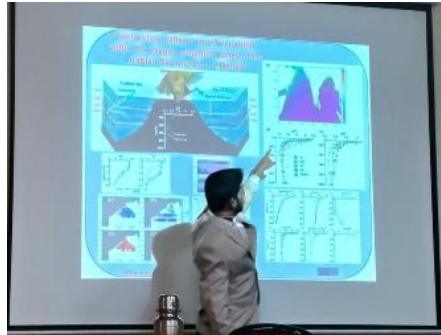
(b)



(c)

Picture: a) Lecture Flyer, b) & c) Shri Mohan Upadhye interacting with students after his lecture.

- Seminar on Impact of Climate Change on Oceans by Dr. Suhas Shetye, Scientist National Institute of Oceanography, GOA on 26<sup>th</sup> December 2025.



(a)

(b)

(c)

Picture: a) Lecture Flyer, b) & c) Dr. Suhas Shetye interacting with students after his lecture.

## Workshop organized

- Biodiversity Department conducted Landscape workshop on 26<sup>th</sup>- 29<sup>th</sup> March 2026. The workshop was graced in the presence of Smt. Shama Pawar (Additional Collector), Prof. (Dr. Vilas Ugale), Principal of AGC, Shri. Nandkumar Patwardhan, Shri. Niteen Karmarkar (Founder Directors of Aasamant Foundation), Saloni Bagade Coordinator of the program and Dr. Sonali Shinde (HOD Biodiversity)



a)

(b)

(c)

Picture: a) Workshop Flyer, b) Participants on Field & c) Participants, organizers and speaker of the workshop.

## Students' achievement:

### Conference Participation

- (i) M.Sc. Biodiversity students participated in a 4<sup>th</sup> National Conference on Lesser-Known Species of Central Indian Landscape Dated 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> of Jan 2026 at Bhopal, MP India
- (ii) B.Sc. Environmental Science Students participated in 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Recent Trends in Bioengineering (ICRTB-2026) held at MIT School of Bioengineering and Research ADT Loni Kalbhori on (January 23-24, 2026)



a)

Picture: a) B.Sc. Environmental Science students received certificate of participation.



(b)

b) Interaction during Poster presentation.

- (iii) B.Sc. Students attended Sagar Mahotsav 15<sup>th</sup> January-18<sup>th</sup> January at Ratnagiri. The program was graced by renowned Scientist like Dr. Shekhar Mande.



a)

Picture: a) Students participation in the Mahotsav, b) Dr. Shekhar Mande with B.Sc. Students, c) Dr. Amruta Bhawe interacting with Environmental Science students.



(b)



(c)

### **Dissertation Funding**

- (i) Vishnu E.N., a B.D. II student (2025–26), received ₹30,000 through crowdfunding for his dissertation project.
- (ii) F.Y.B.Sc. students participated in floral mapping of the Indrayani River under a funded internship supported by Ecological Society, with funding awarded to Sanskruti Bandal and Pranav Sukale.
- (iii) Aditya Nili, a second-year B.Sc. Environmental Science student, secured a paid internship as a Field Assistant with a stipend of ₹15,439.

### **Achievements of Alumni**

- (i) Unmesh Mitra, from the 2017–19 batch, achieved Rank 25 in the West Bengal Civil Services (WBCS) Examination (June 2025) and has been appointed as an Employment Officer.
- (ii) Shantanu Ghadge (2016–18 batch) secured Rank 115 in MPSC and served as a Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Guidance Officer (Group B); he also achieved Rank 62 in MPSC and is currently working as Assistant Commissioner, State Tax (Group A).
- (iii) Shrushti Patil (Batch 2019–2021) has secured a position as a Research & Development Astronaut Candidate (ASCAN) with Titans Space Industries.

### **Placements:**

- (i) Purva Mhatre (2023–25 batch) has been selected as a Graduate Analyst at Stantec with a CTC of ₹7 lakh per annum.
- (ii) Akshata Joshi (2023–25 batch) is working as a Research Associate with The Grassland Trust and also serves as Founder Director of Takshak Animal Welfare Foundation, which focuses on the rescue and rehabilitation of wildlife and domestic animals across Pune.
- (iii) Parikshit Ghare (2023–25 batch) serves as Founder Director of Takshak Animal Welfare Foundation, working towards the rescue and rehabilitation of wildlife and domestic animals across Pune.

## Outreach Activity

### Reel competition

The Department of Biodiversity conducted a reel-making competition on environmental awareness in December 2025, supported by Aasamant Foundation, attracting nearly 100 entries.



a)

b)

Picture: a) Reel competition flyer, b) Winners were showcased on social network platform like Instagram and LinkedIn

### Environment Awareness programmes at Schools

- As part of Science Day celebrations, F.Y.B.Sc. students conducted outreach activity by visiting schools and spreading awareness about the environment.
- (i) Environmental Awareness Program for Class 7 students at Vimlabai Garware High School with the aim of promoting sustainable habits and environmental responsibilities.



a)



b)

Picture: a) & b) F.Y.B.Sc. Environmental Science Students Team 1: Gitika, Jaanvi, Zeba, Yash & Vivek at Vimlabai Garware School

(ii) Environmental Awareness Program at Universal Public School, the topic focused was on Zero Waste living



a)



b)



c)

Picture: a), b) & c) F.Y.B.Sc. Environmental Science Students Team 2: Ashisha, Alnashra, Yana at Universal Public School.

(iii) Environmental Awareness Program at Mahesh Vidyala, Pune on Small Habits, Big Impact to promote sustainable habits and environmental responsibility.



a)



b)

Picture: a) & b) F.Y.B.Sc. Environmental Science Students Team 3: Nitesh, Jidnyasa, Tejal, Sharwari at Mahesh Vidyala, Pune.

(iv) S.Y.B.Sc. Environmental Science Students participated in electronic waste collection drive an initiative by PEHEL as a community engagement program.



a)



b)



c)

Picture: a), b) & c) S.Y.B.Sc. students conducting awareness on electronic waste collection.

(v) Dr. Sonali Shinde delivered a talk on “Integrative Academia–Industry Dialogue” at the Charitrakar Padma Bhushan Dr. Dhananjay Keer Ratnagiri Sub-Campus of University of Mumbai on 17 March 2026. The workshop was attended by undergraduate students of pharmacy, biotechnology, and life sciences. Industry professionals, including Shri Deepak Gadre of Gadre Marine Export, Shri Ashutosh Sheopure, Shri Prabhakar Sadekar, Dr. Prafulla Sawant, and Shri Nandkumar Patwardhan from Aasamant Foundation, participated as guest speakers. The workshop aimed to create awareness about environmental science courses and their applications in industry.

### New Initiatives by the department

- i) Psychology session was conducted for BSC Environmental Science and MSc Biodiversity Students- The objective was to address mental health concerns, improve coping strategies, and promote a balanced academic life. It also encouraged self-awareness and emotional well-being among students. The session was conducted by Rushikesh Ingulkar and Shashank Saraf Faculty of Psychology department AGC.
- ii) Parent-Teacher Meeting and Parent’s Psychology counseling- The session aimed to help parents understand student mental health, academic stress, and emotional needs. It also focused on guiding parents to support their children effectively and create a positive home environment. It also provided a platform to strengthen communication and collaboration between parents and faculty for better student outcomes. The session was conducted by Shashank Saraf and Shruti Joshi Faculty of Psychology department AGC.



a)

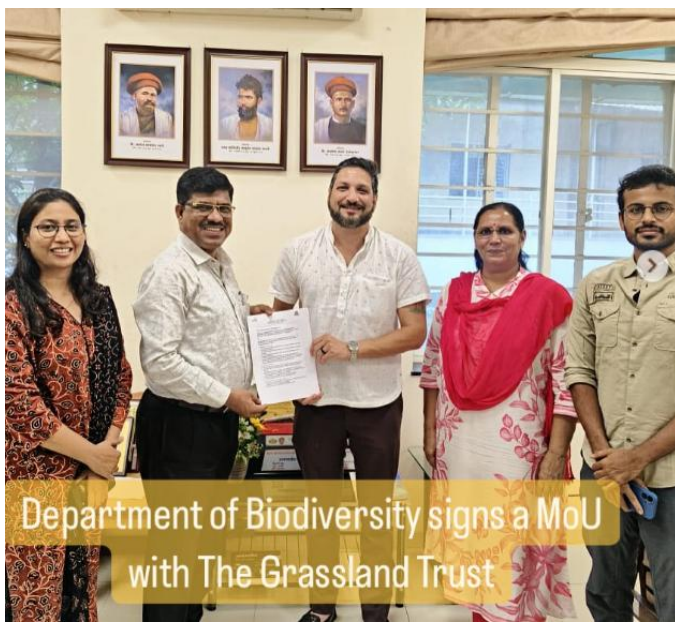


b)

Picture: a) & b) Shashank Saraf and Shruti Joshi Faculty of Psychology department AGC during the session

## MoU signed between Maharashtra Education Society & NGO's

- The Grassland Trust Pune, a registered charitable trust with its office located at, 101, Devkunj Apartments, Prabhat Rd, Apex Colony, Deccan Gymkhana, Pune, 411004 through Mr. Mihir Godbole



Picture: Principal Prof. (Dr.) Vilas Ugale and Mr. Mihir Godbole during the MoU signing.

- Aasamant Benevolence Foundation, Ratnagiri, a social organization situated at PM-75, MIDC Mirjole, Ratnagiri, Maharashtra (hereafter “Aasamant”) through Mr. Niteen Karmarkar



Picture: Principal Prof. (Dr.) Vilas Ugale, Mr. Nandkumar Patwardhan, Mr. Niteen Karmalkar, Dr. Atul Kulkarni, and Dr. Neha Deshpande during the MoU signing.

# News features

- (i) First sighting report of an Endangered species was featured in Maharashtra Times, Pune Mirror, Times of India, Midday, Mongabay

## पानशेतजवळ झाली रानकुत्र्यांची नोंद

**पुणे :** पानशेत परिसरातील वनक्षेत्रात वन्यजीव दस्तावेजीकरणसाठी गेलेल्या अभ्यासकांना नुकताच रानकुत्र्यांचा (आशियाई याव्हलड डॉग) वावर बघायला मिळाला. त्यामुळे पानशेत परिसरातील समृद्ध जैवविविधता असलेल्या वनपट्ट्याचे (कोरिडोर) संवर्धनाचे महत्त्व अधोरेखित झाले आहे.

आबासाहेब गरवारे कॉलेजच्या जैवविविधता विभागाच्या प्रमुख डॉ. सोनाली शिंदे आणि विभागातील विद्यार्थ्यांसह इकोलाॅजिकल सोसायटीचे संशोधक विनय सोनावणे यांचे काही दिवसांपूर्वी पानशेत परिसरात वन्यजीवांच्या नोंदी घेण्याचे काम सुरू असताना त्यांना रानकुत्रे दिसले. 'सुरुवातीला झाडांनीच बघणारा समोरचा प्राणी आम्हाला कोव्हा वाटला, पण लगेचच ओळख पटली. या नोंदीवर आधारित लवकरच शास्त्रीय शोधनिबंध प्रकाशित करणार आहे,' असे शिंदे यांनी सांगितले.

'याबाबत प्राणिशास्त्रज्ञ डॉ. पल्लवी घासकडवी आणि पुणे वन विभागाचे सहायक वनसंरक्षक मंगेश टाटे यांच्याशी संवाद साधला आहे. या भागात रानकुत्र्यांचा वावर म्हणजे संरक्षित क्षेत्राबाहेर विपुल वन्यजीव असल्याचे तांजे उदाहरण आहे. गेल्या काही वर्षात रानकुत्र्यांची (स्थानिक भाषेत त्यांना डोलाही म्हणतात) संख्या लक्षणीय प्रमाणात घटली आहे, असे शिंदे आणि सोनावणे यांनी सांगितले.

MH Times, News dt. 11<sup>th</sup> Sept.25

## Endangered wild dog's presence recorded for first time in Panshet, Pune

Experts say the sighting of dhole highlights the species' presence in human-dominated, non-protected landscapes

**MANJEET JADHAV**

The dhole that was spotted on September 2 in Pune district's Panshet area was seen near a water source. The sighting was made by a team led by Dr. Sonali Shinde, a wildlife researcher and environmental scientist. The sighting was made on the edge of a forest near a water source. The sighting was made on the edge of a forest near a water source.

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Midday News, dt. 12<sup>th</sup> Sept 25.

- (ii) Shrushti Patil news on selection as astronaut was featured in Sakal, Hindustan Times and Samna

## Shrushti selected as astronaut candidate

**Kimaya Borikar**

**PUNE:** Shrushti Patil, an alumna of MRS Abasaheb Garware College, Pune, has earned pride of place in the global space research community by being selected as a Research and Development Astronaut Candidate (ACAN) with Titan Space Industries (TSI). She is also the first woman to be chosen for such a mission.

Over the next four years, Patil will undergo intensive astronaut training including spacecraft systems, orbital mechanics, extravehicular activities (EVA) and microgravity research. Her first mission is scheduled for 2029 during which she will orbit Earth twice as part of TSI's upcoming program.

Aboard her selection, Patil said Hindustan Times, "Being selected as an astronaut candidate for the 2029 mission with Titan Space Industries is truly a dream come true. Over the next four years, I will undergo rigorous astronaut training. Every step of my journey from structured microgravity advanced space microbiology has prepared me for this milestone and I feel honored to represent the scientific community in this way."

Patil also takes pride in being the first to achieve this feat, adding that she hopes her journey will inspire many students from smaller towns to pursue careers in space science and research. Patil credits her strong academic foundation in biodiversity and environmental sciences for her space journey. A post-graduate in biodiversity (2019-21) from the Anantashah Kulkarni department of biodiversity, MRS Abasaheb Garware College, Patil also holds a Bachelor's degree in

**70 researchers from city in global top 2% scientists list 2025**

**Kimaya Borikar**

**PUNE:** The city's research community has received international recognition with 70 scientists and professors being featured in the Stanford University Global Top 2% Scientists List 2025. The list includes over eight million scientists worldwide across 22 scientific fields and 174 sub-fields. This year, 6,230 scientists from India have been featured in the rankings.

The researchers from Pune, whose names are on the list, represent prestigious institutions such as Savitribai Phule Pune University, Synthesis International University, National Chemical Laboratory (NCL), Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), National Centre for Earth Observing and Space Technology (NCEOST), Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IISST), Anna University, and others.

## राजगिरी

### 'गरवारे'ची माजी विद्यार्थिनी सृष्टी पाटील घेणार अंतराळात झेप

**'टाइटन्स स्पेस'कडून अंतराळावर मरणुत्त निवड**

पुणे, दि. २२ (राजगिरी) - मातृगृह एमएस गारवारीच्या असाहेब गारवारी महाविद्यालयातून अभ्यासपूर्ण विद्यार्थिनी सृष्टी पाटील यांनी अंतराळावर मरणुत्त निवड झाली आहे. पुणेचे पहिले व अंतराळावर मरणुत्त, सृष्टी पाटील, यांचा नाव अंतराळावर मरणुत्त निवड झाले आहे. पुणेचे पहिले व अंतराळावर मरणुत्त, सृष्टी पाटील, यांचा नाव अंतराळावर मरणुत्त निवड झाले आहे.

सृष्टी पाटील यांनी अंतराळावर मरणुत्त निवड झाले आहे. पुणेचे पहिले व अंतराळावर मरणुत्त, सृष्टी पाटील, यांचा नाव अंतराळावर मरणुत्त निवड झाले आहे.

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Hindustan News dt. 25<sup>th</sup> Sept. 25

(iii) B.Sc. Environmental Science students attended Sagar Mahotsav was featured in Sakal, Lokmat



News featured in Sakal 17<sup>th</sup> January 2026

(iv) Industry-Academia Workshop was featured in Sakal.



News Featured in Sakal dt. 22<sup>nd</sup> March 26.