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**Corruption cases**

# Nashik division tops state

**NASHIK:** The Nashik division has once again topped the state in corruption cases, with the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) laying 144 traps from January to December 2024. These operations led to the registration of cases against 208 public servants under the Prevention of Corruption Act. This marks the second consecutive year Nashik has led the state in corruption-related actions. The Nashik division of the ACB, comprising Nashik, Ahilyanagar, Dhule, Jalgaon, and Nandurbar districts, recorded the highest number of traps in the state. The operations revealed bribes worth over Rs. 60 lakh accepted by public servants.

department, followed by the police department. Complaints of bribery were particularly frequent in departments handling public-facing services, highlighting widespread issues in governance. Despite earning substantial five-figure salaries, many public servants succumb to the lure of bribes. Arrogance and the misuse of authority to obstruct citizens' work have been identified as recurring traits among corrupt officials. This year's statistics also reflect an increase in trap operations compared to 2023, when 161 traps were recorded. The rise highlights the ACB's ongoing efforts to tackle corruption across departments, especially in revenue and police services. Citizens can report bribery directly to the Nashik division ACB office by calling 0253-2578230. Alternatively, complaints can be filed on the state-level toll-free helpline 1064.

**Major operations in 2024**

Some high-profile cases from the Nashik division included: Action against the then director of State Archaeological Department Tejas Garge, and assistant director, Aarti Ale. Money laundering case has been registered against three individuals, including Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray faction district chief Sudhakar Badgujar, Case of disproportionate assets (DA) of Rs. 1.31 crore case against retired Municipal Corporation fire officer Anil Mahajan and his wife, Zilla Parishad engineer Nandlal Vikram Sonawane caught red-handed accepting a bribe and the assistant superintendent of the civil court was caught red-handed taking a bribe.

**Breakdown of trap operations**

Nashik	50 traps
Ahilyanagar	28 traps
Jalgaon	34 traps
Dhule	20 traps
Nandurbar	12 traps

# Cleanliness drive in Godaghat area

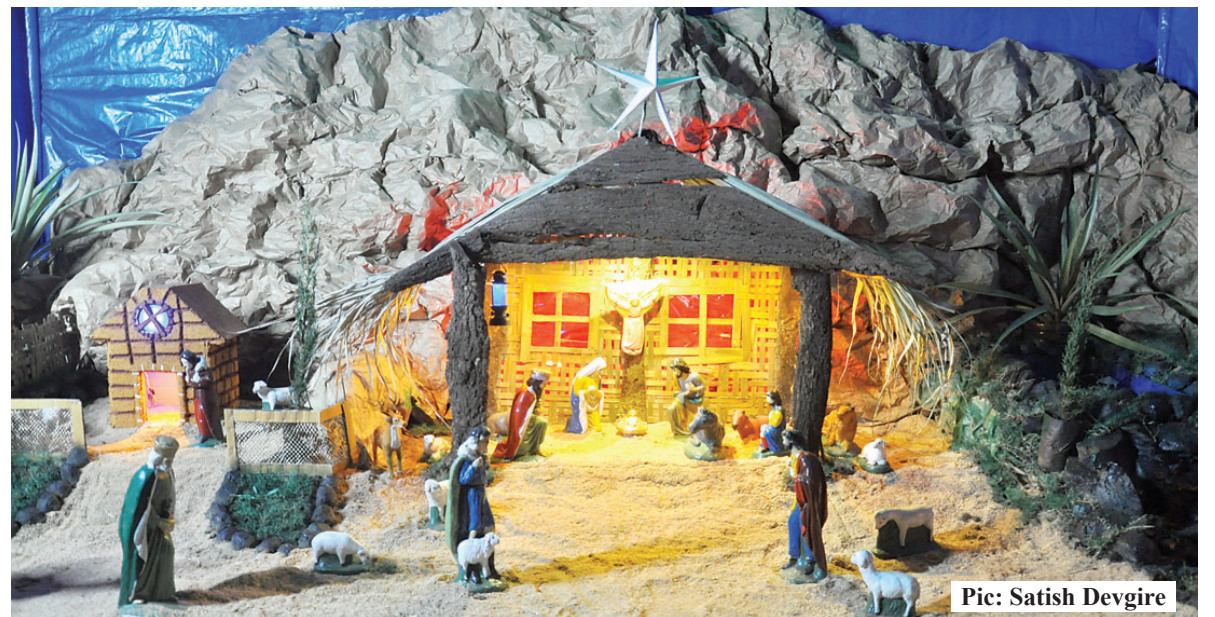


**NASHIK:** A cleanliness drive took place on Monday, Dec. 23, in the Godaghat area, covering Ramtirth, Mhasoba Patangan, Gauri Patangan, Talkuteshwar, and the Ganeshwadi market. The drive was organized by the municipal solid waste management department, Panchavati division, and GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals Pvt. Ltd., resulting in the collection of 800 kg of waste. GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals Pvt. Ltd. provided 17 garbage bins for the Ramtirth area to reduce pollution and assist pilgrims and devotees for waste disposal. These bins were handed over to Dr. Avesh Palode, director of NMC solid waste management department. A special effort was also made to clean the Godavari river basin, led by Dr. Palode and Panchavati divisional sanitary inspector Sanjay Darade, with the waste collected being carried out by a garbage van.

# Farmers' interest paramount: Kokate

**NASHIK:** The state's Agriculture Minister, Adv. Manikrao Kokate, has pledged to formulate comprehensive laws aimed at preventing fraud against farmers, particularly in the sale of agricultural produce such as grapes. Speaking at a meeting organized at the Nashik Divisional Police Inspector General's office, the minister emphasized the need for strict action against grape traders found guilty of cheating farmers. The meeting was attended by Special Inspector General of Police Dattatray Karale, Superintendent of Police Vikram Deshmane, President of the Grape Growers' Association Kailas Bhosale, Director of Sahyadri Farm Vilas Shinde, and other stakeholders. Minister Kokate acknowledged the vulnerability of farmers, who rely entirely on the income generated from their crops. He stressed that farmers often sell their produce to traders offering competitive prices, but fraud cases have occasionally left them at a loss. To combat this, he urged farmers to verify the credentials of traders before engaging in transactions. The police must thoroughly investigate individuals suspected of fraudulent activities. A campaign will be launched by the Agriculture Department to raise awareness among farmers about the risks and preventive measures, he added.

# Midnight bells, carols mark Christmas festivities



Pic: Satish Devgire

Special midnight prayers were organised at churches across the city. Devotees attended Mass, sang hymns, and Christmas carols, celebrating the spirit of the season. Adorned with sparkling Christmas trees, glowing stars, and cribs, these places of worship were transformed into magical havens for devotees and tourists alike. Celebrations were also held in schools across the city.

## New Era English School



New Era English School celebrated Christmas day with great fervour and zeal. It turned into a vibrant hub of joy and festivities. The celebrations with a festive ambience captured the true spirit of Christmas. The children adorned the wonderful Christmas tree with shimmering tinsels, stars and gifts. The students shared the significance about Christmas day, which highlighted the importance of cultural values. Various programmes were presented by the teachers like Tom and Jerry skit, Penguin dance, and Cheerful cartoons songs these performances showcased creativity, teamwork and enthusiasm which added humorous touch, delighted the student and left them spellbound.

## Global International School

Global International School & Jr. College, Dindori Road, Nashik, celebrated Christmas Day with great zeal and festivity. The celebration commenced with a special assembly, setting the tone for a joyous occasion. Students arrived dressed in white attire and vibrant Santa costumes, radiating the festive spirit. The event showcased a delightful array of activities. A beautifully enacted skit, The Birth of Jesus, captured the essence of Christmas, emphasizing the values of love, sharing, and kindness.



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# Vijay Hazare Trophy

## Satyajeet shines in State's wins

Nashik: Satyajeet Bachhav, Nashik District Cricket Association's left-arm spinner and a dependable Ranji Trophy player, continues to make his mark in the Vijay Hazare Trophy. Representing the Maharashtra team under the leadership of international cricketer Ruturaj Gaikwad, Satyajeet has played a pivotal role in securing victories in the team's first two league matches. The Maharashtra team, competing in league matches organized by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), is playing in Mumbai and Navi Mumbai from December 21 to January 5. Satyajeet's outstanding performances in the One-Day International (ODI) victories against Rajasthan and Sena Dal have been instrumental in the team's success. Against Rajasthan, Satyajeet showcased his skillful left-arm spin by taking 2 wickets while conceding 41 runs in his 9-over spell. In the match against Sena Dal, he delivered an even more impressive performance, claiming 3 wickets for 36 runs in 10 overs.



These efforts not only highlighted his bowling prowess but also played a crucial role in securing victories for Maharashtra—a 3-wicket win against Rajasthan and a dominant 9-wicket triumph against Sena Dal. Maharashtra's remaining league matches in the Vijay Hazare Trophy are as follows: 26th December – Meghalaya, 28th December – Himachal Pradesh, 31st December – Sikkim, 3rd January – Andhra, and 5th January – Railways. Satyajeet's consistent performances underline his importance to the team and reflect his potential to contribute significantly as Maharashtra strives for further success in this prestigious tournament.

# Academic fair at Espalier Heritage School

**NASHIK:** Espalier Heritage School hosted an academic fair to celebrate Christmas, showcasing innovative learning approaches for young students. Class I and II students explored the animal kingdom by dressing up as various animals, including cows, calves, bulls, cats, dogs, and emus. Through their presentations, they creatively shared information about these animals. Senior KG students demonstrated the theme of community helpers, portraying roles such as farmers, policemen, teachers, doctors, milkmen, construction workers, and plumbers. Their presentations highlighted the importance of various professions in society. Harshad Bari, the Income Tax Commissioner for Nashik and Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar Division, graced the event as the chief guest.



\* **NASHIK:** A woman gave birth aboard an ST bus traveling from Nashik to Nandurbar on Wednesday afternoon. The woman, who was traveling on the Nashik-Satana bus, went into labour during the journey. Both are in good health.

पूर्ण: आयुर्वेदिक, स्वदेशी एवं ईमानदार क्रिम याने

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