

By changing name, you can't own our land: EAM to China on Arunachal

TNN & AGENCIES

New Delhi: Following another spat with India over the status of Arunachal Pradesh, China again resorted to renaming of villages in the Indian state to back its claims of sovereignty. In Surat, foreign minister **S Jaishankar**



re-
sponded by saying the state was, is and will always remain a part of India.

“If I change the name of your house, will it become mine? Arunachal Pradesh was an Indian state, is an Indian state and will remain so in the future. Nothing will be gained by changing names,” the minister, who is on a two-day visit to Gujarat, said. The Chinese civil affairs ministry relea-

‘India working on US info in Pannun case’

Foreign minister S Jaishankar reiterated on Monday that India is investigating the information shared by US authorities in the Pannun case because it involves India’s own “national security interests”. Asked about Garcetti’s ‘red line’ comments, Jaishankar said, “I will speak about the position of our govt.” **P 16**

sed a fresh list last week of “standardised geographical names” for 30 places in the state it calls Zangnan.

This is the fourth time China has released a list of new names for villages in the north-eastern state.

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Court orders judicial custody till Apr 15, Del CM sent to Tihar

Will Influence Witnesses If Released: ED

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ED: CM REFUSED TO GIVE PASSWORDS

ED told court that Kejriwal had told them that co-accused Vijay Nair didn't report to him but to Atishi and Saurabh Bharadwaj. At press meet, AAP says Nair had said same thing 1.5 years ago



to know party's election strategy

ED says Kejriwal gave false, contrary evidence. When confronted with statements made by other AAP netas, he

called them 'confused'

Agency says CM claimed he was unaware when shown evidence of meetings Nair had with other co-accused

Agency says CM did not provide passwords of his digital devices. AAP says BJP wants passwords as it wants

India will give reply to dictatorship: CM's wife, P 6

AAP govt faces challenge to keep files moving, P 6

custody, subject to the right of asking for further custody, as per SC judgment in the Senthil Balaji case," submitted additional solicitor general S V Raju, who appeared for ED. Raju also claimed that the CM had not provided passwords to his digital devices.

In its application, ED said Kejriwal was highly influen-

tial and there was every likelihood that he would influence witnesses and tamper with evidence if released. This could hamper the ongoing investigation, it said.

Atishi, Bharadwaj, Gopal Rai and Kejriwal's wife, Sunita, were present in court.

Continued on P 6

Kejriwal to be housed alone in 14x8 ft cell

A cell measuring 14x8ft in Tihar's Jail No. 2 is CM Kejriwal's home for the next two weeks. The cell has an attached toilet and is located in the 'general area' of the prison meant for convicts. Housing around 600 individuals, the complex is less crowded than the jails meant for under-trial prisoners and has thus been chosen, report Raj Shekhar Jha & Abhay.

The CM went to his cell around 6pm on Monday. He was given books he had asked for — 'How Prime Ministers Decide' by journalist Neerja Chowdhury, Gita and Ramayana. Kejriwal, who has Z+ security cover, will be guarded by four personnel. He will be staying alone. P 7

New Delhi: A Delhi court on Monday sent chief minister Arvind Kejriwal to Tihar Jail till April 15 in the liquor policy case after Enforcement Directorate said he was being "non-cooperative" and should be sent to judicial custody.

Producing Kejriwal after the end of his remand, ED did not seek further custody but alleged that he had tried to mislead the officials who were questioning him. The agency claimed Kejriwal had told them that co-accused Vijay Nair didn't report to him but to Atishi and Saurabh Bharadwaj, now AAP ministers.

"We are asking for judicial

SC blames Kerala for financial trouble, refuses interim relief

Refers Plea Against Centre's Borrowing Cap To Constitution Bench

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New Delhi: Observing that Kerala's financial hardship is the creation of its own monetary mismanagement, Supreme Court Monday refused to grant interim relief to allow the state to borrow more money and referred its petition against Centre's decision to limit borrowing capacity of states to Constitution bench for adjudication.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and K V Viswanathan held that Kerala has failed to establish the three judicial prongs — proving a prima facie case, balance of convenience, and irreparable injury — and the state was not entitled to the interim injunction on borrowing cap.

"If the state has essentially created financial hardship because of its own financial mismanagement, such hardship cannot be held to be an irreparable injury that would necessitate an interim relief against the Union. There is an arguable point that if we were to issue an interim mandatory injunction in such cases, it might set a bad precedent in law that would enable the states to flout fiscal policies and still successfully claim additional borrowings," the bench said.

The apex court also noted in its order that the state



SC noted in its order that the state had already got substantial relief as the Centre agreed to release Rs 13,608 crore after the petition was filed

SC ruling a setback to Kerala govt

Kochi: Supreme Court's decision has come as a setback for the LDF govt. Going into Lok Sabha polls, one of the main planks of LDF has been the allegation that Centre has been slowly strangulating Kerala by denying it loans and much-needed funds earmarked for development, a claim that has fallen flat with SC pointing out that there has been economic mismanagement on the part of the state and that there is no proof of "irreparable damage" to the state due to Centre's alleged actions. If Supreme Court had granted interim relief, it would have given political mileage to LDF besides helping the state govt clear long-pending dues and arrears to pensioners and others. TNN

had already got substantial relief as the Centre agreed to release Rs 13,608 crore after the petition was filed.

SC said several questions of significant importance impacting the Federal Structure of Governance arise for consideration and it should be adjudicated by a five-judge Constitution bench and framed four questions to be decided by the larger bench.

"Is fiscal decentralisation

an aspect of Indian federalism? If yes, do the impugned actions taken by the defendant purportedly to maintain the fiscal health of the country violate such principles of federalism? Are the impugned actions violative of Article 14 of the Constitution on the ground of 'manifest arbitrariness' or on the basis of differential treatment meted out to the plaintiff vis-à-vis other states?" the bench said

No stay on judicial probe into agitating farmer's death

New Delhi: Supreme Court on Monday refused to stay a judicial probe into the death of a protesting farmer at the Haryana border on Feb 21, during the recent agitation for legal guarantee of MSP, and turned down Haryana govt's plea alleging that such investigation would affect the morale of the police force, reports **Amit Anand Choudhary**. A bench of Justices Surya Kant and K V Viswanathan said that it was a peculiar case as homicidal death took place in Haryana where no FIR was filed and the case was registered by Punjab Police which virtually means that one state agency would probe against another state agency. The bench said probe under the supervision of a retired judge was needed.

Opposing the Punjab and Haryana HC's order, solicitor general Tushar Mehta told the bench that 67 state police personnel got injured in scuffles and protesters were heavily armed and it would be demoralising for the police force if its action was put under scanner.

Will start talks with Sri Lanka to get fishing rights off Katchatheevu: EAM

'Cong, DMK Ceded Claim Without Any Resistance'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Amid disclosures through RTI that India did not try hard enough to keep Katchatheevu, external affairs minister S Jaishankar said govt will open negotiations with Sri Lanka over implementation of India-Sri Lanka Maritime Boundary Act and a subsequent deal based on which Colombo is stopping Indian fishermen from operating in waters near the island.

"We should get fishing rights. We need to sit with Sri Lankan authorities and sort it out. Even today, our fishermen are being arrested and vessels are being seized. Katchatheevu island was given away in 1974 and fishing rights were given away in 1976," Jaishankar said as he held Congress and DMK equally responsible for "ceding claim without putting up resistance".

He said the most basic reason was indifference shown by central govt and the Prime Ministers of the day (Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi) and connivance of DMK govt with Congress regime of the time.

"We know who did it but people of the country should be told who hid it. In May of 1961, PM Nehru wrote that he attaches no importance at all to this little island and he would have no hesitation in giving up claim to it. He



Jaishankar said people have a right to know how Katchatheevu was given to Sri Lanka and why even fishing rights were given up

wrote that he doesn't like matters like this being pending indefinitely and being raised again and again in Parliament. He saw it as a nuisance," Jaishankar said, reading out from documents on the agreement and preceding debates on the issue.

The minister further added that people have a right to know how Katchatheevu was given to Sri Lanka, why even fishing rights were given up in 1976 after giving an assurance to Parliament that fishing rights of Indians had been safeguarded in the 1974 agreement.

In past 20 years, 6,184 Indian fishermen have been detained and 1,175 Indian fishing vessels seized, detained or apprehended by Sri Lanka, Jaishankar said as he called out DMK and Congress for making it appear that the issue has emerged out of thin air and they were not responsible for the island being ceded to Sri Lanka.

"In past five years, Katchatheevu and fishermen's issue have been repeatedly raised by various parties in Parliament. The then chief minister of Tamil Nadu has written to me numerous

times. And my record shows that to the current CM (M K Stalin), I have replied 21 times on this issue. This is not an issue which has suddenly surfaced. This is a live issue," the minister said.

"Now, every political party in Tamil Nadu has taken a position on this matter. As though the situation is for today's central govt to resolve, there is no history to this, this has just happened, they are people who are taking up the cause; that is the way they would like to project it," he said.

"The PM (Indira Gandhi) is said to have remarked in an All India Congress Committee (AICC) meeting that this is a little rock. I am reminded of those days when Pandit Nehru called our northern boundary a place where not a blade of grass grew. I would like to remind that after this historic statement by Nehru, he never regained confidence of the country," Jaishankar said, adding that the same happened to Indira when she said this was only a "little rock". "This dismissive attitude was the historic Congress attitude towards Katchatheevu," he said.

Katchatheevu issue has unmasked DMK's double standards: PM

▶ Continued from P 1

New details emerging on Katchatheevu have unmasked DMK's double standards totally," PM posted on X, along with the **TOI** report.

He targeted Congress for the second day running over the controversial decision. "Congress and DMK are family units. They only care that their own sons and daughters' rise. They don't care for anyone else. Their callousness on Katchatheevu has harmed interests of our poor fishermen and fisherwomen in particular," he said.

On Sunday, he had said, "Weakening India's unity, integrity and interests has been Congress' way of working for 75 years and counting."

PM's remarks come in the wake of growing scrutiny of the agreement between India and Sri Lanka, signed during the tenure of Indira Gandhi govt in 1974. The **TOI** report was based on an RTI reply received by Tamil Nadu BJP president K Annamalai to his queries on the matter.

Annamalai reiterated that Congress and DMK colluded to give away Katchatheevu to Sri Lanka. "This is part two of expose of betrayal of DMK in ceding of Katchatheevu," Annamalai said at a press conference, adding, "Ex-CM Karunanidhi was consulted twice before ceding Katchatheevu to

TN BJP chief: Govt trying to retrieve Katchatheevu

Tamil Nadu BJP chief K Annamalai on Monday said Union govt is trying everything possible to retrieve Katchatheevu island from Sri Lanka. He reiterated his allegation that the island was ceded to Sri Lanka by the then-Indira Gandhi govt in 1974 with consent of late Tamil Nadu ex-CM and DMK patriarch Karunanidhi.

"BJP has given a letter to EAM Jaishankar to get back Katchatheevu," he said. **ANI**

Sri Lanka and he said for obvious political reasons that he will not take an open public stand in accepting Centre's decision."

He said, "But he assured the foreign secretary that he will keep the reaction low-key and not allow it to be played up. M K Stalin (Tamil Nadu CM) has to own up to this betrayal of his party and apologise unconditionally to our fishermen for putting their lives and livelihoods at risk for past 50 years."

BJP is hopeful that the issue will help it in Lok Sabha polls since it involves neighbouring Sri Lanka whose treatment of its own Tamil citizens and Tamil Nadu fishermen has long been a charged political issue in the state.

Russian military intelligence unit may be linked to 'Havana syndrome': Report

Kremlin Denies 'Baseless, Unfounded' Accusations By Media

London: The mysterious "Havana syndrome" ailment that has afflicted US diplomats and spies across the world may be linked to energy weapons wielded by members of a Russian military intelligence sabotage unit, the Insider media group reported. A US intelligence investigation whose findings were released last year found that it was "very unlikely" a foreign adversary was responsible for the ailment, first reported by US embassy officials in the Cuban capital Havana in 2016.

But Insider, a Russia-focused investigative media group based in Riga, Latvia, reported that members of a Russian military intelligence (GRU) unit known as 29155 had been placed at the scene of reported health incidents involving US personnel. The year-long Insider investigation in collaboration with US network CBS' 60 Minutes and Germany's



The US embassy in Havana. The report said the first incident of 'Havana Syndrome' symptoms may have happened in Frankfurt when a US govt employee stationed at the consulate there was knocked unconscious by something akin to a strong energy beam

Der Spiegel also reported that senior members of Unit 29155 received awards and promotions for work related to the development of "non-lethal acoustic weapons".

Kremlin has dismissed the report. "This is not a new topic at all; for many years the topic

of the so-called 'Havana Syndrome' has been exaggerated in the press, and from the very beginning it was linked to accusations against the Russian side," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters when asked about the report. "But no one has ever published

or expressed any convincing evidence of these unfounded accusations anywhere. Therefore, all this is nothing more than baseless, unfounded accusations by the media."

Symptoms of the ailment have included migraines, nausea, memory lapses and dizziness. The Insider report said the first incident of "Havana Syndrome" symptoms may have happened earlier than 2016. It said "there were likely attacks two years earlier in Frankfurt, Germany, when a US govt employee stationed at the consulate there was knocked unconscious by something akin to a strong energy beam".

US Congress passed the Havana Act in 2021 authorizing state department, CIA and other US govt agencies to provide payments to staff and their families who have been affected by the ailment during assignment. REUTERS

Pak arrests mastermind, 12 others for terror attack on Chinese, say officials

Islamabad: At least 12 people, including the mastermind, have been arrested in connection with last week's suicide bombing that killed five Chinese nationals and their Pakistani driver in the restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province of Pakistan, officials said on Monday.

The Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD), which launched a probe into the attack, blamed the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) militant group for the assault, Express Tribune newspaper reported. No group had claimed responsibility for the terror attack that took place when the Chinese engineers were en route from Islamabad to their camp in Dasu, the headquarters of the Upper Kohistan district of the province, when a suicide bomber rammed his explosive-rigged car into their vehicle in Bisham area of Shangla district.

A report submitted by CTD on Monday said over a dozen militants and facilitators of the attack were arrested in



The crime site in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. A probe has blamed the banned TTP militant group for the assault

multiple raids carried out by authorities. CTD sources said authorities arrested Hazrat Bilal, the mastermind of the attack who brought the suicide bomber from Afghanistan.

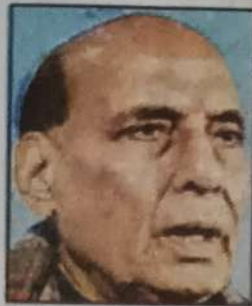
Bilal is also wanted in prior attacks on the Chinese.

The report said the explosives-laden vehicle was brought through the Chaman border to Dara Zinda town in Dera Ismail Khan district for Pakistani Rs0.25 million. Two facilitators were also arrested from Balochistan, the report said. The report said some of those arrested had links with TTP militants in Pakistan and that raids were still ongoing across the country. PTI

'Spectacular,' says Rajnath as def exports cross ₹21,000cr

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: India's defence exports have crossed Rs 21,000 crore mark for the first time in 2023-24 financial year, defence



minister **Raj-nath Singh** said Monday, adding that it represented a "spectacular growth" of

32.5% over the previous fiscal.

"Defence ministry has taken several initiatives to spur India's defence manufacturing and exports. Our defence industries, including the private sector and defence PSUs, have registered a commendable performance in the recent years. Congratulations to all stakeholders on crossing the new milestone in defence exports," the minister said.

The defence ministry, in turn, said arms exports have grown by 31 times in the last 10 years to stand at Rs 21,083 crore (\$2.6 billion) in 2023-24. "The private sector and defence PSUs have contributed around 60% and 40% respectively to achieve this," the ministry of defence said, without providing any details of the products sold to foreign countries.