Twitter Thread by Live Law

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Supreme Court will hear today a petition filed by Facebook India Vice-President, Ajit Mohan, which challenges the summons issued to him by Delhi Assembly's Committee of Peace and Harmony in relation to #DelhiRiots2020.

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In the previous hearing, Senior Advocate Harish Salv, appearing for Ajit Mohan, asserted before the Supreme Court that Mohan would not appear before the Committee of Peace and Harmony of the Delhi Legislative.

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Facebook Only Gives A Platform; Its Vice President Will Not Appear Before Delhi Assembly Panel: Salve Tells SC

https://t.co/TmvueDaJE3

Assembly Panel on Peace and Harmony is looking into complaints on the "role or complicity of Facebook officials in the Delhi riots" that took place in February 2020.

Mohan was issued two summons on August 31, 2020 and the second, on September 18, 2020.

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A Bench of Justices SK Kaul, Dinesh Maheshwari and Hrishikesh Roy will be presiding over the matter.

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Justice Kaul states that Item 14 will be taken up now and then the Bench will break.

Item 13 will be taken up after that.

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Matter commences.

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Bench will reassemble. Senior Advocates Harish Salve, Dr. AM Singhvi, Rajeev Dhavan are present.

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Dhavan: We have filed an Intervention and it’s on behalf of the Committee whose actions have been impugned through its Chairperson. I have prepared the submissions.

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Dhavan: I’ll be sending it to the Registry. This issue concerns powers of the Committee.

Bench: This has been sent to others ?

Dhavan: It’s been filed.

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Bench: We will have to issue notice and see what others have to say.

Dhavan: Will Mr. Salve have any problem ?

Salve: It is always a pleasure to hear. Dr. Dhavan. But, they are saying that Committee has separate powers as a jurisdictional entity.

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Salve: We have a lot to say about his stand. We don't have it in writing so far. You may allow this Application, subject to conditions. These are all legal issues ultimately.

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Bench: Issues have been raised about the status of the Committee.

Salve states that notice can be issued.

Dhavan: If Salve says that question of law is involved, then it can be answered during the proceedings. I don't want that to be held up.

Bench: How much time do you want to file Reply ?

Salve: I have American clients, and I want to play it safe. So, I would request for 4 weeks.

Bench: That's too much.

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Singhvi: If Salve feels it's an issue of law, then I would suggest for the proceedings to continue. Otherwise, the earliest date.

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Dhavan suggests that he is ready to hear Salve on any point against him. He is merely resisting the possibility of a further date when the Intervention is allowed.

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Dhavan: If Salve says that it may be allowed.

Salve: The Bench may fix a date for final hearing and I will take my instructions.

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Bench issues notice in the Application and gives two weeks to Petitioner to file a Reply. Applicant has been directed to file a written synopsis. Further, the Application will be listed along with the main matter.

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Discussion ensues on the possible date for listing of matter.

Bench decides to list the matter in the third week of January, on a regular day, except for 19th January, 2021.

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Justice Kaul remarks: I thought this matter would take the whole day.

Justice Roy: Yes, because earlier they all wanted 3 hours each!

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