

as thrashed. "Judge DJ Kankhare granted them the coronavirus crisis," said Satish Mistry, Kar-day, Vartak Nagar police summoned Karmuse's statement in the case registered against him. On governor B S Koshyari. "He said he would look was being assaulted, I had called up my wife and post. Cops are dragging her into the case."

Ex-AG who took on state in 1974 dead

Mumbai: Former attorney general of India **Ashok Desai** died here early on Monday. He was 87. His death will be a great loss



to the legal fraternity, said senior lawyers, who recalled his original thinking, persuasive skills and witty presence. Desai's legendary court craft, keen intellect, fierce defence of the freedom of speech, and love for good music and books were also recalled.

Desai practised in the city till he was appointed solicitor general in 1989 for a year. He was appointed attorney general in July 1996, a few years after another legal luminary from Mumbai, Soli Sorabjee, had been named to the post.

Desai, known as Ashokbhai in the fraternity, had appeared in many public interest petitions, for litigants, well before PIL jurisdiction was recognized by Supreme Court. A constitutional law expert and a fighter for fundamental rights, he had taken on Maharashtra government against allotment of land at Backbay Reclamation, appearing for petitioner, Pilo Modi, in 1974.

—Swati Deshpande

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Before the Covid-19 lockdown started, commuters could travel by paying just Rs 6 for a comfortable ride in these air-conditioned minibuses, which were operating in middle class colonies as well as in upmarket areas like Nepeansea Road and Peddar Road.

When the bigger buses were deployed to ferry essential workers during the lockdown, AC minis were being used to ferry foreign nationals to the airport, from where they took special flights back to their countries, sources said. The minis were also used to ferry doctors and nurses. Now they are tending to the poor.

Role reversal

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Pune: Firemen now have sole responsibility to carry out sanitization in the city. Trained to deal with material and equipment that extinguishes blazes, they have been put in charge of handling inflammable material meant for storage and transportation and to be used for spraying.

Chief fire officer Prahlad Rahangdale told TOI: "We have never done this job before. Everyone else is doing their regular jobs but we have had to switch places. From extinguishing fires, we are now storing and handling inflammable material and carrying out disinfection and sanitization activities."

Initially, they had to grapple with logistical and storage issues and it took a few days to work out a solution

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