

# RAHUL MAHAJAN ARRESTED

## Charged With Consumption Of Drugs And Destruction Of Evidence Under NDPS Act

New Delhi: Rahul Mahajan, the son of BJP leader Pramod Mahajan who was shot dead by his younger brother a month ago, was arrested here on Monday under the Narcotics Act.

Rahul has been booked under the Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act and has been charged with consumption of drugs and destruction of evidence, sources said.

"We have enough witnesses and statements to prove that Rahul had taken drugs at his residence on Thursday night and that

is why we have arrested Rahul Mahajan," additional deputy commissioner of Delhi police Manish Agrawal told reporters outside Apollo Hospital where Rahul has been undergoing treatment after he was rushed in a critical state in the wee hours of Friday after a late-night drinking binge which claimed the life of longtime Mahajan aide Vivek Maitra. "We are seeking the opinion of doctors to have Rahul

with video cameras reached the hospital to record Rahul's statement at about 11 am. The team was later joined by ACP Suman Nalwa and Tughlak Road SHO Madanjit Singh for more intense interrogation. After a round of "informal questioning", Rahul was quizzed in detail. "We are here to do a formal interrogation of Rahul," Nalwa said.

In the morning, the police made a submission before metropolitan magistrate M M Chaturvedi seeking the custody of three Nigerian nationals arrested following the interrogation of Sahil Zaroo, who allegedly procured drugs for Rahul and Maitra.

Harish Sharma, a close aide of Pramod Mahajan, was interrogated for the second day on Monday as the police set out to establish the sequence of events on Thursday night. The police also quizzed Sahil's friends Karan, Tishay and Rahul Malhotra—who were present during at the bash.

AGENCIES

### BJP dismisses it as family problem...

Notwithstanding the sympathies expressed by former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the BJP on Monday maintained its distance from the Rahul Mahajan episode, saying it was a family tragedy. "So far as the party is concerned, I have already said it is a tragedy of a family. Those who have personal relations with the family are helping them out at their own level. The party has nothing to do with the incident. We have said this not once but ten times," BJP Sushma Swaraj said. Asked about Vajpayee's remarks in Manali, she said, "He has said it in his capacity as a statesman. He is always right."

### ..Munde claims party's worried

BJP leader Gopinath Munde on Monday claimed that he did not feel the party had distanced itself from Rahul Mahajan, who has been arrested under the Narcotics Act for possession and consumption of drugs. Pointing out that senior BJP leaders had visited Apollo Hospital to enquire about Rahul, he said, "Several BJP leaders have spoken to me seeking information about Rahul's condition." Munde, who is also Rahul's uncle, denied reports that Mahajan Jr had consumed any drug, saying, "The quantity of cocaine shown in the medical tests was within permissible limits which can be found in any human being."



# 2 city-based Nigerians sought in Sahil probe

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Mumbai:** The Delhi police are on the lookout for two Nigerians in Mumbai whose names were reportedly revealed to them by Sahil Zaroo and the Nigerian drug peddler, Abdullah, in connection with ongoing investigations into the city's drug trade.

While the two alleged peddlers are as yet untraced, sources have revealed that they hail from Dongri and Oshiwara. While police have their names they have refused to reveal them saying it could adversely affect the investigation. The police also speculated that the names they have may be nicknames or aliases.

Sources said that one of the two alleged peddlers being sought had earlier stayed at Dongri, but shifted to Oshiwara last year. An officer

## NEW CLUES



**The police have refused to reveal the names of the Nigerians fearing it would adversely affect the probe**

from the Mumbai Anti-Narcotics Cell (ANC) said the descriptions and names provided by the Delhi police did not match names in their records.

A Delhi police team led by Suresh Kaushik, station house officer of the Connaught Place police station, met officers of Mumbai police's ANC in connection with the case.

Sources said that Abdullah had revealed to the police that one of the Nigerians being sought had told Zaroo in Mumbai that if he ever wanted to buy some "powder" in Delhi he could contact Abdullah.

DCP Sanjay Mohite, who is in charge of the Mumbai ANC, said: "An officer and a constable of the Delhi police had come to our office three days ago inquiring about Sahil's previous record. However, we don't have any such record. So we told them so."

The Delhi police have also visited a popular Tardeo bar, which Zaroo is said to have frequented.

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