

Delhi LG Saxena to meet with water minister Atishi on Monday



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NEW DELHI: Delhi Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena will meet with Water Minister Atishi on Monday over the "inadequate" amount of water being released by Haryana through the Munak Canal, one of the national capital's primary sources of potable water, Raj Niwas officials said. Atishi had sought time from Saxena for an emergency meeting over the issue. In a post on 'X' earlier, the minister said Delhi is supposed to receive 1,050 cusecs of water from the

canal but it has reduced to only 840 cusecs. "Have sought time from the Hon'ble @LtGovDelhi for an emergency meeting, to apprise him of the inadequate water being released by Haryana from the Munak Canal," she said. Responding to the Delhi minister's post, Raj Niwas Delhi, the official account of the LG Secretariat, said, "Hon'ble LG will meet Ms Atishi at 11:00 AM tomorrow. In interim he has asked officials to ascertain actual position of Water released by Himachal &

Haryana, measures to check wastage & leakage of water in Delhi & the status of disilting of Wazirabad reservoir, as directed by SC." In her post, Atishi also said, "Delhi is supposed to receive 1050 cusecs of water from the Munak Canal via the CLC (carrier-lined channel) and DSB (Delhi sub-branch) sub-canaals. However, this has reduced to 840 cusecs. 7 Water Treatment Plants are dependent on this water. If the amount of water does not increase today, then the water situation across Delhi will worsen in 1-2 days." Amid rising temperatures, Delhi has been facing a water shortage. "Hon'ble @LtGovDelhi is the representative of the Central Govt. Will be requesting him to intervene and resolve the situation," the minister added.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS MUMBAI: Aviation regulator DGCA is probing an incident of an IndiGo plane landing and an Air India aircraft taking off from the same runway in less than a minute at the Mumbai airport, officials said on Sunday. The watchdog has derostered the Air Traffic Controller (ATC) who was on duty at the time of the incident on Saturday, while IndiGo has initiated a probe into the matter, they added. A purported video of one plane landing and another taking off from the same runway has been shared on social media. "We are conducting a probe and have already de-rostered the ATCO involved in the incident," the DGCA official said. Mumbai airport is a single-runway operation with two crossing runways' 09/27 and 14/32 that handles over 850 flights per day. On a single runway RW27 at

the Mumbai airport, there are around 46 arrivals and departures per hour. IndiGo said its aircraft continued the approach and landing as per the ATC instructions. "On June 8, IndiGo flight 6E 6053 from Indore was given landing clearance by ATC at Mumbai Airport. The pilot in command continued the approach and landing and followed ATC instructions," IndiGo said in a statement. "At IndiGo, passenger safety is paramount to us, and we have reported the incident as per procedure," it said. According to an Airports Authority of India (AAI) source, as a rule, departing aircraft have to cross the end of the runway or take a turn, only after which the ATC can issue the landing clearance for arriving aircraft. "However, in this case, this was allegedly not followed," the source said. Air Traffic Controllers'



(ATC) Guild in a statement said there was "no air prox" situation in the incident. It also alleged that the ATCs are under "significant pressure" when there is high density traffic at the airport. The Adani Group-AAI promoted Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport had earlier this year announced it will handle 8 per cent more air traffic movement at 6,657 ATMs per week (951 per day) during the summer schedule, which started from March 29, against the year-ago period. "In this particular case... the visibility was good and there

Had there been a safety risk, the pilot himself would have initiated a go around, the ATC Guild said. ATCs are allowed to clear up to two arrivals and two departures within three minutes as per standard operating procedures, subject to certain conditions. The separation minima between two aircraft can be reduced if the visibility is good, it said. "ATCs are under significant pressure when there is high density traffic at airports with the safety of aircraft and passengers. The DGCA probe will be looking at whether all norms were followed by the ATC as well as the pilots concerned," the Guild stated. "In the video it can be seen that departure has crossed V2 speed -- at which the aircraft may safely climb with one engine inoperative and nosed up and on the other end of runway arrival is touching down," according to the Guild.

Air India utilising group airlines' engineering skills for improved aircraft maintenance works

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NEW DELHI: Tata Group-owned Air India is utilising the engineering skills available with group airlines to carry out more maintenance work of the aircraft under its own quality control amid multiple instances of its legacy planes facing operational issues, according to a senior company official.

The official also said the airline is keen to lease aircraft but the market is very tight, especially for wide-body planes.

After the takeover by the Tata Group in 2022, loss-making Air India has been making efforts for improvement and has embarked on a five-year transformation plan.

To address the engineering issues more effectively, the official told PTI that Air India is bringing the work of line maintenance component in-house as well as using the licensing and skills of the group airlines to do some



things in certain types of aircraft. Such an approach will help Air India in doing more "maintenance work under our own quality control", the official said on condition of anonymity. Air India is setting up a maintenance base in Bengaluru and the facility will be operational by the end of next year. The group has four airlines -- Air India, Air India Express, AIX Connect (for-

merly AirAsia India), and Vistara. The systematic upgrade is being done to bring some aircraft to the healthy standard. These are old Boeing 787s and 777s, the official said, while speaking on the sidelines of the IATA annual general meeting in Dubai this week. The Boeing 777-200 LRs are the smallest fleet and ones that operate to the West Coast of the US. When something goes wrong with one of

them, then there is relatively few to substitute and do that mission. One disruption can have a big effect, the official said. In recent weeks, at least four ultra long-haul flights of Air India, operated by Boeing 777 aircraft, faced inordinate delays due to technical and operational issues. Air India has at least 43 legacy wide-body planes -- 16 Boeing 777s and 27 Boeing 787s. Earlier this week at a conference in the national capital, Air India CEO and MD Campbell Wilson said the airline will be retrofitting more than 100 planes, including 40 wide-body planes, and has ordered around 25,000 aircraft seats as part of revamping the fleet. On plans to lease more aircraft to address the issues being faced with legacy planes operating ultra long-haul flights, the official said the airline will be happy to lease aircraft but the market

is very tight, especially for wide-body aircraft. At present, the carrier is also operating wide-body aircraft leased from Delta Air Lines and Etihad Airways. While the airline sees continued opportunities for expansion, the official said it is also aware about the unreliability of the legacy aircraft and efforts are on to get them to the standard as well as replace them with new planes. Last year, Air India placed an order for 470 planes with Airbus and Boeing, including for 70 wide-body aircraft. The carrier is already operating six A350s, which will be utilised more in international routes in the coming months. As part of the consolidation of Tata Group's airline business, AIX Connect is getting merged with Air India Express, and Vistara is getting merged with Air India. Both mergers are expected to be complete by the end of this year.

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NEW DELHI: The Joint Entrance Exam (JEE)-Advanced results were announced Sunday morning, with Ved Lahoti from IIT Delhi zone bagging the top rank by securing 355 out of 360 marks.

According to IIT Madras, which conducted the Joint Entrance Exam (JEE)-Advanced this year, Dwija Dharmeshkumar Patel from IIT Bombay zone is the topper among female candidates with 332 marks. Her all India rank is 7.

Four among the top 10 rank-holders are from IIT Madras. The second rank has been bagged by Aditya (Delhi zone) followed by Bhogalpal Sandesh (Madras zone) at the third position.

Rhythm Kedia (IIT Roorkee zone), Putti Kushal Kumar (IIT Madras), Rajdeep Mishra (IIT Bombay zone), Koduri Tejeswar (IIT Madras zone), Dhruvi Hemant Doshi (IIT Bombay zone) and Alladabona SSDB Sidhvik



Suhas (IIT Madras zone), have bagged the subsequent ranks in that order. The maximum number of candidates have qualified from IIT Madras zone, followed by IIT Delhi Zone and IIT Bombay zone. Among the top 500 candidates, 145 are from IIT Madras zone, followed by 136 from IIT Bombay zone and 122 from IIT Delhi zone. A total of seven foreign candidates have qualified the exam while 179 Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) have also cleared it. Explaining the criteria for inclusion in rank list, a senior IIT Madras official said, "The aggregate marks will be calcu-

lated as the sum of marks obtained in Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry. Candidates have to satisfy the subject-wise as well as aggregate qualifying marks to be included in a rank list." A total of 1,80,200 candidates appeared in both papers in IIT-JEE Advanced, of which 48,248 have qualified including 7964 female candidates. JEE-Main, which is the admission test for engineering colleges across the country, is the qualifying exam for JEE-Advanced. The exam was conducted on May 26. The Joint Seat Allocation (JoSAA) counselling will begin from Monday.

Monsoon reaches Mumbai 2 days early



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NEW DELHI: The southwest monsoon reached Mumbai on Sunday, two days earlier than usual after making an early onset over Kerala and northeastern region on May 30, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD). Last year, the primary rain-bearing system reached Delhi and Mumbai together on June 25, first time since June 21, 1961, with Cyclone Biparjoy impacting its progress over southern India and the adjoining western and central parts of the country.

Normally, the monsoon reaches Kerala by June 1, Mumbai by June 11, and the national capital by June 27. On May 15, the weather office had announced the onset of monsoon over Kerala by May 31. Weather scientists said cyclone Remal, which ripped through West Bengal and Bangladesh in May-end,

pulled the monsoonal flow to the Bay of Bengal, resulting in an early onset over the northeast. The simultaneous onset of monsoon over Kerala and the northeast is quite rare and has happened on four occasions earlier -- 2017, 1997, 1995 and 1991. The normal monsoon onset date is June 1 for Kerala and June 5 for Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur and Assam. Between 1971 and 2024, the earliest onset of monsoon over Kerala was in 1990 when the annual rains reached the coastal state on May 18. The onset of monsoon over Kerala happened on May 22 in 1999, and on May 23 in 1974 and 2009. Retaining its April forecast, the IMD in a May-end presser said the country could see above-normal rainfall in the four-month monsoon season (June to September) with cumulative rainfall estimated

at 106 per cent of the long-period average of 87 cm. Below-normal monsoon rainfall is expected in north-east India, normal in north-west, and above-normal in central and south peninsular regions of the country. India's core monsoon zone covering most of the rain-fed agriculture areas in the country is predicted to receive above-normal rainfall this season, the Met office said. The monsoon is critical for India's agricultural landscape, with 52 per cent of the net cultivated area relying on it. It is also crucial for replenishing reservoirs critical for drinking water, apart from power generation across the country. June and July are considered the most important monsoon months for agriculture because most of the sowing for the Kharif crop takes place during this period. El Nino conditions are prevailing at present, and La Nina may set in by August-September, scientists said. El Nino -- the periodic warming of surface waters in the central Pacific Ocean -- is associated with weaker monsoon winds and drier conditions in India. La Nina -- the antithesis of El Nino -- leads to plentiful rainfall during the monsoon season.

6 Naxalites killed in encounter carried total bounty of Rs 38 lakh: Chhattisgarh police

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAGDALPUR (CHHATTISGARH): Six Naxalites killed in an encounter with security forces in Chhattisgarh's Narayanpur district two days back were dreaded cadres carrying a cumulative bounty of Rs 38 lakh, according to police.

This operation is so far the biggest attack by security forces on People's Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA) company no. 6, which is considered a pillar of the attacking force of Naxalites, the police said on Saturday. It has created an atmosphere of fear among Naxalites in east Bastar division, which is considered their strong formation, the police said. The encounter took place near Gobel and Thulthuli villages under Orcha police station limits on Friday. While police earlier said seven Naxalites were killed, they later revised the toll to six, that included three women. The deceased belonged to military company number 6 of the PLGA and east Bastar division formations of the proscribed Communist Party of India (Maoist), a police official said. "The operation involving separate teams of security personnel was launched late

night on June 6 on the border of Narayanpur, Kondagaon, Dantewada and Bastar districts based on inputs about the presence of Maoists of PLGA military company no. 6 and east Bastar division formations," Inspector General of Police (Bastar Range) Sundarraj P said at a press conference here on Saturday. Personnel from the police's District Reserve Guard from four districts, 45th battalion of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and 95th battalion of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) were involved in the operation, he said. "At around 3 pm on Friday, Naxalites opened fire on security personnel in the forest near Bhatbeda-Battekal and Chhotetondebeda villages. The intermittent cross firing between separate teams of security personnel and Naxalites lasted for a long time following which Naxalites escaped into the dense forest taking cover of a hill," the IG said. During a search of the site, bodies of six Naxalites clad in 'uniform' were recovered from different places along with two .303 rifles, one .315 bore rifle, 10 BGL (barrel grenade launcher) shells, one SLR magazine, a cooker



bomb, five bags, a huge cache of explosives, medicines and items of daily use, Sundarraj said. Blood stains were found at several places in the area, which indicate some other Naxalites were either killed or injured in the encounter, he said. Four of the six slain ultras were identified as Masiya alias Mandaavi (32), sniper team commander and platoon no. 2 section 'A' commander, Ramesh Korram (29), deputy commander, Sanni alias Sundari, party member, and Sajanti Poyam, who was a member of the PLGA company no. 6 under east Bastar division of Maoists, the IG said. "These four were carrying a reward of Rs 8 lakh each on their heads. The remaining

two were identified as Jailal Salaam, who was active as Bayanar area committee member and carried a reward of Rs 5 lakh on his head, and Janani alias Janni (28), carrying a bounty of Rs 1 lakh on his head," he said. Assistant Sub Inspector Kachru Ram Korram (45), and constables Manglu Ram Kumeti (47) and Bharat Singh Dharal (23) received injuries in the encounter and were airlifted to Raipur for advanced treatment and their condition was stated to be out of danger, the official said. "This operation is so far the biggest attack by security forces on company no. 6, which is considered a pillar of Naxalites' attacking force, Bayanar area committee and Amdai area committee of

Naxalites. It has created an atmosphere of fear among Naxalites in east Bastar division, which is considered their strong formation," Sundarraj said. Following the operation, Naxalite leadership active in the border areas of Narayanpur, Kondagaon, Dantewada and Bastar district was reportedly blaming villagers and their lower cadres, he added. The main objective is to protect people living in remote forests and difficult geographical conditions in Bastar division from Maoist ideology so that development and peace can be established in the region, Bastar and Dantewada Superintendents of Police Shalabh Sinha and Gaurav Rai said in the press conference. The two SPs appealed to Naxalites to shun violence and join the mainstream. So far this year, 123 Naxalites have been killed and 136 firearms recovered in 71 encounters in Bastar division, comprising Kaner, Kondagaon, Narayanpur, Bastar, Bijapur, Dantewada and Sukma districts, police said. During the same period, 339 Naxalites have surrendered in the division, they said.

Land for jobs 'scam': Delhi HC directs medical evaluation of Lalu's aide Amit Katyal

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court has directed the constitution of a medical board to evaluate the medical condition of RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav's close aide Amit Katyal, who sought interim bail on medical grounds in a money laundering case linked to the alleged land-for-jobs scam in the Indian Railways. The High Court observed that even though the report from the jail did not indicate any "underlying medical condition", the accused recently had a bariatric surgery and, therefore, asked the AIMS director to immediately constitute the team of doctors from minimum three different specialties to ascertain the nature of ailments he is suffering

from. The High Court emphasised that the right of health of an individual, being a facet of right to life under Article 21, cannot be abridged without due process of law in a mechanical manner and an individual can be released on an interim bail when specialized treatment and care, which cannot be provided in jail, is necessary. "The Court cannot assume the role of an expert and make an assessment of its own as regard the medical condition of the petitioner... In the circumstances, this Court deems it appropriate to constitute a medical board to evaluate the medical condition of the petitioner," concluded a vacation bench of Justice Vikas Mahajan in an order passed on



June 7. The High Court said after the evaluation of medical records and examination of the petitioner accused, the medical board shall furnish a report on or before June 14.

The report must indicate whether the petitioner requires such specialized treatment, personal care and special diet which cannot be provided in the primary healthcare facility of jail, it stated. The counsel for the Enforcement Directorate submitted that the medical ailments of the petitioner were not serious and the requisite medical attention was being provided to him in the jail premises. Represented by senior advocates Kapil Sibal and Vikas Pahlwa, Katyal had approached the High Court earlier this month for medical interim bail, stating he has undergone bariatric surgery and has also 10 kgs weight and he needs to undergo further treatment which is not available in the Tihar jail where he is lodged.

Katyal was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on November 11, 2023 under various provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). The probe agency has alleged that Katyal had acquired land from several job aspirants on behalf of the RJD chief and former railway minister Lalu Prasad Yadav. The ED has claimed that Katyal was the director of a company named AK Infosystems Private Limited, which acquired land from candidates "on behalf" of Lalu Prasad Yadav. Some other members of the RJD supremo's family are also accused in the case. The matter would be heard next on June 17.