

Blockade disrupts rail communication



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Train services along the northeastern frontier railway was disrupted for nearly six hours due to the 12-hours rail blockade today at Kokrajhar rail station called by Adivashi [National](#) Convention Committee (ANCC), an umbrella organisation of Adivashis, on various [demands](#) of the community, including Scheduled Tribe status to the [community](#), provide land pattas to the evicted Adivashis those are living in forest areas in the [state](#) of Assam.

Thousands of people with placards, banners and shouting slogans staged protest at Kokrajhar railway station starting 6 am this morning affecting the movement of trains along the route. The [demands](#) includes [ST](#) status for communities residing in Assam, to expedite the peace talk with the rebel groups in ceasefire, allotment of land & rehabilitation to the evicted [Adivasi](#) people, permanent allotment of land and land pattas to the tea garden [workers](#) in Assam. Railway passengers have to face several hours disrupted communication due to the blockade.

Several long distance express trains were stranded at various stations besides passenger trains cancelled have force to cancelled due to the blockade, which included Rajdhani express(down), Capital express, Sampark Kranti stranded at New Bongaigaon station, [Brahmaputra](#) mail express, Gaya express(up) halted at Alipurduar and New Coochbehar station respectively. Dhubri-Kamakhya passenger, NJP-Landing intercity express, NJP-New Bongaigaon passenger, NJP-Kamakhya intercity express trains were cancelled during the blockade. The blockade was lifted by 12.30 pm after 6.30 hours [as](#) government has promised to hold peace talk [over](#) the [demands](#) of ANCC. The ANCC submitted a memorandum to Chief Minister of Assam through Kokrajhar deputy commissioner demanding early granting of [ST](#) status to Adivashis and solution of ceasefire militants' organisations of Adivashis.

Birshing [Munda](#), chairman of ANCC told that the blockade lifted for the day after 6.30 hours [as](#) government assure us to hold tripartite talk [over](#) the issues by March 22 next. He has warned that ANCC will resume its democratic mass agitation if their [demands](#) are not meet by March 22 next.

'We lifted the blockade after getting assurance from government to hold talk [over](#) the [demands](#) of ANCC in coming days. We respect government's assurance expecting fruitful results in days to coming', said [Munda](#).

Ambrit Beck, [ANLA leader](#), Durga Hasda, ANCC [leader](#) slammed for not taking initiative to solve the problem and issues of Adivashis in the [state](#). Beck said that mass agitation will be continued till achieve of [ST](#) status in the [state](#).

Boyal Hembrom, president of Adivashi Seva Samiti, Prem Hasda, AASAA [leader](#), Simon Kisku, president All Santhali Students Union (ASSU) demanded early granting of [ST](#) status to the Adivashis to meet healthy development and [welfare](#) of the [community](#). They said that government should come forward while bringing solutions of the demand and issues of the Adivashis.

Bibekananda Choudhury, Kokrajhar Deputy Commissioner said that the blockade was lifted by 12.30 pm at railway station. He said that district administration observed agitation blockade [as](#) ANCC sitted along the rail track to put pressure their [demands](#).

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BY AT KOKRAJHAR BUREAU

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