

AITC PRESS RELEASE

BIG EXPOSE on Sandeshkhali Case!

Abhishek Banerjee's Statements Moved Court Into Action & Revoking Restrictions Imposed On WB Police Through The Stay

"WE THANK THE HON'BLE COURT FOR THEIR STANCE; TRINAMOOL CONGRESS IS CONFIDENT AND HOPEFUL THAT SHEIKH SHAHJAHAN WILL BE ARRESTED WITHIN 7 DAYS BY THE STATE POLICE"

Kolkata, 26.02.2024

The developments at the Calcutta High Court on Monday vindicated the stand taken by AITC National General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee a day earlier, wherein he pointed out how the judiciary had "tied up the stands of the state police" by putting a stay on the ongoing probe, which ultimately prevented Sheikh Shahjahan's arrest. During press conferences in Delhi and Kolkata, AITC party leaders highlighted how the removal of restrictions by the court today would strengthen the hands of West Bengal police in ensuring a speedy probe and making the necessary arrests.

While addressing a press conference on Monday, AITC MLA Bratya Basu said, "Through today's events, it is clear that Abhishek Banerjee's stand was accurate. Trinamool Congress has taken action against its leaders including state ministers. Sheikh Shahjahan is not even a minister or elected representative. It is misleading to say that the party is shielding him."

Elaborating on the intricacies of the case, AITC Spokesperson Kunal Ghosh said, "It was only after Abhishek Banerjee's comments that the Hon'ble Court stepped up to clarify their stand and returned police's right to take action. The AITC National General Secretary was correct in pointing out how the State Police was not able to advance in the probe due to the High Court's stay. We thank the Hon'ble Court for their stance and the party is confident that Sheikh Shahjahan will be arrested within 7 days."

Showing a copy of the stay order at the press conference in Trinamool Bhavan, Ghosh added: “One must see Para 7 of the order. It says, ‘*Therefore till the appeals are heard and disposed of, orders and directions issued by learned single bench in the impugned order dated 17th January, 2024, shall remain stayed until further orders.*’ Para 8 says, ‘*It goes without saying that the West Bengal state police shall also be restrained from proceeding with the investigation in the cases, which have been registered by them.*”

It should be noted that without the involvement of any central agency, West Bengal police had arrested Saradha scam accused Sudipto Sen from Kashmir. **Even in Sandeshkhali, around 20 people have been arrested by the West Bengal police so far.**

Highlighting this fact, Rajya Sabha MP-elects Sagarika Ghose and Sushmita Dev also slammed leaders for politicising the incident at Sandeshkhali. **“A lot of politicians jumped in to politicise what happened in Sandeshkhali. Trinamool Congress’ stance is clear. Now that the court has clarified there is no bar on the arrest of the main accused, the police and government will promptly act on the matter.** His arrest will happen soon,” said renowned journalist Sagarika Ghose.

“The charge of shielding and inducing religious colour to this issue is completely wrong and should not be there. West Bengal government is working in Sandeshkhali, our ministers are there. Camps are being set up. Two senior women officers are heading a 10-member team and are registering complaints from locals and the land is being returned. **The attempt to destabilise a law-abiding and delivery-oriented government is highly unacceptable. How has the BJP handled Manipur? FIR was not filed for days and when it was, it was filed against unknown persons,**” added Ghose.

Rajya Sabha elect Sushmita Dev also highlighted how the AITC National General Secretary’s statements on Sunday showed that the state police’s hands were tied up. **“After the National General Secretary pointed out the lacuna that the State police was facing, the HC took up the matter to clarify and called for arresting accused persons mentioned in the FIR,”** she said.

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BIG EXPOSE ON SANDESHKHALI

- This order exemplifies how the Calcutta High Court had restrained law enforcement agencies under the West Bengal Government from taking action against Sheikh Shahjahan
- An SIT, comprising representatives from both the state police and CBI, was formed by a single bench to probe the matter. However, the Chief Justice's Bench of the Calcutta HC stayed the proceedings on February 7
- The violence in Sandeshkhali erupted the following day i.e. February 8. It's a clear indication of how a section of the media in collusion with the BJP and some sections of the judiciary are actively working to tarnish Bengal's image.
- It was only after we raised our concerns on the matter yesterday that the High Court promptly issued a clarification today, stating that there is no restriction on Shahjahan's arrest
- Law will take its own course and West Bengal Police will act accordingly. However, the police's authority to act remains contingent on the court refraining from curtailing its powers
- The court's statement today only proves our stand. Yesterday, AITC National General Secretary emphasised during his press conference how the State police cannot arrest Sheikh Shahjahan as their hands are tied. Now that the court has removed the obstruction, we are confident that the State police will arrest him within a week
- As we speak, FIR against Sheikh Shahjahan has already been filed by the State police in Basirhat Police Station. Regardless of where Sheikh Shahjahan is, he won't be spared and State police will arrest him
- We say this with utmost surety because we trust our State police which has, time and again, proved their competence in many important cases. Sudipto Sen was arrested from Kargil not by any Central agency but by West Bengal police under Hon'ble CM Mamata Banerjee's government
- On the contrary, Modi govt. has failed to nab the likes of Nirav Modi, Vijay Mallya, Mehul Choksi and the list goes on

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