

# Manjunath still inspires many

**JUSTICE  
AT LAST**

The Allahabad High Court on Friday upheld the life sentences given to five of the accused by a sessions court; the death sentence of Pawan Kumar Mittal was commuted to life, reports **Jayalakshmi Venugopal**

**M**anjunath Shanmugam, alumnus of the Indian Institute of Management-Lucknow, who was murdered for exposing an adulteration racket at an Indian Oil Corporation bunk in Lakhimpur, Uttar Pradesh, continues to inspire a landslide of opinion against the ways of the corrupt even four years after his tragic death.

On Friday, the Allahabad High Court upheld the life sentences given by the sessions court in UP to five of the accused.

The death sentence given to the main convict, Pawan Kumar Mittal, who owned the bunk that Manjunath targeted as a sales officer with the IOC, was commuted to life. Two others were acquitted.

The verdict has come as a huge relief to the friends of Manjunath as well as thousands of youth who have fought to ensure that his killers are punished for their heinous deed.

Manjunath, a native of Kolar, was murdered on November 19, 2005 at Lakhimpur. He was also an alumnus of the Jayachamrajendra College of Engineering, Mysore.

"We will not contest the commutation of death sentence of the main convict, because we respect the law and we are not seeking vengeance. This is a strong judgement delivered by the Allahabad High Court. As for the two who were acquitted, we have to examine their cases before deciding on any future course of action. We fought hard and we fought clean," said Anjali Mullati, friend of Manjunath and



**LIVING ON IN MEMORY:** Winners of the Manjunath Shanmugam Trust Integrity Awards. Manjunath (inset) was murdered for exposing an adulteration racket

FILE PHOTO

**Nurturing other struggles  
against corruption**

**The** murder of Manjunath Shanmugam had sparked off a people's movement on the need to uphold all struggles against corruption. The Manjunath Shanmugam Trust, which was set up to provide legal support to fight his case in the courts, gives away integrity awards to honour those who fight against corruption. The trust had set up a National Right to Information Helpline in 2006. They also fund the salary of one employee at Kabir, a Delhi-based NGO, to answer queries regarding the application process under the Right to Information.

trustee, Manjunath Shanmugam Trust (MST), set up to provide legal support to fight his case in the court.

"Manjunath has inspired us. We want to keep his values and memory alive on campus," said Vishal Gupta, volunteer, IIM-L's Manjunath cell. "We are happy to see that justice has been served. Manjunath's sacrifice has not gone in vain. It is one thing to learn about ethics in a classroom and quite another to live it. Manjunath inspires," says Praveen Gopal Krishnan, IIM-B student.

v\_jayalakshmi@dnaindia.net