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# THE BOLD LENS

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## Annamalai in Delhi to meet BJP top brass

*By The BoldLens AI*

When asked about the various rumours circulating on social media claiming that he is planning to leave the party and start a new political party, he said, “Please wait. We will sit down and talk in two days.” His remarks come amid intense discussion on social media over his next political move. Posters featuring slogans like “Our Leader, Come and Lead Us” have been put up along key roads and streets in the city ahead of Annamalai’s birthday on June 4. This comes just after the 2026 Tamil Nadu Assembly elections, which marked a historic shift in state politics as TVK won 108 seats in its debut election, ending

## Shivakumar sworn in as new Karnataka CM.

*By The BoldLens AI*

Taking a leaf from Rahul, Shivakumar held the Constitution on one hand and took his oath in the name of his spirtual guru, Veera Gangadhara Ajjaya. ಕರ್ಮಣ್ಯೇವಾಧಿಕಾರಸ್ತೇ ಮಾ ಫಲೇಷು ಕದಾಚನ |ಮಾ ಕರ್ಮಫಲಹೇತುರ್ಭೂರ್ ಮಾ ತೇ ಸಂಗೋಸ್ತ್ವ ಕರ್ಮಣಿ || pic.twitter.com/VElVFR1U3M — DK Shivakumar (DKShivakumar) June 3, 2026 Siddaramaiah’s son Yathindra took oath as a minister in the Shivakumar-led government. The composition of the Cabinet so far shows a Siddaramaiah imprint with many of his loyalists retaining and finding

## Can Speaker accept TMC rebel faction’s LoP? Sena split aftermath suggests Mamata may win battle, lose war

*By The BoldLens AI*

In a press conference held after the meeting with the Speaker, Ritabrata said that more than two-thirds of the MLAs elected on the Trinamool Congress symbol had submitted their claim to the Speaker, “and the claim has been accepted”. “This two-thirds strong legislative team of the Trinamool Congress inside the 18th West Bengal Legislative Assembly does not believe in ‘I’, it believes in ‘we’. Whatever norms are framed out, we have followed every norm, and that’s why we have been accepted as the principal opposition in the 18th West Bengal Legislative Assembly,” Ritabrata told reporters. Without claiming to be the real TMC, he urged Mamata Banerjee to be their “chief adviser” and give them “advice that will help us in strengthening our position as the opposition”. Also Read: Bengali film industry is switching sides after BJP’s win. New scripts on Hindu causes However, experts assert that the Speaker is only supposed to ‘recognise’ the LoP suggested by the political party, not the legislative party—which comprises a party’s elected representatives in the House. “In the Indian context, the Speaker has to merely recognise names suggested by the party. He has no other thing to do,” says constitutional expert and former Secretary General of the Lok Sabha, P.D.T. Achary. According Speaker only has to recognise it. “That is the process, but here if there is a split in the party, they should go to the Election Commission and decide which faction is the real party,” he tells ThePrint, adding, “It is not for the Speaker to decide that.” “How can the Speaker recognise the person who has not been suggested by the party?” he asks. Constitutional expert Prof. Faizan Mustafa says that Speaker accepting the nominee of the dissident faction basically amounts to recognising the split in a way, by accepting the nominee of the faction with two-thirds of the members of the legislative party. However, he also points out that under the anti-defection law, the provision relating to a split talks about such a split in a political party, not the legislative party, as is the case in West Bengal or in Raghav Chadha’s case. Last month, TMC general secretary Abhishek Banerjee had submitted a letter to the Speaker, announcing the party’s decision to appoint Sobhandeb Chattopadhyay as the LoP. However, two TMC MLAs, Ritabrata Banerjee and Sandipan Saha, filed a complaint with the Speaker, alleging that the TMC general secretary had forged multiple signatures in the letter. An FIR was then registered against Abhishek Banerjee and a probe was launched by the West Bengal CID. Following this, the two

*In a press conference held after the meeting with the Speaker, Ritabrata said that more than two-thirds of the MLAs elected on the Trinamool Congress symbol had submitted their*

themselves the principal Opposition, while other party members have been resorting to social media and sharing the letters sent to the Speaker to recognise Sobhandeb Chattopadhyay as the LoP. “After the elections, the first thing that the party does is to select the leader of the legislative party. Every party does that. And then the legislative party, which is a wing of the political party, functions under the leadership of that person. The party decides it on the basis of their own constitution,” Achary explains. He asserts that the Speaker does not have to look into which faction has a two-third majority within the legislative party. If he does think that there is a dispute going on in the party, the Speaker “should step back and not decide the issue till things become clear”. “He (the Speaker) does not have matter is settled, the Speaker does not have to immediately rush in and recognise the person suggested by the faction with a two-thirds majority. Two-thirds majority of a party is not a legal requirement for recognising the Leader of Opposition,” Achary asserts. He says that if a Speaker receives a petition to disqualify someone from the political party, then he gets the jurisdiction to decide that issue. “Otherwise, the Speaker does not interfere in any political party’s internal affairs,” Achary says. Also Read: Did SIR help BJP? What data reveals about fiercely-contested West Bengal election The Supreme Court had, in May 2023, clarified pertinent legal questions in context of the political imbroglio that arose in Maharashtra as a result of the split in the Shiv Sena. The party, founded by Bal Thacker-

## Hooda leads pushback as Haryana Congress MLAs fume at ‘permission’ diktat for protests, press meets

*By The BoldLens AI*

Speaking to the media in Chandigarh on Wednesday, Hooda said that the order does not apply to MLAs holding protests in their constituencies on local issues, but only for state-level protests, dharnas and press conferences. “Party discipline is important,” Hooda told The Print on Thursday. “And whenever there is a state-level demonstration, protest or press conference, it should be coordinated. But it should not apply for such events at the district or the constituency level.” “The MLAs and MPs have to raise issues of their constituents. They can’t be stopped from raising the issues of their constituents,” he added. The directive listed three specific compliance requirements: complete details of any proposed programme must be submitted in advance to the HPCC office; prior approval from the HPCC must be obtained before any public announcement or execution of an event; and coordination with district and state leadership must be ensured at all levels. Haripradad cited the need for “proper coordination, organisational discipline, message uniformity, media management and effective political strategy” as the rationale. The copy was marked to the PCC President, the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader and the Chairman of the Disciplinary Committee, Haryana. Ashok Arora, Con-

*Speaking to the media in Chandigarh on Wednesday, Hooda said that the order does not apply to MLAs holding protests in their constituencies on local issues, but only for*

expressed in the media. “I spoke about my reservations and Rohtak MLA Bharat Bhushan Batra also spoke about it,” Arora said. “The letter said that the MLAs could not hold a press conference or a protest without permission. However, the Congress Legislature Party leader Bhupinder Singh Hooda made it clear that MLAs and MPs could hold such events to raise the issues of their constituents.” Batra echoed Arora’s sentiments. Speaking to ThePrint on Thursday, Batra said while party discipline was sacrosanct, MLAs can’t be stopped from raising concerns of their constituents. Haripradad, who has since transitioned to take charge as Karnataka Congress president, did not respond to ThePrint’s calls or messages. State leaders defend order State Congress chief Rao Narender Singh, however, was categorical in his discipline in the party, and no one has opposed the directions issued in it,” he told ThePrint. He framed the directives as continuation of an earlier exercise, the training session for AICC-appointed DCC presidents at Kurukshetra in March, where Rahul Gandhi had addressed them. “The DCC presidents were told that all events of the party in the district would be held under their banner alone in future,” he said. Rao said the intent was to prevent the return of a pattern where different factions ran their own parallel programmes, at both the district and state levels, presenting a fractured face of the party in public. “The only aim of the letter was to ensure that the old system where different factions held their own party programmes didn’t return and the party presented a united face during protests and other events,” he

## *AAP DELHI*

*Following the FIR against the alleged rapist, he was granted bail by a Dwarka court. Bharadwaj had criticised the bail to the accused and alleged that there was no strict police action being taken in the case. According to the FIR against Bharadwaj accessed by ThePrint, he had allegedly disclosed de*

## Rijiju says minority affairs budget ‘doubled’ under PM Modi, hits out at Oppn’s persecution claim

*By The BoldLens AI*

The remarks come against the backdrop of persistent criticism, domestically and internationally. For instance, Human Rights Watch, in its World Report 2024, had said that the BJP-led government’s policies had “led to increased violence against minorities, creating a pervasive environment of fear”. Similarly, the US Commission on International Religious Freedom had said that year that religious freedom conditions in India had “continued to deteriorate”, citing the government’s failure to address communal violence affecting Muslims, Christians, Sikhs and Dalits. For the Opposition within the country, minority rights have been a central line of attack. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has repeatedly alleged the BJP is against Dalits, minorities and the poor. The INDIA bloc, formed ahead of 2024 general elections, had vowed to defeat what it called “hatred and violence being manufactured against minorities”. The BJP, in turn, has accused the Congress of minority appeasement and communal politics. Also Read: Govt to notify intact Rijiju attributed the gap between the government’s record and public perception to a one-sided media environment and a political campaign aimed at damaging the country’s image abroad. “Don’t lie, don’t spread misinformation,” he said Thursday, directly addressing the Opposition. “Criticise the government, be critical of government policies—no problem. But don’t lie.” He said some political leaders were trying to weaken Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s position by tarnishing the country’s image abroad. “Some political leaders in India are supporting that campaign.” On why the ministry has not done more to counter the sense of persecution felt within minority communities, Rijiju said, “Every day thousands and thousands of outreach programmes are being arranged by the government. But good news does not become news, and bad news becomes the big news.” Ministry Secretary Srivatsa Krishna framed the problem as one of data versus perception. “Look at data. Is this government against minorities? When a road gets built, when training happens, is that being targeted at a majority inform”—and that the last part remained the hardest. One of the ministry’s flagship programmes is PM Vikas, or Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan—a skilling initiative targeted at minority youth for vocational training in trades ranging from tailoring to electronics repair. Thursday’s event saw the ministry sign an agreement with EkStep Foundation, co-founded by Infosys co-founder and Aadhaar architect Nandan Nilekani, to use artificial intelligence to match PM Vikas graduates with jobs close to their homes, so that trainees do not have to migrate to distant cities for work. The ministry also demonstrated AI chatbots, built with Gnani and Sarvam—two sovereign AI companies empanelled by the government—that can answer queries about ministry schemes in multiple languages. A full roll-out is expected within six months. On the Waqf portal—a centralised digital registry launched a year ago under the Waqf Amendment Act, 2025, requiring all state Waqf boards to upload details of properties held in religious trust—Rijiju said roughly 50-55 percent of properties had been up-

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thousands of acres are shown on paper—on the ground, it’s not there. It’s a laborious exercise. It will happen.” The Waqf Amendment Act—passed amid protests and criticism by Muslim groups and opposition parties, who called it an attack on minority property rights—remains one of the most contested legislative moves of the Modi government’s third term. Additionally, on the issue of scholarships—the ministry’s largest budget item, covering pre-matric, post-matric and merit-cum-means support for students from Muslim, Christian, Sikh, the scheme had been hobbled by ongoing CBI cases across multiple states involving large-scale fraud in minority institution disbursals, where scholarships were drawn in the names of students who did not exist. “I wish the scholarship cases had not happened. Whatever has happened, I want it to reach closure quickly so we can move ahead,” he said, calling it an “unfinished task”. Regarding the Munambam dispute in Kerala—where several Christian farming families on the coast near Kochi have been fighting eviction after state Waqf board claimed own-

## 58% NDA voters want Dharmendra Pradhan to quit over NEET mess, NTA dismantled—Cvoter survey

*By The BoldLens AI*

Support for his resignation was 58.2 percent among NDA voters, as against 72.1 percent among non-NDA voters. Concerns surrounding the NEET paper leak and CBSE introducing On-Screen Marking (OSM) digital evaluation system for the Class 12 board examination, have made NDA-supporting voters back major reforms and express dissatisfaction with the current examination system, according to the Team Cvoter snap poll conducted on 28 May 2026. The findings are based on a survey conducted via computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI). The survey covered 1,346 respondents aged 18 to 55+ years, from across India. The respondents were classified by gender, age group, social group, voting preference in rural to facilitate subgroup analysis. The survey found that 60.6 percent of respondents said the National Testing Agency (NTA), which is facing intense scrutiny after the NEET controversy, should be dismantled, and the country should return to the previous system of conducting entrance examinations. What makes the finding politically notable is that support for dismantling the NTA extends beyond non-NDA voters. Among respondents who admitted to voting for the NDA in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, 58.2 percent replied “yes” when asked if they were in favour of dismantling the NTA. This figure was 68.1 percent among non-NDA voters. Findings of the survey also pointed to growing dissatisfaction with the broader educa-

## Yuva Yuga, farmer welfare & punchlines: DK Shivakumar’s first day as Karnataka chief minister

*By The BoldLens AI*

Peppering his first media address with well-thought-out punchlines, Shivakumar’s first day in the sun was full of subtle messaging and substantial announcements, centering around youngsters who dominated the thinking behind his initial announcements. After the meeting, Shivakumar announced six initiatives, centered around youngsters, farmers, reforms and governance, emphasising ‘Yuva Yuga’, or new generation. The Congress party has largely relied on its flagship guarantees since its first day in office. The pressure was high on Shivakumar, however, to move beyond the rhetoric of guarantees–associated with his predecessor Siddaramaiah–and carve out a place of his own. Free bus passes for exchange, setting up youth organisations, one-time relaxation for home-owners, conversion of property papers and an additional Rs 2,000 crore to fix the dilapidated condition of Bengaluru roads. Additionally, Shivakumar promised a big announcement for farmers, making up for the fact that there are no women in his Cabinet yet. Shivakumar made a targeted outreach to a diverse section of society, trying to project his vision over the image he has of a businessman, tactful politician and ruthless leader. Also Read: Shivakumar sworn in as new Karnataka CM. Siddaramaiah’s son, many loyalists in his 13-member team Shivakumar’s first announcement was free bus passes for all students in the state. Since the launch of Shakthi (free public bus rides

*Peppering his first media address with well-thought-out punchlines, Shivakumar’s first day in the sun was full of subtle messaging and substantial announcements, centering around*

excluded men. “Every time I interacted with students, the boys asked me about bus passes stating that the government has allowed girls to move around for free. What happens to us?” he said. The chief minister said he name the scheme but announced that it will apply to all students in the state, including those pursuing higher education. The second was to fix the problem of unemployment by setting up a private employment exchange would give youngsters an opportunity to think beyond government jobs. The third is setting up 10,000 units of Bharat Jodo Yuvakara Sangha (loosely translated to Bharat Jodo Youth Associations) that would encourage sports, cultural activities among youngsters to help identify and nurture leadership qualities in them. Shivakumar even promised to set aside Rs 1,000 crore (Rs 10 lakh per unit) for the new initiative. Naming the scheme after Rahul Gandhi’s country-wide march was the kicker. Shivakumar also said that he would stem growing migration from rural areas to urban settings for employment and education. ನಾಡಿನ ಸರ್ವತೋಮುಖ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಯೇ ನಮ್ಮ ಧ್ಯೇಯ! ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಗೆ ಹೊಸ ವೇಗ ನೀಡುವ ಸಂಕಲ್ಪದೊಂದಿಗೆ, ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗಿದೆ. – ಶಾಲಾ-ಕಾಲೇಜು ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಉಚಿತ ಬಸ್ ಪಾಸ್ ಘೋಷಣೆ. – 56,000 ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳ ಭರ್ತಿಗೆ… pic.twitter.com/f6pTeqBXja — DK Shivakumar (DKShivakumar) June 4, 2026 First-time voters and impressionable students, whose aspirations and expectations differ from older voters, have become a key focus area for political parties. Actor-turned-politician Vijay Joseph’s victory in Tamil Nadu is largely credited to Gen Z voters. More recently, the way the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) has captured the imagination of the young underlines this trend . As a relatively younger leader, Shivakumar has a large following among youngsters who have witnessed his rise from a student leader to the state’s highest office. The an-