

SC to hear on April 29 Arvind Kejriwal's plea against arrest in money laundering case

NEW DELHI, APR 28: The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on Monday a plea by Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal challenging his arrest in a money laundering case stemming from the alleged excise policy scam.

A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta is likely to hear the matter.

Kejriwal had earlier told the apex court that his "illegal arrest" in the case constitutes an unprecedented assault on the tenets of democracy based on "free and fair elections" and "federalism".

In a rejoinder to the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) reply affidavit filed on his petition challenging his arrest in the case, Kejriwal said the mode, manner and timing of his arrest just before the Lok Sabha elections when the Model Code of Conduct had come into play, speaks volumes about the "arbitrariness" of the agency.

Kejriwal claimed it is a "classical case" of how the Centre has misused the ED and its wide powers under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act to "crush" the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and its leaders.

It claimed that the ED illegally 'picked up' a sitting chief minister and the national convener of one of the national Opposition



parties, five days after the general elections were announced and the Model Code of Conduct came into force.

He said a level playing field, which is a pre-requisite for 'free and fair elections', has clearly been compromised with his illegal arrest.

It said the entire basis of Kejriwal's arrest rests upon certain statements which are in the nature of "self-incriminating confessions" by alleged accomplices who have been given the immunity by way of pardon etc.

"Whether such statements could qualify as materials to reach the conclusion of guilt as envisaged under section 19 PMLA to justify the arrest of a sitting chief minister of NCT of Delhi or a national convener of a national political party in India in the midst of general elections," it asked.

In the rejoinder, Kejriwal alleged the only objective of

the ED was to procure and obtain some statement against him and as soon as the statement was taken, the mission of the probe agency was accomplished and thereafter, the co-accused were neither arrested nor any further statements were taken.

The AAP leader claimed the malicious intent of the ED in conducting the investigation was apparent from its deliberate concealment of statements made by co-accused individuals where either no allegations were made or allegations were explicitly denied.

Kejriwal also said there is no link whatsoever established by the ED to claim that an amount of Rs 45 crore was transferred by the South group as advanced kickback which was then utilised by the AAP in the Goa elections.

The chief minister said the ED, in its reply affidavit filed in the apex court, has

said that one of the reasons which necessitated his arrest was that he did not remain present before the investigating officer (IO) despite being summoned nine times.

In its reply affidavit filed in the apex court earlier this week, the ED has claimed that Kejriwal is the "kingpin and key conspirator" of the excise policy scam and the arrest of a person for an offence based on material can never violate the "concept of free and fair elections".

The ED arrested Kejriwal on March 21 after the Delhi High Court refused to grant him protection from coercive action by the federal anti-money laundering agency. He is currently lodged in Tihar jail under judicial custody.

On April 15, the top court issued a notice to the ED and sought its response to Kejriwal's plea.

The high court had on April 9 upheld Kejriwal's arrest in the money laundering case, saying there was no illegality about it and that the ED was left with "little option" after he skipped repeated summonses and refused to join the investigation.

The matter pertains to alleged corruption and money laundering in the formulation and execution of the Delhi government's excise policy for 2021-22 which was later scrapped.

Elon Musk visits China as Tesla seeks self-driving technology rollout

BEIJING, APR 28: Tesla (TSLA.O), CEO Elon Musk arrived in Beijing on Sunday for a surprise visit, where he is expected to meet senior officials to discuss the rollout of Full Self-Driving software and permission to transfer data overseas, according to a person with knowledge of the matter.

The U.S. electric vehicle maker rolled out Full Self-Driving, or FSD, the most autonomous version of its Autopilot software, four years ago but has yet to make it available in China, its second-largest market globally, despite customers urging it to do so.

Musk said this month Tesla may make FSD available to customers in China "very soon", in response to a query on social media platform X.

Rival Chinese automakers such as Xpeng (9868.HK), have been seeking to gain an advantage over Tesla by rolling out similar software.

Musk is looking to obtain approval to transfer data collected in the country abroad to train algorithms for its autonomous driving technologies, the person said.

Tesla has since 2021 stored all data collected by its Chinese fleet in Shanghai as required by Chinese regulators and has not transferred any back to the United States.

Musk's visit to China, first reported by Reuters, was not flagged publicly and the person spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to speak with media. Tesla did



not respond immediately to a request for comment.

Musk's itinerary on Sunday afternoon includes a meeting with Ren Hongbin, a government official who heads the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, the organiser of the Beijing auto show currently underway, state media reported.

"It is good to see electric vehicles making progress in China. All cars will be electric in the future," Musk said in a video posted on social media by a user affiliated with state media.

Musk's trip came just over a week after he scrapped a planned visit to India to meet with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, citing "very heavy Tesla obligations."

The company said this month it would lay off 10% of its global workforce as it grapples with falling sales and an intensifying price war for EVs led by Chinese brands.

U.S. auto safety regulators said on Friday they had opened an investigation into whether Tesla's recall of more than 2 million vehicles in the U.S. announced in December to install new

Autopilot safeguards was adequate following a series of crashes.

A Gulfstream private jet with tail number N272BG, which is registered to Falcon Landing, a company connected to SpaceX and Tesla, landed at Beijing Capital Airport on Sunday at 0603 GMT, according to Chinese flight tracking app Flight Manager.

The other jet registered under Falcon Landing is N628TS, which is Musk's main jet that he used to travel to China on his last trip nearly a year ago, when he met with Chinese government officials in Beijing and visited Tesla's Shanghai factory.

Tesla has sold more than 1.7 million cars in China since it entered the market a decade ago and the Shanghai factory is its largest globally.

Musk's visit coincides with the Beijing auto show, which opened last week and ends on May 4. Tesla does not have a booth at China's largest auto show and last attended in 2021.

GM (GM.N), CEO Mary Barra made an unannounced visit to the show in the world's biggest auto

market on Friday, according to two people with knowledge of her schedule. GM did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Also on Friday, Grace Tao, Tesla's vice president in charge of external relations in China, published a commentary on the social media account of state media outlet People's Daily, arguing that autonomous driving technologies would be the new growth engine for EV industry.

Tao said in the article that Tesla was leading autonomous driving research and development with its "end-to-end neural network" technology and data collected from millions of cars on the road.

China's complicated traffic conditions with more pedestrians and cyclists than in many other markets provide more scenarios that are key for training autonomous driving algorithms at a faster pace, according to industry experts.

Musk said last week Tesla would introduce new, cheaper models using its current EV platforms and production lines and would offer a new "robotaxi" with self-driving technology. He said in a post on X this month that he would unveil the robotaxi on Aug. 8.

Tesla shares are down almost a third since the start of the year as concerns have grown about the EV maker's growth trajectory. Last week, Tesla reported its first decline in quarterly revenue since 2020 when the COVID-19 pandemic slowed production and deliveries.

MP CM Mohan Yadav targets Priyanka Gandhi, says 'fake' Gandhis using their surname for votes

BHOPAL, APR 28: Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav has hit out at Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, claiming "fake" Gandhis were using their for votes.

Yadav was speaking at a public rally in Myana town of Madhya Pradesh's Guna Lok Sabha seat on Saturday.

During a campaign speech in Rajasthan on April 22, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the Congress plans to give people's hard-earned money and valuables to "infiltrators" and "those who have more children" -- alluding to Muslims -- and would steal the "gold of mothers and sisters" if voted to power.

Priyanka Gandhi later lashed out at Modi over his



"gold and mangalsutra" remarks, saying her mother Sonia Gandhi sacrificed her 'mangalsutra' for the country. Taking a dig at the Congress general secretary, Yadav said former prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru's soul must be "shedding tears" over a (great) granddaughter born in the family who does not even wear 'mangalsutra'.

Yadav also targeted Gandhis over the use of their surname.

"In our case, as soon as the daughter gets married, she is given the surname which is applicable there (at in-laws' house)," he said.

But these "vote-hungry people" are forgetting their surname for the sake of votes and using Gandhi surname even today, the CM

said. "Priyanka also became Gandhi. Where did the Gandhi surname come from? Where would be the family members of the real Gandhi? These fake Gandhis are taking votes in the name of Gandhi," he claimed.

Reacting to Yadav's statement, KK Mishra, senior Congress leader and media advisor to MP party president Jitu Patwari, claimed the CM said Priyanka Gandhi "got married in another religion".

"Is it unconstitutional or a crime? Yadav also has an objection as to why Priyanka ji uses her surname as Gandhi after marriage. Chief Minister, please see her X account, Vadra is also written in front of the surname," he said.

18-ft-tall Kali idol carved out of single marble stone to be sent from Jaipur to Kerala temple

JAIPUR, APR 29: The famed Rajasthan marbles are all set to go into the history books as an 18.5-foot-tall Kali idol carved out of a single marble stone is all set to be sent from Jaipur to Pournamikavu Temple in Thiruvananthapuram.

Carved by famous Jaipur-based sculptor Mukesh Bhardwaj, a single marble stone 30x20 feet weighing 45-50 tonnes from Bhainslana in Rajasthan, was turned into the exquisite idol that will be installed beside 12-ft-tall idols of goddesses Durga and Raja Madhanghi Devi at the temple in Kerala.

The Kali idol stood at 23 feet after including the 'pedam'.



"The installation ceremony of Goddess Kali idol and that of goddesses Durga and Lakshmi will be akin to the Ram temple pran prathishtha ceremony, albeit it will be the abode of powerful and revered Hindu goddesses," said temple chief curator M S

Bhuvanachandran, claiming it was the tallest idol carved out of a single marble stone.

All three idols are being sent from Jaipur to the temple in Chavadi Nada, Vengannur, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

The Pournamikavu Tem-

ple, dedicated to Goddess Bala Thripura Sundari Devi, is renowned for housing the world's largest panchmukhi Ganesha idol and 51 'Akshara Devathas'.

The Pournamikavu Temple stands as the sole pilgrimage in the country devoted to 'Akshara Devathas', temple authorities claimed.

The idols will be accompanied by their respective 'vahanas' -- lion, tiger, peacock and swan -- during its journey from Jaipur to Thiruvananthapuram via road trailers.

The idols were loaded to be transported on Sunday after a puja ceremony but will begin its journey on Monday.

Diljit Dosanjh makes history, sells out 'largest ever Punjabi show outside India'

NEW DELHI, APR 28: Actor-singer Diljit Dosanjh has scripted history by selling out the "largest ever Punjabi show outside India" on the North American leg of his 'Dil-Luminati Tour'.

Kicking off his tour on Saturday night, Dosanjh regaled over 50,000 concert goers at the BC Place stadium in Vancouver, Canada, with songs such as "GOAT", "5 Taara", "Love", "Kinni Kinni", and "Ishq Mitaye", the popular track from his latest film release "Amar Singh Chamk-



ila". The singer shared a series of pictures and videos from the show on his Instagram

page on Sunday.

It was the first time in history that a Punjabi music superstar headline the Van-

couver-based arena, according to Canadian media reports.

Dosanjh also shared a video on his Instagram Stories showing a massive billboard of his show with "Sold Out" written across.

"HISTORY is made. Take a bow, @diljiddosanjh," said BC Place in a post on X.

As part of his tour, Dosanjh will now head to Calgary, Winnipeg, and Edmonton in Canada, before heading to the US. He will end the North American leg of his trek in Toronto on July 13.

Indian Navy assists Panama-flagged crude oil tanker after it comes under missile attack

NEW DELHI, APR 28: The Indian Navy swiftly assisted a Panama-flagged crude oil tanker with 30 crew members including 22 Indians after the vessel came under missile attack from Houthi militants.

Indian Navy's destroyer INS Kochi responded following the attack on the vessel, MV Andromeda Star, on April 26, officials said, adding all the crew members are safe.

The US Central Command said Iranian-backed Houthi militants launched three anti-ship ballistic missiles from Yemen in the vicinity of merchant vessel Maisha and MV Andromeda Star.

MV Andromeda Star is a Panaman-flagged and Seychelles-operated vessel. The vessel reported minor damage, the US Central Command said.

"A mission deployed Indian Naval destroyer INS Kochi responded to a maritime security incident involving the attack on Panama-flagged crude oil tanker MV Andromeda Star on April 26," the Indian Navy said.



The vessel was intercepted by the Indian Navy ship and an aerial rescue involving a helicopter opera-

tion was undertaken to assess the situation, it said.

An Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team of the

Navy was also deployed to carry out "residual risk assessment", the Navy said in a statement.

"A total of 30 crew including 22 Indian nationals are reported to be safe and the vessel is continuing its scheduled transit to the next port," it said.

"The swift action of the Indian Navy ship reiterates the commitment and resolve of the Indian Navy in safeguarding the seafarers plying through the region," it added.

Modi government has used privatisation as weapon to weaken reservations: Congress

NEW DELHI, APR 28: The Congress on Sunday attacked the BJP over Home Minister Amit Shah's quota remarks in Uttar Pradesh, alleging that the Modi government has used privatization as a "weapon" to weaken reservations for SCs, STs and OBCs in the last 10 years.

The opposition party also claimed that the secret behind the BJP's '400 paar' slogan is that they will openly try to end reservation this time.

The Congress' attack came after Shah, speaking at a UP rally, said the BJP will neither remove reservations for SCs, STs and OBCs nor will it allow anyone to do so, calling it a "Modi guarantee".

Responding to Shah's remarks, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said, "Mr. Home Minister when airports were handed over to the prime minister's best friend in various cities, wasn't reservation finished there? When Air India was sold, wasn't the reservation finished there? When you were going to sell steel plants and oil refineries, wouldn't that have ended reservation there?" "Earlier IPCL, BSNL, Ashoka hotels in various cities were sold off, didn't it end reservation in these places? This is the result of your policy of privatization that you have adopted in the last 10 years that has ended reservation for SCs, STs and OBCs and employment opportunities for lakhs of people have been closed," the Congress leader said in a video statement

posted on X.

That is why the Congress has been repeatedly stating that the BJP is against reservations, Ramesh added.

Along with the video statement, Ramesh posted in Hindi, "In the last 10 years, the Modi government has used privatization as a weapon to weaken reservations. The secret behind '400 paar' is also the same - this time they will openly try to end reservation." Opposition parties have repeatedly claimed that the BJP's call for "abki baar 400 paar" is aimed at winning 400 seats in the Lok Sabha elections to have the numbers in Parliament to scrap quotas for Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs).

BHOG AND ANTIM ARDASS

With profound grief and Sorrow we regret to inform you the sad demise of our Beloved **S. Tarlochan Singh (Retd. Master)** S/O Late S. Sadhu Singh (Girdawar) R/O Khorinar, Ward no. 6, Poonch (J&K) who left us for Heavenly abode on 20th April 2024.

PROGRAMME
Arambh Shri Akhand Path Sahib at 9:00 AM on 27/04/2024 at our residence.
Bhogh Shri Akhand Path Sahib at 9:00 AM on 29/04/2024 at our residence.
Shabad Kirtan and Antim Ardass will be performed on 29/04/2024 at 12:00 Noon at Gurudwara Shri Mahant Sahib Poonch.

GRIEF STRICKEN

S. Harpreet Singh (Son)
S. Hoshyar Singh (Retd. Vety. Surgeon) (Brother)
S. Jagjit Singh (Retd. CEO) (Brother)
S. Raghbir Singh Nepal Wale (Brother in Law)
Sdr & S. Surinder Singh (Retd. Principal) (Brother in Law)
Sdr & S. Jasbir Singh (Retd. PHE Dept.) (Brother in Law)
Sdr. & S. Kaka Singh (Brother in Law)
S. Taranjeet Singh (Contractor) (Nephew)
S. Satinder Singh Sudan (News Journalist PTC Simran) (Nephew)
S. Manveer Singh (JK Bank Law Officer) (Nephew)

Mobile no. 9469071960, 94196 75487

Now Booking of Advertisement is so easy.

Just Call
9419119286
0191-7968906

IMPORTANT

Whilst care is taken prior to acceptance of advertising copy it is not possible to verify its contents. Himalayan Mail cannot be held responsible to such contents, nor for any loss or damage incurred as a result of any transactions with companies, associations or individuals. We recommended that readers makes necessary inquiries before sending any monies or entering into any agreements with advertisers or otherwise acting in an advertisement in any manner whatsoever.