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# Govt plans ban on SDPI, PFI, seeks detailed police report

## It'll First Review Evidence And Legal Options

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bengaluru:** The cabinet on Thursday agreed in principle to ban Popular Front of India (PFI) and its political wing, Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI), over their alleged involvement in the Bengaluru riots and some other violent incidents. But the decision will be formalised only after a comprehensive review of evidence against the two organisations and legal procedures.

### POLICY & POLITICS

The cabinet asked police to submit a report detailing evidence on the organisations' suspected role in communal riots and anti-social activities. "The cabinet discussed the riots and the alleged role of the groups in question. But we did not take any specific decision as there was no report or recommendation from police to take a call. We will certainly act against them after getting a



**CRACKDOWN:** The BS Yediyurappa cabinet on Thursday held a lengthy discussion on the August 11 riots in east Bengaluru

report from police," said law and parliamentary affairs minister J C Madhuswamy.

Senior BJP and Congress politicians are clamouring for a ban on SDPI and PFI as the groups were also linked to the Mangaluru violence last year. Madhuswamy said the state was exploring all legal options to initiate action against SDPI, PFI and those accused of damaging public and private property on August 11. "We are checking if provisions of the Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act are sufficient enough to hand out punishment to the culprits and make them pay for losses they caused. If necessary, the government will

even amend the act and ensure that losses are compensated," he said. The government is also studying a law enacted by Uttar Pradesh, which, experts say, is more stringent in terms of recovery of damages.

On whether the Karnataka government was being extra cautious in the matter, Madhuswamy said: "The government is only trying to protect its interest as it should be in a position to defend and substantiate the action before the Centre and courts."

In a key decision, the cabinet on Thursday decided to withdraw 64 cases against various organisations and groups accused of creating

## SHIVAKUMAR ACCUSES POLICE CHIEF OF BEING A BJP AGENT

State Congress president DK Shivakumar on Thursday accused Bengaluru police commissioner Kamal Pant of being the ruling BJP's agent in the case of DJ Halli violence. "You are behaving like the ruling party's agent and trying to fix Congress (in the case) at the behest of BJP ministers. Stop doing this, otherwise, we will launch a protest against you," Shivakumar said in comments directed at Pant. Shivakumar provided no material to support his allegations and there was no immediate response from Pant. Home minister Basavaraj

Bomma criticised Shivakumar's remarks. "It's an indirect attempt by the KPCC chief to protect and extend support to the rioters. We will not get bogged down by such tricks," he said.



Shivakumar made the comments during Congress's 'Janadhvani' event to mark the birth anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi and former CM

D Devaraj Urs. Congress MLA Akahand Srinivasamurthy, whose house was attacked during the riots, has blamed some members of his own party. Earlier this week, police quizzed ex-mayor R Sampath Raj and corporator Abdul Rakeeb Zakir.

## STATE TO SEEK CENTRE'S VIEW

Chief minister BS Yediyurappa will discuss with the Centre the issue of banning SDPI and PFI over their alleged role in the Bengaluru violence. The state cabinet appreciates the timely action of the home department and police, which has made 340 arrests.

**Basavaraj Bommai | HOME MINISTER**

law and order problems. Madhuswamy said these cases pertained to farmers, students and other organisations that held protests. No cases filed against any individual are be-

ing withdrawn, he clarified. He sidestepped the query on case details, saying most complaints were related to demonstrations held by students and farmers in Hunsur taluk.