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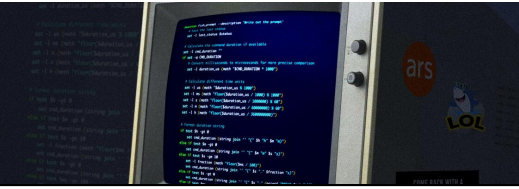
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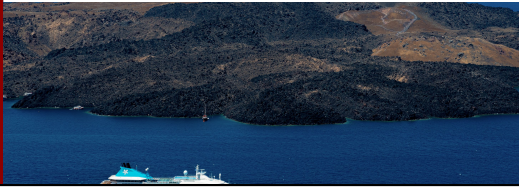
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INSIDE

Annamalai Leaves BJP, Starts New

NEW DELHI

In his video address, Annamalai expressed his vision for creating "a new form of governance", which originally drew him into politics. Recounting his political journey, he mentioned starting with actor and film-maker Vijayakanth's Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam before joining the BJP. He said that his time in the BJP was like an "internship" after 17 years of efforts to improve politics and governance. Annamalai also revealed that superstar Rajinikanth had consulted him >> PAGE 3

CPM's Ramakrishnan: Kerala White

NEW DELHI

The LDF convenor also addressed internal alliance discussions, stating that the post of Deputy Leader of Opposition has not yet been finalised. "The CPI has raised a fresh demand regarding the position, and the matter can be resolved through discussions between the CPI and CPI(M). The matter has been discussed within the LDF, and the CPI has formally sought the Deputy Opposition Leader's post. Efforts to resolve the issue through dialogue will continue, and the atmosphere within the >> PAGE 5

Vikram Kakade: NCP MLC's Ties to Jay

THE BOLD LENS Bureau
NEW DELHI

Addressing the media Thursday, Kakade revealed that the loan given to Jay Pawar was an advance for a property he intends to purchase. "It is not really a loan. I am in the process of buying a bungalow from him and the amount is an advance of that transaction," Kakade said. Kakade's nomination had become controversial as former state legislator Sunil Tingre, who was close to late NCP leader Ajit Pawar, was interested in contesting the election from the Pune constituency. Since Parth Pawar had given his word to Kakade, party sources said, he was preferred over the senior Tingre. This disappointed a lot of workers, and upset Tingre. "I was upset earlier, but I am a loyal worker of Ajit Pawar. And so whoever is the candidate, I had to work loyally for him to make sure he wins," Tingre told the media Thursday. By evening, once MVA candidate Shrikant Patil of the NCP (Sharadchandra Pawar) pulled out of the race, Kakade won unopposed.

There are business dealings between them, and he did not try to hide it. It is all out in the open. There is no harm in doing business. Also, this is not a recent payment, it is at least two years old. There is transparency in what they have done." Parth Pawar remained unreachable for comment. After the demise of Ajit Pawar, the influence of Parth Pawar has grown within the party. From regular visits to the Pawar stronghold of Baramati and holding meetings with party workers and functionaries to overlooking projects initiated by his father and getting a Rajya Sabha nomination for himself, Parth Pawar has been carving out a sharper, higher profile of late. Last month, senior party leaders had expressed discontentment with Parth Pawar's growing influence as he started taking decisions on appointments in the party. Sources close to Parth Pawar told ThePrint that he is building his own team of young people. Also Read: Maharashtra MLC polls once again expose Mahayuti cracks, push leaders into damage control mode Tingre, whose named had cropped up in the Pune



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brought in, had contested unsuccessfully for an Assembly seat in 2024; he later wanted to contest the local body authorities elections. Many functionaries and workers from Pune were upset that official candidate was Vikram Kakade, son of Sanjay Kakade, who had a fight with Ajit Pawar in 2017. They believe that the NCP lost the Pune Municipal Corporation in 2017 because of Sanjay Kakade who crossed over to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) ahead of the elections. According to the NCP functionaries, Kakade had taken a few NCP workers along as

Tingre, and pacified him after which he took back his nomination form. "I don't really know what happened, or whether my father went to Sharad Pawar to talk about me. We had prepared for a contest but I think him for pulling out," Kakade told mediapersons after winning. Kakade's nomination papers also became the talk of the town because of the total assets he declared. He is a real estate developer by profession. His total assets are worth Rs 150 crore, movable accounting for almost Rs 79 crore, including Rs 7.5 lakh in cash and deposits of

Hours after portfolio allocation, upset minister Ramalinga Reddy resigns from DK Shivakumar cabinet

THE BOLD LENS Bureau
NEW DELHI

"I am resigning from my post because I cannot work against conscience," Reddy said at a press conference here. He said, "How long can I tolerate this humiliation and what else were options before me?" This was a major setback for the Shivakumar government, which came to power on Wednesday. The Congress leadership made a last ditch attempt in the middle of the press conference to persuade the disgruntled minister, but he remained firm in his decision. He told the leaders who approached him with the party leadership's message that the time is now lapsed to pay heed to any suggestions. This report is auto-generated from PTI news service. ThePrint holds no responsibility for its content. Also Read: Don't succumb to pressure, even if it's from my own office—CM DK Shivakumar warns top govt officials "I am resigning from my post because I cannot work against conscience," Reddy said at a press conference here. He said, "How long can I tolerate this humiliation and what else were options before me?" This was a major setback for the



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IT'S NOT



Contradiction or not, the episode highlights a reality that has long existed in India's politics: political rivalries do not always translate into personal ones. Despite fierce battles in public, politicians and their families have often maintained relationships across party lines. Political analyst

Oppn divided as Kejriwal & Uddhav endorse CJP protest, Congress intensifies own stir in Haryana

THE BOLD LENS Bureau
NEW DELHI

CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke, a former volunteer of the AAP's social media wing, used to work for the party between 2020 and 2023 Like Kejriwal, Thackeray offered strong endorsement to the protest, saying the young people affected by issues such as the NEET (National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test) leak should not be ridiculed as "cockroaches". The government, he said, must listen to their concerns. Meanwhile, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) chief Nitin Nabin took a potshot at the CJP without taking any name. "Some people sitting abroad think they will give direction to India's

village square with the farmer, lives in coaching institutes, lives on college campuses. But India's youth is not going to move forward by becoming a puppet in the hands of a few people sitting in Delhi (sic)," Nabin posted originally in Hindi on X. Though none of her colleagues reached Jantar Mantar or met Dipke after his arrival in Delhi, senior CPI(M) leader Brinda Karat backed the demands being raised by the protesters. "They have every right. We support the demand for Pradhan's resignation. They are raising the same demand and the movement should be supported," she told ThePrint. The senior leader criticised what she described as "at-

strongly condemn all efforts by this government to ban such protests. They have become the most authoritarian," she said. Another Left constituent, the Communist Party of India (CPI), expressed support for the issues raised by the protesters but stopped short of extending support to the CJP. "There is no question of support for the party, but there is sympathy for the young people who are demanding the resignation of the minister. They have suffered," CPI general secretary D. Raja told ThePrint. Leaders from the CPI's student and women's wings, however, were present at the protest. Similarly, All India Students' Association (AISA),



CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke, a former volunteer of the AAP's social media wing, used to work for the party between 2020 and 2023 Like Kejriwal, Thackeray offered strong

India (Marxist-Leninist) Liberation, had a visible presence at Jantar Mantar. AISA-JNU president Neha told ThePrint that

the organisation was actively participating in the CJP demonstration. The Congress, meanwhile, intensified its own

How Congress, BJP's Rajya Sabha picks reflect different approaches, priorities

THE BOLD LENS Bureau
NEW DELHI

After the TVK emerged as the single largest party in Tamil Nadu, the Congress was quick to snap its ties with the DMK and extend support to the TVK. Vijay first accommodated two of the five Congress MLAs in his government and then agreed to give a Rajya Sabha seat. Chakravarty has emerged a leading gainer from the Congress-TVK alliance but the break-up with the DMK has jeopardised the Congress' bid for Opposition unity in Parliament. The DMK has refused to join the 8 June Opposition meet in New Delhi. In contrast, the BJP's Rajya Sabha nominees mostly comprise leaders who have been

time—national general secretary Tarun Chugh from Punjab, former Rajasthan BJP president Satish Poonia, former Arunachal BJP president Tai Tagak who has worked for the party since his days in the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) in 1980s, Manipur BJP president Sharda Devi, and any many district-level leaders from Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. Polling for 24 Rajya Sabha—four seats each in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Karnataka, three each in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, two in Jharkhand and one each

FULL REPORT ON
>> PAGE 7

Annamalai resigns as BJP downplays exit; 8 lakh join new

THE BOLD LENS Bureau
NEW DELHI

While Annamalai was given a free hand by the BJP, the party's performance in Tamil Nadu had already witnessed a noticeable decline in the April-May 2026 Assembly elections, when the party secured just one seat compared to the four it won in the 2021 polls as part of the NDA alliance with AIADMK. Annamalai had opposed the alliance earlier. In 2021, the BJP had polled around 2.6-2.8 percent vote share and under Annamalai's leadership, the party achieved a significant boost in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, registering a double-digit vote share of approximately 11 percent. However, by the 2026 Assembly elections, with An-

differences with the leadership particularly over alliance strategies and Tamil Nadu-specific approaches, the BJP's vote share stagnated at around 3 percent. "BJP's core vote share has been limited to a 3-4 percent. Annamalai played an important role in bringing up the vote share to 11 percent in 2024, along with other senior party leaders in strengthening the organisation. He was instrumental in appointing booth level agents, so these significant arenas for BJP are likely to experience a void. However, we will understand the actual impact of Annamalai's exit from BJP only in the coming years," said political analyst Arun Kumar. This marginal improvement in vote share failed to translate into seats, resulting in the drop from four



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anti-DMK votes by Tamilara Vetri Kazhagam (TVK) and the party's inability to sustain the grassroots momentum Annamalai had built. His exit has further raised concerns about retaining the youth and cadre

attracted. While the BJP leadership in the state is trying to downplay the exit by asserting that the party is not built on individuals, several party functionaries acknowledge the loss of a significant party face who

helped expand the BJP's appeal beyond traditional bases. In a state where the recent rise of TVK has already eroded BJP relevance among younger voters, Annamalai's exit risks further fragmenting anti-DMK votes. Annamalai, widely known for his energetic campaigning and strong public image, also announced the launch of a new people-centric political initiative through Annamalai Makkal Iyakkam (AMI) and the We The Leaders Foundation, backed by the website wethelider.org with the call: "Let's step up, take action, and be the change." Annamalai's resignation letter, addressed to the BJP national president, acknowledged the inspiration drawn from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership that prompted him to join

appreciation for the party's trust in entrusting him with significant responsibilities at a relatively young age and raw stage in politics, he also highlighted his disagreement with the party's other members. Annamalai stated that he made efforts to transform the political discourse in Tamil Nadu, but he said that it was long fatigued by stagnant narratives, while facing repeated internal and external obstacles. "I would recall the multiple conversations with the top leadership and the disagreements I have expressed over the last 18 months. I do not want to burden the top leadership any further with my ongoing thoughts on the way forward for a growth-oriented and culturally rooted politics in Tamil Nadu. After my conversations with our

