

AITC PRESS RELEASE

PM Talks About 'Modi Ki Guarantee' But Modi Is The Guarantor Of Hiring & Sheltering Corrupt People: Abhishek Banerjee Tears Into BJP; Counters Propaganda Against Trinamool

"I WANT TO PUT THIS ON RECORD THAT JUDICIARY IS GUARDING SHEIKH SHAHJAHAN SO THAT SANDESHKHALI REMAINS IN THE NEWS. THE HIGH COURT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS BECAUSE THEY HAVE TIED THE HANDS OF STATE POLICE"

"PARTY WON'T SUPPORT ANYONE CARRYING OUT ATROCITIES AGAINST PEOPLE OR ENGAGING IN CORRUPTION. STRICT ACTION WILL BE TAKEN AGAINST THEM"

Maheshtala, 25.02.2024

- This 7.5 km road (inaugurated today) was made functional on April 20 last year. At that time, I had said that we would complete the road's work before the elections. We have spent Rs 51.21 crore on the construction and the cost was borne by the state government
- We had kept a time frame of 500 days. Our deadline to finish the construction on this road was September 5, 2024. We did many review meetings to ensure we wrapped up the work within 250 days. We didn't even take 12 months. The work started in April 2023 and we finished in February 2024. This is the Diamond Harbour Model
- A 40 million gallon drinking water supply project is going to be inaugurated today using Rs 328 crore. The residents of Diamond Harbour have a right to get water supply as the people in Kolkata. There would be no problems in the water supply of existing connections. The municipality has started its work on places which need additional connections. Around 8 lakh people may benefit from this project today. But, the project has ensured that till 2040, there are no issues in water supply, even with population increase
- The Centre owes Rs 1.60 lakh crore to Bengal. This money belongs to the people of Bengal but the Modi government has withheld the funds because BJP lost the elections here. Mamata Banerjee has given her word that Bengal will not have to depend on Bengal. As long as the Trinamool government is here, we will not allow Delhi to starve our people
- We held Sahayata Shivirs in 3,343 anchals between February 18 to 25. Those who have worked for MGNREGA but have not received their wages for the past two years will be given the money from the state government's exchequer between February 26 to March 1
- **Earlier, we thought only 21 lakh MGNREGA workers had not received their wages. But, through our camps in different gram panchayats, we got to know that the number was not 21 lakh but 59 lakh. Can you imagine? Modi government withheld the wages of 59 lakh workers for 2 years.** They are truly the *Atyacharis, Soiracharis, Bohiragotos, Bangla-Birodhis, and Jomindars*

- Time and again, we wrote multiple letters seeking an end to this deprivation. **Mamata Banerjee held meetings with the PM. When our protesting MPs reached Delhi to discuss the issue, they were assaulted. Our women MPs were dragged by the hair at Krishi Bhavan. When it was clear that they didn't respect the people of Bengal, Mamata Banerjee announced on February 3 that the state government would give this money**
- During Trinamoole Nabo Jowar, I was on the streets for two months and tried to understand the issues faced by the people. Those who claim that they work for the people, have they ever stayed on the road for five days? I was even summoned by central agencies but I did not stop
- People came to us and shared how the Modi government-induced inflation had led to a rise in the prices of essential commodities. **They asked us to request Didi to increase the financial assistance under Lakshmir Bhandar. Mamata Banerjee has given Lakshmir Bhandar to 2.12 crore women of Bengal using Rs 25,000 crore from the state exchequer. The Central government did not even give one penny for the same**
- **Beginning April 1, our mothers and sisters who were getting Rs 500 per month as Lakshmir Bhandar assistance will get Rs 1,000 every month. This means they will get annual financial assistance of Rs 12,000. Our SC/ST sisters, who would receive Rs 1,000 per month, will now receive Rs 1,200 per month**
- In the past 10 years, we have done work costing more than Rs 5,580 crore in Diamond Harbour Parliamentary Constituency itself...This is because the people of Diamond Harbour did not vote on the basis of religion but development. Across the country, those who voted on the basis of religion can only hear weapons on the roads and there is no sign of development. But, Diamond Harbour voted for work, which is why we have the Diamond Harbour model
- During the Panchayat elections, people voted for their rights. Within six months, the West Bengal government ensured that the people get their rightful due. The upcoming elections will also be on the basis of work. PM had promised a roof over everyone's head by 2022 but he was unable to deliver on the same promise. There has only been provocation in the name of religion. This should be met with a befitting reply

Political Pointers:

- We have given the call for a public meeting at **Brigade on March 10 because there has been an ongoing conspiracy to deprive Bengal of its rightful due for the past two years as our money has been STOPPED.** Funds under MGNREGA, Awas Yojana, Gramin Sadak Yojana, Mid-day meals, and other schemes have been stopped. **We can no longer say that the funds are pending because it has been two years.** If somebody withholds funds over a valid reason, it generally lasts for 15-30 days, or up to six months at worst
- Mamata Banerjee has held multiple meetings with the PM to resolve the issue. Wages of 59 lakh workers were not cleared in the past 2 years and funds for houses of 11.36 lakh people were not released by the BJP-led Central government. We have appealed to the Central government for Bengal's rights but to no avail. They should know that we are not dependent on them

- **They were missing from Bengal for the past 2.5 years and are now back with their misleading activities as elections are about to be announced.** This is why we call them *Bohiragoto, Bangla-Birodhi, and Jomindar*. Trinamool Congress has given the call for the March 10 public meeting to protest against the anti-Bengal move of blocking our central funds. ***Bohiragotos and Bangla-Birodhis must get a trailer of Banglar Gorjon on March 10 in Kolkata. They will see the cinema during the elections. We will show on March 10 how they have deprived the people of Bengal for the past two years***
- To those who make tall claims, I would say that if you have the organisational hold or on-ground strength, try doing a counter-event on Brigade on March 11 or 12
- Since we are fighting the anti-Bengal mindset and deprivation of Bengal by the BJP, anyone who feels the same can attend our programme on March 10. Since we are uniting people for this fight, the programme is called a *Jonogorjon Sabha*. We have given the call to every person to join the fight, irrespective of caste, creed, gender, religion, or politics
- Bengal is the only state where no funds were allocated by the Central Government under MGNREGA for the past two financial years [2021-22 & 2022-23]. The state government has now come up with the Karmasree scheme to generate 50 days of employment for the job cardholders of Bengal. The PM had promised roofs over everyone's heads by 2022 but blocked Bengal's rightful due
- **The Centre owes Rs 1.60 lakh to the West Bengal government. However, in the last five financial cycles between 2018-2023, Narendra Modi's anti-people Central government collected Rs 4.65 lakh crore from Bengal in the form of taxes**
- Now, they are talking about cancelling Aadhaar cards. Tomorrow, will they cancel our citizenship through misinformation? On top of that, BJP MLA is issuing veiled threats saying that if the Aadhaar card had not been activated, nobody would be able to do anything to address this. This is the level of their arrogance
- I want to appeal to the people that we must fight for Bengal in the upcoming elections. The Swanirbhar Bangla that Mamata Banerjee has spoken about will become a reality if the people bless us with their support. In the coming years, we will constitute a state which would not require any help from Delhi. Instead, leaders from Delhi would come here to seek our help
- **Between 2014 to 2019, BJP had 2 MPs from the state whereas Trinamool had 34 MPs. Modi government was in power at the Centre. Nobody was able to block your money. But immediately after 18 MPs were elected in 2019, Bengal's funds were stopped because these elected BJP leaders wrote to the Central government calling for an economic blockade against Bengal**
- We lost Bhangar but can anyone in Bhangar say that they are unable to avail of the benefits of Mamata Banerjee's welfare schemes including Lakshmir Bhandar? You won't be able to find even one such person. This is the difference between BJP and Trinamool. We are elected representatives of all but BJP blocked Bengal's funds because they lost the elections

On PM Modi's Visit To Bengal:

- Narendra Modi is the country's PM and can visit any place. But after the 2021 Assembly elections, did he hold any meetings for the benefit of the people in Arambagh, Barasat, or

Krishnanagar? Let alone the PM and Home Minister, was there any Central Minister or Minister of State, who held a meeting for the welfare of the people in these constituencies in the past 2.5 years?

- Why does their activity begin only when elections are near? He is coming here only because he wants power. Does this mean he has no value for the lives of our people? Did he even make a phone call for the deprived MGNREGA & Awas beneficiaries? No. After the elections, they are nowhere to be seen. It is Mamata Banerjee and Trinamool representatives who are on the ground during times of need

On Sheikh Shahjahan's Arrest:

- **Those who are calling for Sheikh Shahjahan's arrest, should take the appeals to the High Court. If the High Court ties the hands of the state administration, what can be done?** After the January 5 incident, wherein it was claimed that ED officers were attacked, the central agency filed a complaint. The High Court ordered the constitution of a Special Investigation Team [SIT], comprising representatives of state police and central agencies. **Around 10-12 days later, ED appealed for a stay in the HC. Accordingly, the plea for a stay was accepted. This means that they wanted that there should be no investigation, arrest, summons, or interrogation.** Did Mamata Banerjee do this? No. It was done by the Calcutta HC. The hearing for this is on March 6. **If the High Court ties the hands of the state police, how can they arrest anyone?**
- After an FIR is filed, you have to give the investigating authority at least a month to make the arrests. ED is not given any stays for dragging the case up to 12 years. Sarada case has been going on since 2014; the trial hasn't even begun. However, the **state police did not get this leeway. Why this dual policy? I want to ask this question as a representative of Bengal**
- **Those who want Shahjahan's arrest, should make an appointment and ask the court why this stay was granted. Was it to ensure that BJP could secure footage from this incident?**
- When Trinamool Congress took action against Partha Chatterjee and Jyoti Priya Mallick, who is Sheikh Shahjahan? BJP had branded Suvendu Adhikari and Himanta Biswa Sarma as thieves but later inducted them into the party fold and given plush posts. **This is Modi's Guarantee. All thieves and corrupt people can join the BJP and wash off all their sins. This is Modiji's Guarantee**
- Uttam Sardar and Shibu Hazra were arrested immediately after the female complainant recorded her statement in front of the magistrate
- Instead of tying our hands, if the High Court had empowered the police, they would have shown their prowess. People are approaching Mamata Banerjee and Trinamool because they know she is the only one who can do this as they have faith in her. If the state police could arrest Sudipto Sen from Kashmir without ED-CBI interference, anyone can be arrested
- Some people sitting in Delhi are trying to stoke a fire in Bengal and create a situation of unrest so that Sandeshkhali remains in the news. How many times have you shown farmers' protests on television? Why hasn't anyone spoken about the pending dues of 59 lakh workers or Awas beneficiaries and their challenges?

- **I want to put this on record - Trinamool is not guarding Sheikh Shahjahan but the judiciary is. This is to ensure that Sandeshkhali remains in the news. Lift the stay and see what the state police does next**
- The protests in Sandeshkhali need to be probed by police as to whether they are true or false. No matter how big the leader is, if anyone is involved in any injustice, the state government will take strict action against them
- **Till 2016, Sandeshkhali had a CPI(M) MLA. Why didn't they raise the allegations of sexual assault against women back then, if this has been a longstanding issue? Suvendu Adhikari has so many photographs with Shahjahan. Why didn't he speak out against Shahjahan after leaving Trinamool in 2020? Why didn't Bikash Singh and Nirapada Sardar write a letter to the state government on these shocking allegations or even hold a press conference on this issue?**
- We will go when the time is right. We don't want to go and create a political provocation in the area like BJP and CPI(M). **Why can't BJP leaders go to Sandeshkhali on the same day? Suvendu Adhikari is going on one day and Sukanta Majumdar on the other day. This is only because Narendra Modi has given the order to ensure the Sandeshkhali issue is kept alive till March 8 as the PM is visiting Bengal**
- After the Brigade, I will go to Sandeshkhali. I feel it is not prudent to hold a sabha there right now and wait for the situation to get better
- I don't want to respond to Suvendu Adhikari's comments because he keeps changing his stance. He said he would take legal action against Supratim Sarkar if the latter didn't apologise in 24 hours. It has been 72 hours, why hasn't he done anything yet? This is because he did refer to a Sikh IPS officer as Khalistani. This is the truth. His politics is limited to ED, CBI, and Courts just as other BJP leaders. Other politics is for people's rights
- **Double-engine government in Manipur has failed on all fronts. The entire country has seen how two women were stripped and paraded in Manipur during the violence. Does the Prime Minister not have the responsibility for Manipur? Or does he only care about Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, and Madhya Pradesh? How many BJP leaders have gone to Manipur? How many delegations have visited Manipur? They are only coming here to satisfy their political interests**
- I don't have any comments to make on the alliance because Mamata Banerjee has made our stance clear. On January 29, I spoke on this at length. On one hand, they talk of an alliance with Trinamool. On the other hand, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury says that if Mamata Banerjee has the courage, she should contest against Adhir Chowdhury in Berhampore. This means that the Congress Pradesh chief is not following the directives of the national Congress and we can't say anything about this

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