

# **AITC PRESS RELEASE**

## **BJP & Anti-Bengal Media Reaped Benefits Of This EMBARGO**

### **Like True Opportunists: Abhishek Banerjee Tears Into BJP**

“A CONSPIRACY IS BEING HATCHED TO DEFAME WEST BENGAL BY BJP & THEIR ALLIES: SUSHMITA DEV, SAKET GOKHALE AND SAGARIKA GHOSE EXPOSE BJP'S SINISTER PLOT”

**New Delhi, 27.02.2024**

Demonstrating how the BJP-led Modi government at the Centre is practising “discriminatory federalism instead of cooperative federalism” against Bengal, All India Trinamool Congress leaders on Tuesday said that the people would respond to BJP's politics of deprivation in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. The leaders also reiterated that the Calcutta High Court clarified its stance on the arrest of Sheikh Shahjahan only after AITC National General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee pointed out the legal lacunae.

“While the Modi government has promised cooperative federalism, they have been practising discriminatory federalism. Modi government has been discriminating against Bengal by not giving Bengal its dues. This is anti-constitutional. **Around 59 lakh MGNREGA workers have not received their wages and more than 11.36 lakh people have been deprived of a roof over their heads because the BJP government at the Centre has not allocated funds. While they have withheld Rs 1.65 lakh crore that belongs to Bengal, they have collected Rs 4.65 lakh crore in taxes in the past 5 years,**” **Rajya Sabha MP-elect Sagarika Ghose** said, adding that states of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka have also been protesting against the Centre for its anti-federal stance.

“Before elections, PM Narendra Modi visits Bengal and makes promises. But where is he between elections? Where is PM Modi when people are crying for their wages and homes? These are central schemes; why doesn't PM Modi provide money for central schemes in Bengal? What kind of federalism is this? Bengal is being choked through an economic blockade,” she said.

“The State of West Bengal has given the MGNREGA workers their pending wages. We will not come to Delhi with a begging bowl to demand what is rightfully ours. Under Karmasree scheme, Bengal will generate 50 days of employment on its own for job card holders,” Ghose said.

Drawing attention towards BJP's conspiracy on the Sandeshkhali issue and the “chronology of events”, **Rajya Sabha MP Saket Gokhale** said, “**On February 7, the Calcutta High Court put a stay on the matter, which put a restraint on West Bengal police from taking action against Sheikh Shahjahan. February 8 onwards, BJP leaders, various commissions, and**

**other BJP entities started to arrive in Sandeshkhali.** Every day, they made sure there was at least one delegation or one person arriving in the area. Yesterday, the Hon'ble Court clarified that Bengal police are free to take action against Sheikh Shahjahan. In a little over an hour, the FIR was registered against Shahjahan. They expressed confidence that he would be arrested in a few days...**Ahead of Lok Sabha elections, PM Modi wants to celebrate Nari Shakti here on March 8; this is why BJP found out that there is a place called Sandeshkhali on the map of Bengal."**

Earlier in the day, the **AITC National General Secretary also pointed towards the chronology of events.** "BJP & ANTI BENGAL Media reaped the benefits of this EMBARGO like true opportunists! CHRONOLOGY: 🛑 STAY given on 7th. 📺 VIOLENCE and VILIFICATION began the following day, on the 8th. With yesterday's clarifications from Calcutta HC, I'm confident justice will soon prevail" he wrote on X.

Elaborating on how Trinamool Congress is all set to hold one of the biggest events of all time on March 10 with its Banglar Gorjon Jono Sabha, **AITC Rajya Sabha MP-elect Sushmita Dev said, "This public meeting is for the rights of the people of Bengal and against the *Bangla-Birodhi Bohiragotos* as well as *Jomindars*.** For the past two years, the Central government has repeatedly deprived Bengal by withholding funds for several welfare schemes."

Targeting Chhattisgarh CM Vishnu Deo Sai for his dirty politics, **Sushmita Dev said, "I would like to draw attention of the Chhattisgarh CM to an incident where two minor girls were raped in the State earlier this month. He should check his own backyard before pointing fingers at Mamata Banerjee.** This is not the only example of female atrocities ever since the BJP came to power in Chhattisgarh. Why didn't you speak for the tribals in Manipur?

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