

AITC PRESS RELEASE

BJP Can Cancel Trains But Not The 'Jonogorjon' All Set To Send Shockwaves In Delhi On March 10

“THROUGH THIS ACTION, BJP HAS JUST EXPOSED ITS OWN WEAKNESS. THEY ARE SCARED OF TRINAMOOL CONGRESS AND BENGAL. THIS IS WHY THEY TRY TO STOP BENGAL”

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In a move that confirms the anti-Bengal BJP's panic over the upcoming *Jonogorjon Sabha* at Kolkata's iconic Brigade Ground, the *Jomidars* of Delhi have refused to grant the request for two special trains that would allow the people from other parts of Bengal to attend the largest political gathering of recent times.

The development coincided with the launch of the “trailer” for the sabha. With just six days to go for the much-awaited Jonogorjon Sabha at Kolkata's Iconic Brigade ground, the AITC on Monday dropped a trailer for the upcoming public meeting designed to send "shockwaves" to the rulers of Delhi.

While addressing a press conference at Kolkata's Trinamool Bhavan on Monday, party leaders and state ministers Bratya Basu and Dr Shashi Panja shared photocopies of the documents that clearly state that Trinamool's request for special trains from Alipurduar & New Cooch Behar to Kolkata and back was rejected over flimsy grounds!

“To ferry the attendees from north Bengal, two trains were sought on February 29 and a security deposit of Rs 22 lakh was paid. As per the rules, we wrote to the group general manager of IRCTC stating that two trains were required on February 8 (one will come from New Cooch Behar to Sealdah and another from Alipurduar to Sealdah)...But the **Jomidars felt that they could extend their Jomidari to trains as well and denied our request,**” said Dr Shashi Panja

“Since this *Jonogorjon Sabha* is for people's fight for their rights, their participation is very important. We were assured that the Railways was looking into the request. But **in the end, Bohiragoto BJP implemented their jomidari and pressurised the Railways into denying**

our request. In addition to stopping MGNREGA and Awas Yojana funds, the BJP-led Central government even stopped trains and avenues of protest. But no matter how many trains they cancel, they cannot stop the *Gorjon* at Brigade,” she added. Dr Panja also highlighted how these trains are not blocked when central ministers – including Amit Shah – attempt to hold rallies in Kolkata.

Party leaders also referred to a similar instance less than six months ago. Even in October 2023, the BJP had engaged in a coordinated attack set to create obstacles for the historic Dilli Cholo protest led by AITC National General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee. A special train slated to carry thousands of people from West Bengal to Delhi for the protest was also cancelled by the Railways at the behest of the BJP. Even the airline set to carry over 100 AITC leaders from Bengal was cancelled mysteriously hours before it was supposed to leave for Delhi.

“Through this action, BJP has just exposed its own weakness. They are scared of Trinamool Congress and Bengal. This is why they try to stop Bengal. They had done the same thing during the Dilli Cholo protest when Abhishek Banerjee had announced the programme to go to Delhi. The *Jomidari* mindset of denying permission stands exposed with this decision. Doing political programmes at Brigade has been a part of our history for the past three to four decades,” added AITC leader Bratya Basu.

Basu also highlighted how the BJP has always obstructed people’s movements such as the farmers’ agitation. “Nobody could stop Mamata Banerjee in the past, not even those who were here for 34 years. **People are willing to even walk to the meetings at Mamata Banerjee’s call...We condemn this *Jomidari* mindset that causes them to block the trains. This won’t stop people from coming to Brigade.** We will make all alternate arrangements if need be,” he said.

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