AITC PRESS RELEASE

<u>BJP-CPI(M) Conspiracy Is To Stoke Violence In Sandeshkhali,</u> <u>Agnimitra Paul's Audio Proves The Same: Kunal Ghosh</u>

"'IF DEV HAD AGREED TO BE A BJP CANDIDATE, HE WOULD NOT HAVE RECEIVED AN ED SUMMON'"

Kolkata, 15.02.2024

The All India Trinamool Congress (AITC) slammed the BJP for instigating the fake news machinery in Bengal to disturb the peace and create a law and order issue. Party spokesperson Kunal Ghosh came down heavily against the BJP for harassing AITC leaders.

Launching a fierce offensive on the BJP for unleashing the ED against Ghatal MP Dev, AITC spokesperson Kunal Ghosh said, "Dev was being threatened and pressured through direct and indirect messages. Despite being harassed through the ED summons, he did not bow down. Instead, he reaffirmed his commitment to be with AITC and contest elections from Ghatal under the leadership of Mamata Banerjee. An ED notice immediately after this incident proves that the BJP is using the central agencies to threaten and continue their political vendetta."

Condemning the political misuse of agencies against Opposition leaders, he added: "It is BJP's policy to send central agencies to the doors of those who refuse to bow down to them. Notices were issued to AITC National General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee, his parents, his wife, sister-in-law, secretary, and lawyer. Other party leaders are also being targeted. Agencies are being used to play the politics of threats. AITC strongly condemns this...If Dev could be forced into being a BJP candidate, he would not have received a summon."

The party leader also exposed the BJP's penchant for fake news and violence by playing BJP MLA Agnimitra Paul's shameful audio clip wherein she admits that BJP is "planning" a movement on Sandeshkhali. "In this audio, the BJP MLA is talking about conspiracy. Sandeshkhali is peaceful. The incidents there have been orchestrated by CPI(M) and BJP. If anyone engages in any misbehaviour, the party and the police are taking action."

Earlier in the day, Trinamool delegation was assured by the Governor that he would look into the clip wherein Agnimitra Paul can be heard admitting that the BJP is "planning" to stoke more tensions in Sandeshkhali by trying to "build a movement."

Ghosh made it clear that CPI(M) and BJP are now creating a baseless narrative in Sandeshkhali to spread falsehood by taking outsiders there. "Such incidents have not taken place. To make this an issue, leaders from Delhi such as Amit Malviya and others are constantly spreading misleading facts regarding this matter," he added.