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# Swachh Bharat official caught taking ₹1.7L bribe

A member of the Quality Council of India's team, on a visit to Aurangabad for the Swachh Bharat Mission survey, was arrested on Saturday from a top hotel while accepting a bribe of Rs 1.7 lakh from a deputy commissioner of Aurangabad Municipal Corporation. The bribe was for including the city in the top-20 list of the mission. The arrest has left both the state and the central government red-faced. **P 10**

# Swachh surveyor caught taking ₹1.7L bribe from Aurangabad civic body

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**Aurangabad:** A member of the Quality Council of India's (QCI) team, on a visit to Aurangabad for the Swachh Bharat Mission survey, was arrested late on Saturday night from a top hotel while accepting a bribe of Rs 1.7 lakh from a deputy commissioner of the Aurangabad Municipal Corporation. The bribe was for including the city in the top-20 list of the mission.

The arrest left both the state and the Central governments red-faced, with a senior officer saying the chief minister's office has called for a detailed report on the incident.

The senior QCI assessor who was nabbed, Shailesh Bajaniya (33), is from Surat in Gujarat. He was caught red-handed by the anti-corruption bureau (ACB) while accepting the money. The complaint against Bajaniya was lodged by the AMC's Swachh Bharat coordinator.

The urban development ministry has commissioned the QCI to do an extensive survey on the progress of the Swachh Bharat Mission in 500 municipal corporations across the country and rate the top 75 cities on parameters of sanitation and cleanliness. The survey covers all state capitals and cities with a population of 1 million or more.

Aurangabad was placed 56th in the country in the previous Clean India Campaign. The QCI has hired the services of a Surat-based private company, to which Bajaniya belongs, for the nationwide survey.

Bajaniya was produced before a

## 'Team had made many demands, including liquor'

**M**unicipal commissioner Omprakash Bakoria said the QCI team, since its arrival in Aurangabad, was pestering the civic body for a number of things, including liquor. "The team asked my deputy commissioner to get liquor for them on the day they arrived. When the staff refused, the team began taking the civic body to task over various issues. They even started inspecting things that were not part of protocol," he said. TNN

holiday court on Sunday and remanded in police custody for two days.

AMC municipal commissioner Omprakash Bakoria alleged that the QCI team had asked for a bribe of Rs 5 lakh from the deputy commissioner as well as the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan coordinator. "They later brought down the amount to Rs 1.7 lakh. Bajaniya came to collect the money," he said.

Late on Saturday, Bakoria contacted superintendent of police (ACB) Shrikant Paropkari, who was then in Shirdi with his family. He also contacted senior bureaucrats in the urban development department. Paropkari reached Aurangabad around 9.30pm.

Paropkari said, "A trap was set and Bajaniya was arrested from the hotel when he came to take the money. His room in the neighbouring Hotel Rama International was searched by the sleuths, but nothing crucial was found."