

Corporator who  
opposed resolution  
to pay tribute to  
Vajpayeesent to jail

**MUMBAI, AUG 23/-** An AMIMB corporator, who had last week opposed a resolution to pay tribute to former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, has been arrested and sent to jail for alleged bootlegging and some other charges, police said today.

Sayad Mateen Sayyad Rashid (32), the All-India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) corporator in Aurangabad, was sent to jail for one year on Tuesday under the Maharashtra Prevention of Dangerous Activities of Slumlords, Bootleggers, Drug Offenders and Dangerous Persons (MPDA) Act, an official said.

"During the general body meeting of AMC held on August 17, Mateen opposed a resolution to pay tribute to former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee. He was subsequently beaten up, allegedly by some BJP corporators," the official said.

Mateen was later arrested and booked by City Chowk police station under IPC sections 294 (obscene acts or words in public), 153 (wantonly giving provocation with intent to cause riot) and 151A (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth and language), the official added.

"The corporator was sent to Harsul jail in Aurangabad and was granted bail on Tuesday. However, on the same day we served the order to him issued by the city Commissioner of Police under the MPDA," senior inspector of City Chowk police station, D S Shingare, said.

He said two other offences had been registered against Mateen in the past. "After analysing his criminal records, we found that he is a dangerous person and could promote enmity between two communities," Shingare said. As per the provisions of the MPDA, the corporator will remain in detention for a year," he said. (PTI)

## Veteran journalist Kuldip Nayar passes away

### President and PM send condolences

**NEW DELHI, AUG 23/-** Eminent journalist and author Kuldip Nayar, who fought fiercely for press freedom and civil liberties, died here early today. He was 95. Nayar died around 12.30 am at the Escorts hospital, his elder son Sudhir Nayar said. He was suffering from pneumonia and was admitted to the hospital five days back. The veteran journalist, a proponent of India-Pakistan peace, is survived by his wife and two sons. His last rites will be performed at Lodhi crematorium in New Delhi at 1 pm.

Nayar, who was born in Sialkot in Pakistan in 1923, began his career in journalism in the Urdu language press and went on to serve as editor of several newspapers, including Indian Express and The Statesman. Known not just as one of India's most respected journalists but also as an advocate for human rights, Nayar served as India's high commissioner to the United Kingdom in the 1990s and was nominated to the Rajya Sabha in 1997. The journalist-author was arrested during the Emergency. Condolences poured in as news of his death came in.

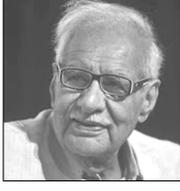
Describing Nayar as a veteran editor and writer, diplomat and parliamentarian, President Ram Nath Kovind said he was "a determined champion of democracy during the Emergency" and would be missed by his readers.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Nayar's strong stand against the Emergency, public service and commitment to the country will always be remembered. "An exemplar, Kuldip Nayar fought through his frank and fearless in his views, his work spanned across many decades. His strong stand against the Emergency, public service and commitment to a better India will always be remembered. Saddened by his demise, My condolences," Modi said in a tweet.

The Editors Guild of India said in its message that Nayar's many legendary news scoops will continue to inspire generations of young journalists for their sharpness, credibility, speed and standards of due diligence. Nayar, a founder member and president of the Guild, was one of the doyens of Indian journalism, it said in a statement.

Terming him a "reporter's editor", the Guild said he held many positions in news organisations, providing both edge and depth to their formidable team of reporters and editors. "An exemplar, Kuldip Nayar fought through his frank and fearless in his views, his work spanned across many decades. His strong stand against the Emergency, public service and commitment to a better India will always be remembered. Saddened by his demise, My condolences," Modi said in a tweet.

The BIP president Amit Shah, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Finance Minister Arun Jaitley were among the others



Union Consumer Affairs Minister Ram Vilas Paswan with BJP state president Nityanand Rai immerse ashes of former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee in Ganga, in Hajipur on Thursday

## Prepare a database of stolen antiques, make FIRs public: CIC tells ASI

**NEW DELHI, AUG 23/-** The Archaeological Survey of India should start publishing alerts, photographs and FIRs about thefts of antiques from historical sites to make their smuggling difficult, the Central Information Commission has said.

Information Commissioner Sridar Acharyulu also directed that a centralised public documentation system containing the details and photographs of stolen antiques should be set up by the ASI.

He said criminals are mutilating artifacts and removing them for smuggling. They cut off the head of a sculpture to steal, smuggle and sell it, he said. "Tragedy is that there is no centralised documentation in India about thefts or smuggling of art objects. Actionable information is not made available by the ASI," he said.

Acharyulu's directives come on the plea of B K S R Ayyangar who had sought to know from the Prime Minister's Office the efforts made by the government to bring back iconic antiques such as Koh-i-Noor diamond, Sultanganj Buddha, Nassak Diamond, the sword and ring of Tipu Sultan, the

golden throne of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, Royal Jade wine cup of Shahjahan, among others.

The PMO transferred the application to the ASI last year but no satisfactory response was provided to the applicant. "The information requested under RTI demand an initiative from the PMO to secure the details from the concerned, possibly including Ministry of External Affairs or of Culture to take needed measures. If they have initiated any such measures, they should have given the details," he said.

Acharyulu said if some measures were taken but not fruitful, or if they are still in the process, that information could be satisfactory.

"Unfortunately there was no such exercise from any office including PMO. How can ASI or officers above them tell anything to appellant about Kohinoor and other high valuable artifacts of our ancient times," he said.

He directed the PMO, the ASI and Culture Ministry officials to collect information about efforts and their effects to reclaim the ancient artifacts within one month. (PTI)

## Man killed

**NASHIK (MAHA), AUG 23/-** A 21-year man was killed and four others, including a child, were injured when an artillery shell exploded at a village in Maharashtra's Nashik district, a police official said today.

The man, identified as Ajay Shirsath, spotted the artillery shell lying near a firing range located close to his home at Shelgan Kurhe village in Igatpuri taluka yesterday. He took the shell and was trying to break its outer metal covering in the presence of other villagers when it exploded, killing him on the spot, the official said.

Four others, including a one-and-a-half-year-old boy, received serious injuries in the incident and they were admitted to the Nashik Civil Hospital, he said. A case of accidental death has been registered in connection with the incident, police said. (PTI)



Defence Minister of China, General Wei Fenghe being received by Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, in New Delhi on Thursday

## MUMBAI BUILDING FIRE Builder remanded to police custody till Aug 27

**MUMBAI, AUG 23/-** The builder of a residential high-rise in Mumbai's Dadar area, where at least four people were killed in a fire, was today remanded to police custody till August 27 by a local court. The builder, Abdul Razak Isma Supariwala, was arrested by the Bhoiwada police yesterday, hours after the fire broke out at the 12th floor of the posh Crystal Tower building. He was booked under IPC sections 304 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder), 336 (act endangering life or personal safety of others), 337 (causing hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others) and 338 (causing grievous hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others).

Supariwala was also booked under the Maharashtra Fire Prevention and Life Safety Act 2006. He was produced before the Bhoiwada Metropolitan Magistrate Court which remanded him to police custody till August 27, a senior police officer said. Twenty-one people were injured in the fire. Near 170 people were rescued from the building. The 17-storey building did not have the mandatory Occupation Certificate granted by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), but it was already occupied by around 58 flat owners, according to the civic body.

The civic body had in October 2016 issued a notice to the builder and the 58 occupants to vacate the building within seven days, but it was challenged in the court and the matter is still sub-judice, the BMC said in a statement yesterday. Renovation work was underway on the affected floor but the exact reason behind the blaze would be known only after a thorough investigation, an official had said. (PTI)

## Husband's kin not to be roped in marital cases, if crime not made out: SC

**NEW DELHI, AUG 23/-** The relatives of a husband should not be roped in cases of matrimonial disputes and dowry deaths unless specific instances of their involvement in the crime is made out, the Supreme Court has held. A bench of Justices S A Bobde and L Nageswara Rao also cautioned the courts to be careful in proceeding against "distant relatives" of the husband in such cases.

The apex court judgement came as it allowed a plea filed by the maternal uncles of a man challenging a Hyderabad High Court's January 2016 verdict dismissing their petition for quashing criminal proceedings against them in a matrimonial dispute case. "The courts should be careful in proceeding against the distant relatives in crimes pertaining to matrimonial disputes and dowry deaths. The relatives of the husband should not be roped in on the basis of only such allegations unless specific instances of their involvement in the crime are made out," the bench said.

The bench said that after considering the charge sheets filed in the matter, the court was of the view that as a prima facie case was not made out against maternal uncles of the man for alleged charges of subjecting a married woman to cruelty, criminal conspiracy, cheating and kidnapping. The complainant in the case had filed a complaint with the police alleging harassment by her husband and his family members, including his maternal uncles, and also claimed that her son was kidnapped by her husband.

The maternal uncles of the man had approached the high court seeking quashing of the proceedings against them in the case but their plea was dismissed. They had thereafter approached the apex court challenging the high court's verdict. After the high court's order, charge sheets were filed by the police alleging that the couple had married in December 2008 and were mostly residing in the United States of America. The police had alleged in the charge sheet that there was a marital discord between them and maternal uncles of the man were supporting the husband, who was physically and mentally torturing his wife. "Except the statement that they (petitioners) supported the third respondent (husband) who was harassing the second respondent (wife) for dowry and that they conspired with the third respondent for taking away his child to the USA, nothing else indicating their involvement in the crime was mentioned," the apex court said. "Criminal proceedings are not normally interdicted by us as the interlocutory stage unless there is an abuse of process of a court. This court, at the same time, does not hesitate to interfere to secure the ends of justice," the bench observed.

During the arguments before the apex court, the counsel for the woman had claimed that certain documents belonging to her were seized from the maternal uncles of her husband which showed their involvement in the alleged kidnapping of her child. (PTI)

## Senior Cong leader Gurudas Kamat cremated with full state honours

**MUMBAI, AUG 23/-** Senior Congress leader Gurudas Kamat was cremated today in suburban Chembur here with full state honours in the presence of several dignitaries and a huge number of supporters. Kamat (63), a five-time Lok Sabha MP and a former Union minister, died of a heart attack in New Delhi yesterday and his body was brought to his residence in Chembur to allow people to pay their last respects.

Kamat's body was wrapped in the tricolour and was taken to the crematorium in the suburb in a flower-bedecked vehicle. His son Sunil lit the pyre and a police contingent gave the departed leader an salute. Several people present there were seen breaking down. Among those who paid tribute to Kamat were Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis, state minister Vinod Tawde, senior Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge, Mumbai Congress chief Sanjay Nirupam, former chief minister Narayan Rane, BJP leader Ashish Shelar and former Union minister Mukul Wasnik. It also included BJP leader Krishna Hegde, Congress leader Naseem Khan, former CM Ashok Chavan, Samajwadi Party MLA Asim Azmi, Congress MLA Aslam Sheikh, Maharashtra minister Prakash Mehta, MLC Bhai Jagtap, Congress MLA Amin Patel apart from party workers. While some of these leaders paid their respects at Kamat's Chembur residence, others were present at the crematorium. Mumbai Congress chief Sanjay Nirupam said that the party wanted Kamat's body to be brought to the city headquarters near the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation head office in south Mumbai but the Sunil lit the pyre and some members turned down the request. "We respected the sentiments of the family," Nirupam told PTI. Kamat was a member of Parliament for the Mumbai North West constituency in 2008 and the Mumbai North East constituency in 1984, 1991, 1998 and 2004. He was Union minister of state for home affairs with the additional charge of the Communications and Information Technology Ministry from 2009 to 2011. He was also a former president of the Mumbai Regional Congress League Committee.

## NGT fines Gurgaon sewage plant proponent for damaging environment

**NEW DELHI, AUG 23/-** The National Green Tribunal has slapped an interim fine of Rs 2.5 lakh on the project proponent of Bandhwari sewage treatment plant in Haryana's Gurgaon district for damaging the environment.

A bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel noted that there was no substantial compliance by the project proponent in managing the waste and said that mere statement that compliance will be done in the future was not enough. "Ecogreen Energy Gurgaon Faridabad Pvt Ltd is directed to pay interim compensation of Rs 2.5 lakh for damage to the environment under

Section 15(2) of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010. The amount may be deposited with the state pollution control board. The above amount may have to be increased if any violation continues. We direct the Central Pollution Control Board and state pollution control board to conduct an inspection within four weeks," the bench, also comprising Justice Jawad Rahim, said.

The tribunal posted the matter for consideration of compliance affidavit and the report of CPCB and state pollution board on February 6 next year. The green panel had earlier slammed the Haryana government and its civic bodies over the disposal of industrial waste

and construction debris in the Aravalli forests along the Gurgaon-Faridabad road.

Several residents from nearby villages had appeared before the NGT and alleged water contamination in their area. They had told the NGT that continued dumping of waste at the Bandhwari landfill site has led a stream of "dirty, black water" or leachate into the Aravalli forest, polluting the aquifers around both Delhi and Gurgaon.

The villagers, who were accompanied by an NGO, had submitted water samples to the green body, alleging that "reckless dumping" of industrial waste and

construction debris was taking place in the green area and seeking urgent directions from the bench in this regard.

The green panel was hearing a plea filed by environmentalist Vivek Kamboj and Amit Chaudhary, alleging that the municipal corporations of Gurgaon and Faridabad were disposing industrial waste and construction debris in these forest areas.

Kamboj had referred to a media report which said that construction debris was found dumped in the forest and quoted a local resident as saying that several vehicles were seen there every Sunday morning. (PTI)

## Rajasthan: Vajpayee's achievements to be included in school textbooks

**JAIPUR, AUG 23/-** Milestones achieved during the tenure of former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee will be included in school textbooks in Rajasthan from the next academic session, Education Minister Vasudev Devnani said today.

Devnani has written to the Rajasthan Board of Secondary Education to start the process of scrutinising the contents and highlighting them in school textbooks. "Major transformation and achievements during the tenure of former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee will be highlighted in school textbooks. I have given the directions to the Board to initiate the process to get the things done," Devnani told PTI.

Students should know about his great and influential leadership during Kargil

war, nuclear tests in Pokhran in Jaisalmer and unforgettable contribution to the country through programmes like the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana among others which took the country on the path of development," he said.

The directions were given on August 18 and a committee of experts will take up the task. Apart from highlighting the achievements of Vajpayee, who died on August 16, the minister is also considering to make available biography of Vajpayee in selected libraries of every district.

In Rajasthan, several changes in the school curriculum have been made and many Indian personalities, including Rajput king Maharana Pratap, were included in the last four years. (PTI)