

AITC PRESS RELEASE

I Have Full Faith In Country's Judiciary; Will Move Division Bench Against Court Order, Says AITC National General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee

"IT WAS WEST BENGAL GOVERNMENT'S DECISION AND NOT ALL INDIA TRINAMOL CONGRESS' TO BAN 'THE KERALA STORY' IN THE STATE. THE DECISION TO BAN THE MOVIE WAS BASED ON INTELLIGENCE REPORTS, WHICH COULD HAVE JEOPARDISED THE COMMUNAL HARMONY IN OUR STATE"

Paschim Bardhaman, 18.05.2023

- **As a citizen of India, I am entitled to file pleas in our country's courts. I have full faith in the judiciary.** I have always cooperated with the investigating agencies, whenever they had summoned me; be it in Calcutta or Delhi
- I had filed a petition in the Supreme Court against the summons issued to me, arguing that I should not be questioned by investigating agencies in Delhi, since the FIR has been registered in West Bengal. With respect to it, the Supreme Court has ruled that, if need be, Enforcement Directorate officials have to come to Bengal to question me
- I reiterate my stance that I will continue to cooperate with the investigating agencies whenever they call me
- **I assure the people that if any investigating agency summons me during our programme, I will stall the yatra for a day and cooperate with the investigating procedure.** Just like a judge's observations are his or her prerogative, it is also my right to move the Division Bench or appeal in the apex court against any decision
- I am yet to receive the copy of the court's order. **I will move the Division Bench or the Supreme Court in a day or two.** I, once again, reiterate that I have complete faith in the judiciary. However, **the person who can be seen taking money in a case, CBI does not summon him and we do not see any proactiveness on the court's part either**
- **Kuntal Ghosh has claimed that he is being pressurised to name me.** You can even corroborate this with senior AITC leader Madan Mitra, whether he was also in such a situation or not. The day I referred to this on March 29, that very day the Union Home Minister Amit Shah admitted this in a media conclave, where he stated that he was also pressurised by central agencies to name Narendra Modi in the Gujarat riots case
- Hence, this proves my claims that **central agencies function at the behest of politicians.** People can decide whether I am speaking the truth or not. **I am once again stating that there is no need for CBI or ED investigation – rather if they have any proof against me, hang me for the crime**
- At a time when Rs 25 lakh has been imposed on me for wasting the court's time, no action has been taken against those who file rampant PILs; **no cost is imposed on the person who seeks protection from the court in relation to the incident of his convoy mowing down a person**
- The cost has been imposed on me for exercising my judicial rights, yet I will continue to believe that the society still has full faith in the judiciary

- It may be possible that it is an attempt to stall the outreach programme of ours; having said so, I will not comment any further since this is a judgment. However, if anyone feels the order will intimidate me, and I will stop my outreach programme, I would like to say that our '*Nabo Jowar*' yatra will not stop
- **The people are witness that despite all climatic odds, we have continued with our '*Trinamoole Nabo Jowar*' programme**, since this is aimed at constituting a 'people's panchayat', which is based on the choice and views of the common man
- **When adverse climatic conditions could not stop the programme, since the enthusiasm of the people is so high, no political leader or party can stop it.** This is a democracy and not a dictatorship. If anyone believes that he or she can forcibly stall this programme then he is living in a fool's paradise
- **On the contrary, these summons and orders will inspire us to be firm in our beliefs and our protest will become even more powerful.** If someone feels that if ED-CBI investigation is slapped on me, I am the only person in the country who is declaring that please bring forth all the proof and prosecute me
- It is their prerogative to move the court, but the court has ruled in favour of CID investigation in the Egra blast incident. However, you must have noticed that the two women who died in the explosion were job-card holders under the 100 Days' Work Scheme. Since they were not getting their dues, these people are forced to join illegal firecracker factories for employment
- Several people died in an explosion and this cannot be politicised. But **people taking up odds jobs and putting their lives at stake, PM Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah cannot shrug off their responsibility as they have withheld the State's dues.** Had they released the funds, these lives would not have been lost
- BJP is politicising the matter; if they had minimum humanity, they should have resigned from their posts. Over 20 lakh people are awaiting their dues under the 100 Days' Work Scheme. Almost 2.65 crore job-card holders are dependent on the MGNREGS are awaiting their dues. If there are backlogs, people do tend to search for other options in order to live
- **Quite like the RSS person, who asked me to install streetlights, I would request Dilip Ghosh and Suvendu Adhikari to prepare a list where services are not being delivered and submit it to the State government**
- For the past two years, BJP has been in the Opposition. Yet, can they cite any instance of constructive work done by them? They are just relying on ED, CBI and court cases to do politics. If they think that this can be
- **I give my wishes to Naushad Siddique to contest the Diamond Harbour seat. Anyone can contest from anywhere, be it PM Narendra Modi or Home Minister Amit Shah**
- Bengal government's decision to ban 'The Kerala Story' was based on certain intelligence reports, **Trinamool Congress has not got anything to do with the decision to ban**
- **West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, on behalf of the State government, has discussed the issue at length by holding a Press Conference at Nabanna**
- The Supreme Court was duly notified that our decision was based on the intelligence report that we had gathered. **The movie was banned because it could potentially have jeopardised communal harmony.** After that, if the court has decided to stay Bengal government's ban, then the verdict is final