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ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಹೆಸರು : NAME OF THE NEWS PAPER: The Hindu ದಿನಾಂಕ : DATE: 19/4/21

## EC bars BJP and Trinamool leaders from campaigning

24-hour ban imposed on Sayantan Basu and Sujata Mondal

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The Election Commission on Sunday barred two leaders, one from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and another from the Trinamool Congress, from campaigning for 24 hours beginning 7 p.m. on Sunday.

The EC issued notice to West Bengal BJP general secretary Sayantan Basu for his remarks on the Sitalkuchi deaths. It sternly warned

Mr. Basu and "strongly advised him to desist from using such statements while making public utterances when the Model Code of Conduct is in force".

Earlier, State BJP president Dilip Ghosh and former president Rahul Sinha were barred from campaigning for their remarks about the Sitalkuchi incident.

Trinamool Congress leader Sujata Mondal, who contested the election from

Arambagh, had made some remarks about the Scheduled Castes. The Commission had issued notice to her for "denigrating the Scheduled Caste community in West Bengal".

"Now, therefore, the Commission hereby sternly warns Sujata Mondal and advises her to desist from using such statements while making public utterances when the Model Code of Conduct is in force," said the EC.