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Saxena may name Agusta bribe-takers in court today

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate is hopeful of major disclosures on the beneficiaries of the Rs 425 crore AgustaWestland payoff by one of the accused, Rajeev Saxena, in his statement before a magistrate on Saturday.

After Saxena turned approver in the AgustaWestland money laundering case being probed by the ED, a Delhi court had directed him to record his statement before a magistrate.

Sources in the ED said Saxena has been cooperating with the agency. However, Saxena's statement before the magistrate will decide if the court grants him relief from penal provisions applicable in the money laundering case.

Saxena has said his exposure in the case was minimal and he was merely acting as a front for other beneficiaries. A multi-agency probe in the AgustaWestland payoff case had found involvement of a number of bureaucrats, besides some high-profile people in helping the UK company win the VVIP chopper deal.

A source said Saxena's cooperation in disclosing the beneficiaries of the payoff would help in early closure of the case. After moving an application before a Delhi court for turning approver, Saxena had prayed for leniency from the court. He is suffering from a serious illness, a fact also corroborated by AIIMS.

Sources said Saxena may reveal crucial facts related to other accused in the case, including Gautam Khaifan and former IAF chief S P Tyagi.

Agency sources said the money trail had showed huge deposits by Saxena in multiple bank accounts in Switzerland which were alleged proceeds of kickbacks received in the AgustaWestland deal. Saxena's wife Shivani was arrested by the agency in July 2017, in connection with money laundering. She is out on bail.



Squadron Leader Aarti Singh, wife of Squadron Leader Siddharth Vashisht, one of the six IAF personnel killed in the Budgam crash on February 27, is consoled by relatives at his cremation in Chandigarh on Friday

Act, don't just shout slogans, martyr's wife tells people

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Nashik: Squadron leader Ninad Mandavgane was cremated with full state honours at the Amardham Crematorium here on Friday. People gathered in the thousands to bid adieu to the pilot who died in the line of duty in a helicopter crash with five other IAF men near Budgam in central Kashmir on Wednesday. The helicopter was on a sortie when it crashed, and both the Pakistan government and the IAF clarified that the crash was not related to action by Pakistan forces.

As slogans rent the air, Mandavgane's wife Vijeta said, "Slogan-shouting and screaming 'zindabad' or 'murdabad' will not make any difference. If you really want to do something, join the defence forces. Or encourage someone in your family to do so. If that is not possible, small things could help—keep your surroundings clean, don't litter, don't urinate in the open, and do not harass women. Stop spreading communal hatred. Small gestures go a long

“If you really want to do something, join the defence forces... If that is not possible, keep your surroundings clean, don't litter, don't urinate in the open, and do not harass women. Stop spreading communal hatred. Small gestures go a long way.”

VUJETA | Slain IAF pilot Ninad Mandavgane's wife

The young wife said her husband would rest in peace, knowing his family is safe. Anti-Pakistan slogans and those hailing India reverberated as thousands of citizens paid homage to the deceased pilot at his residence in Bank of India Colony, DGP Nagar here. Mandavgane's mortal remains arrived in Nashik on Thursday night and were brought to his residence on Friday morning. Men and women, young and old started pouring in from early Friday morning. The coffin, wrapped in a tricolour, was brought out of his home at 10am.

Police had to make arrangements to manage the large number of people gathered in the area. BG Gangurde, a retired government employ-

ee, said he had arrived from Satpur, Kamgaar Nagar, to pay homage. "I got the wreath prepared early in the morning to reach on time. He has made the supreme sacrifice. The least we can do is pay our respects. It is heartening to see so many people come out in support of our defence personnel."

A stretch of nearly 4km from the home of the IAF officer to the Amardham crematorium was filled with people waiting to pay their respects.

As Ninad's father Anil consigned his son's body to flames, 11 gunners of the IAF fired a salvo of three rounds in the air. Sameer Borade, Commanding Officer, Ozar Air Force Station, laid the wreath on Air Squadron Ninad Mandavgane's body on behalf of Air Chief Marshal Birendra Singh Dhanoa.

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Snooping in national interest overrides privacy right: Govt

Cab Secy-Headed Oversight Panel Provides Safeguards, SC Told

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New Delhi: The Centre told the Supreme Court on Friday that right to privacy could not cancel the need for snooping, interception, monitoring and decryption of information by authorised agencies in national interest and security under strict safeguards and supervision of top level officers.

It was responding to petitions challenging the home ministry's December 20, 2018, notification designating 10 agencies to carry out interception of information when required in national interest as well as validity of Section 69 of IT Act, 2009, and Rule 4 of IT (Procedure and Safeguards for Interception, Monitoring and Decryption of Information) Rules, 2009. "Though right to privacy

“Grave threats to the country from terrorism, radicalisation, cross-border terrorism, cyber crime, organised crime, drug cartels cannot be understated, and a robust mechanism for timely and speedy collection of actionable intelligence, including signal intelligence, is imperative

is a very important right and is being respected by the government of India, the veil of privacy can be lifted for legitimate state interest, namely the interest of sovereignty or integrity of India, defence of India, security of state, friendly relations with foreign states or public order or for preventing incitement to the commission of any cognizable offence relating to the above referred categories or for investigation of any offence," the Centre said. "Grave threats to the country from terrorism, radicali-

sation, cross-border terrorism, cyber crime, organised crime, drug cartels cannot be understated or ignored and a strong and robust mechanism for timely and speedy collection of actionable intelligence including signal intelligence, is imperative to counter threats to national security. This is undeniably legitimate state interest," the added.

"It is therefore imperative that requests for lawful interception or monitoring must be dealt with by executive authority to maintain speed and promptitude in taking

decisions. A well laid down procedure for oversight by a committee headed by cabinet secretary doubtless ensures that the provisions of law, rules and SOP are adhered to," it further said.

The government clarified that "there is no blanket permission to any agency for interception or monitoring or decryption as the authorised agencies still require permission of the competent authority, Union home secretary, in each case".

"Such permission can only be given for the purposes mentioned in Section 69 of IT Act, that is sovereignty and integrity of India, defence of India, etc.," it said, adding the request for interception or monitoring must mention why it is not feasible to gather the required information through other reasonable means.

Full report on www.toi.in

Seniority relevant consideration in picking Army commanders: SC

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New Delhi: Six years after then Lt Gen Dalbir Singh Suhag was appointed as Army commander, the Supreme Court on Friday dismissed Lt Gen Ravi Dastane's petition challenging the appointment, citing then Army chief Gen V K Singh's pre-retirement order imposing a discipline and vigilance ban on him in May 2012.

Gen V K Singh's successor Gen Bikram Singh had lifted the ban, paving way for the government to appoint then Lt Gen Suhag as the Army's Eastern Command head. Lt Gen Suhag succeeded Gen Bikram

Singh as Army chief and retired on December 31, 2016. Upholding his selection as Eastern Command chief, a bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and Hemant Gupta modified the 19-year-old rationale laid down by the SC in Lt Gen R S Kadyan case for selection of Army commanders.

While dismissing Lt Gen Dastane's petition questioning his non-selection as a commander and challenging the appointment of Lt Gen Suhag and Lt Gen Sanjiv Chachra as head of Eastern and Western Commands, the bench said in the Kadyan case, the SC had em-

phasised that appointment of commanders were by selection and that an officer did not have a vested right to claim to be promoted only by dint of seniority.

Writing the judgment, Justice Chandrachud recognised that appointment to the post of commander was by selection but insisted that given the sensitive role attached to the post of Army commander, it would not be wise for the authority to remain oblivious to seniority of officers.

"Seniority may be a relevant consideration, seniority

brings with it experience of organisation, experience in handling situations and experience in perspective and planning. The post, however, remains a selection post. In making appointments to such crucial posts, a range of relevant considerations can be borne in mind," Justice Chandrachud said.

"It would not be appropriate in the course of judicial review to confine the appointing authority to a narrow range of considerations. The appointing authority is best suited to determine who among the officers in the rank of lieutenant general is suited for appointment against a vacancy," the bench said.



Former Army chief Dalbir Singh Suhag

10th INDIA LIVE 2019

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CARDIOLOGY: SIMPLIFYING COMPLEXITIES

THE 10TH INDIA LIVE CONFERENCE IS TURNING OUT TO BE A GOLD MINE OF INFORMATION WITH ATTENDANCE FROM SOME OF THE BEST PROFESSIONALS IN THE FIELD OF CARDIOLOGY, BOTH FROM INDIA AND ABROAD

Cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) are witnessing a rise across the globe. If studies are to go by, it would be the single largest cause of death in the world accounting for more than a third of all deaths in years to come. With the disease taking an alarming shape, efforts are on to come up with better and innovative methods of treatment to curtail its spread.

The 10th national conference of India Live is organised on the same lines — to exchange ideas on the latest innovations in interventional

on the progress in coronary intervention.

For a better understanding, a state-of-the-art scientific programme has also been organised with complete emphasis on academics and education. The primary idea is to discuss processes that simplifies complex cardiology interventions in complex subsets like left main diseases, bifurcated lesions, CTOs, calcified lesions, graft interventions and focus on the structural interventions like TAVR, Mitral valve interventions, LAA Closures amongst others.

that's what we intend to achieve in this conclave," he said.

One of key speakers at the conference was Dr. Mathew Samuel — also known as the father of angioplasty in India — and credited to have introduced advanced techniques like Rotablation, Atherectomy, etc. Calling India the diabetes capital of the world, he said

India is witnessing a rise in multivessel coronary artery disease (MVD); two-thirds of the patients are receiving multivessel stenting. But with rising complexities, the choice of stent should be based on clinical evidence with proven safety and efficacy.

— Dr. Mathew Samuel, Lilavati hospital, Mumbai

also highlighted some of the other clinical trials on diabetes like TWENTE and TUXEDO (Indian Diabetic Patient Study), where the EES showed good clinical outcome.

Talking about the innovations in the field, Dr. Samin Sharma from Mount Sinai Hospital

New York, USA — a pioneer in the field credited to have performed the highest number of complex coronary interventions annually with the highest success rate in angioplasty — said that newer trials in DES are enhancing the treatment options for managing complex coronary lesions like Left Main Coronary Artery Disease (LMCA). "The gold standard treatment for LMCA from decades was Coronary Artery Bypass Grafting (CABG) and it was traditionally the exclusive realm of car-

Bypass surgery is the gold standard treatment for the Left main disease, but the latest clinical data in Excel study will give the confidence to physicians to treat this complex subset with evidence-based stents

— Dr. Samin Sharma, Mount Sinai Hospital New York, USA

diac surgeons. But latest trials such as Excel has proved that in patients with LMCA disease who prefer a minimally invasive approach can now rest assured that a stent is as effective as a bypass surgery and is safer with fewer complications," he said.

Getting back to interventional cardiology, Dr. Ajit Mulasari of Madras Medical Mis-

With an exhaustive scientific programme and distinguished global experts under one roof, the conference is a step forward in providing world class, cutting edge technologies and line of treatment based on clinical evidence for our fellow Indians

— Dr. Ashwin B Mehta, Chief of Cardiology, Jaslok Hospital, Mumbai

cardiology. Organised under the able leadership of Dr. Ashwin B. Mehta, Chief of Cardiology, Jaslok Hospital, Mumbai, the four-day event aims to find some simple answers to complex cardiology. More than 2,500 physicians, both from India and overseas came together to engage and share knowledge

Dr. Ajit Desai, Additional Director, Jaslok Hospital, Mumbai and the Organising Secretary of India Live, who has been instrumental in conducting this conference welcomed the cardiologists on behalf of the organising team. "Our aim is to share the best practices and

Selection of the drug eluting stent should always be guided by clinical evidence supporting the device. It is in everyone's interest, to achieve superior outcomes by using the best quality evidence-based stents

— Dr. Mitchell Krucoff, Duke Clinical Research Institute, USA

Precision in cardiac intervention can be achieved by using FFR and OCT, which help optimize treatment procedures and present long-term solutions to reduce revision surgeries and patient re-procedure rate

— Dr. Ajit Mulasari, Director of Cardiology, Madras Medical Mission

