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(From left) Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Governor Jagdeep Dhankar | PTI

# Assembly gate shut, West Bengal Governor sees red

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**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** @ Kolkata

WEST Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankar and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee are locked in a fresh war after the former alleged that democracy in Bengal is being throttled. Dhankar's outburst came after he found Governor's entry gate of the state Assembly locked on Thursday.

Mamata promptly hit back, accusing the governor of running a parallel government.

Dhankar went to the Assembly after the Speaker abruptly adjourned the House for two days as Bills, which were scheduled to be placed could not be tabled for lack of Governor's sanction. Dhankar's car stopped in front of Gate no. 3 designated for him but found it barred. He later entered through Gate no. 4 meant for mediapersons.

> There is a parallel administration running in the state. I am sorry to say this...the House was adjourned as bills were not signed
>
> Mamata Banerjee, West Bengal Chief Minister

"Why was gate no 3 closed despite my prior intimation? This act shames democracy. This is not an insult to me, but an insult to the people and the Constitution," said Dhankar.

Dhankar, on Wednesday, had written to the Speaker expressing his interest in visiting the Assembly.

"The Speaker invited me and my wife to lunch but cancelled it an hour later. It was also informed that Assembly officials will not be present during my visit. I wonder what happened that everything changed," said the Governor.

He said, "I can't be cowed down by such antics. What does the CM expect of me? Should I contact her through *Didi Ke Bolo*?" he added. *Didi Ke Bolo* (Tell Your Sister) is an outreach programme to strengthen the CM's mass connect.