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PAPER CLIPPINGS

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ಇಲಾಖೆ / ವಿಷಯ : DEPARTMENT / SUBJECT: Home Drugs peddling

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## K'TAKA PLANS TOUGHEN ANTI-DRUG LAWS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
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1E 11/9  
THE State Government is holding consultations with legal experts, including senior faculty of the National Law School of India University (NLSIU), Bengaluru, on giving more teeth to the laws against drug peddling.

"I have held discussions with legal experts on strengthening the anti-drug laws and will also discuss it with the Law Minister," Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai told reporters. The government will take the ongoing drive against drug peddling in the state to a logical end, he added.

The Central Crime Branch (CCB) police, who are investigating the case, "will not spare anyone involved in the drug trade, even if they are highly influential people," he said. While the CCB is probing the drug case, allegedly involving some members of the Kannada film fraternity, the state police have launched a massive drive against drug peddling over the last few days.



Police officials stack up the massive 1,350-kg haul of seized cannabis, at the Police Commissioner's Office in Bengaluru on Thursday | SHRIRAM BN

### Big bust: Cops seize 1.3 tons of ganja

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru/Kalaburagi

IN a major undercover operation, a team of Bengaluru's Seshadripuram police has unearthed a whopping 1.35 ton haul of ganja worth Rs 6 crore in Kalaburagi.

The police team, stringing two recent arrests and seizures of ganja in Bengaluru, got a lead about a massive operation under way in Kalaburagi. About 1.2 tons of ganja in 600 bags were hidden in a sump at a farmhouse in Kuridoddi locality of Lakshman Naik thanda in Kalagi town, Kalaburagi district. The sump was covered and horticulture crops grown over it. **P5**

### ED may look into money laundering angle

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THE Sandalwood drug racket has caught the attention of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) as some of the accused in the case are allegedly involved in money laundering. The ED officials, who met senior officer of the Central Crime Branch (CCB) on Thursday, are believed to have exchanged information about the case.

Sources said a team of ED officials arrived at the CCB office on Thursday morning and held discussions with senior officers regarding the drugs case. "As some of the accused, who have been arrested in the case were arranging lavish parties across the country and sourcing narcotics from abroad, huge money has changed hands," source said.

## Arrested actors complain of health issues

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"THE ED officials believe that this may have been done through hawala channels. Besides, their line of investigation is where the accused got the money from and whether they are involved in money laundering," the source said.

The central agency is said to be particularly interested in Viren Khanna, as currencies of different countries were found during a raid on his house by

the CCB. Further, it is said that accused Rahul Thonse, who is a close contact of actor Sanjjanana Galrani, runs a casino in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Several male stars from Kannada film industry had reportedly attended events at the casino. Besides, some of the accused allegedly have links with those arrested in the recent Kerala gold smuggling case too. "The ED is most likely to start probe into the money-laundering angle soon," the source added.

Meanwhile, actors Ragini Dwivedi and Sanjjanana Galrani, who have been arrested in the drugs case, were taken to KC General Hospital after they complained of health issues. After treatment, they were again questioned by the police.

Ragini's police custody ends on Friday and the police may not seek further extension of her custody. The actress has moved a bail petition in court and it may come up for hearing on Friday.