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## Drug dealers knew about CCB raids in B'luru two months ago

### 'Police Sources Tipped Off One Of The Accused'

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Bengaluru: Drug peddlers probably had a heads-up two months ago about police raids, which opened up an alleged network of suppliers and consumers in Sandalwood and Bengaluru's swish partygoers.

Documents filed by Central Crime Branch (CCB) sleuths before the court in connection with the drug racket threw up this startling revelation. One of the accused named in the FIR had been tipped off by his police sources about "big-time tracking" by cops at the behest of joint commissioner (crime) Sandeep Patil.

Police told the 31st ACMM

### No bias, no one will be spared: Govt

Amid allegations that cops were going after 'soft targets' in the ongoing probe into the drug scandal, the state government said an impartial probe is being conducted without any discrimination on the basis of gender or political clout of the accused. "It is wrong to say we are laying hands on soft targets. Whenever we come across evidence, we will take action," police chief Kamal Pant said. Page 2

court while seeking actor Raginee Dhwani's custody. It's not clear who tipped them off while raising suspicions of information leaks within the police. The remand petition quotes a June 23 message between Prashanth Ranka, accused No. 4, and Ravi Shan-

kar; the RTO official detained in connection with a narcotics case dating back to 2018. It doesn't attribute individual messages to any one of them.

"...Don't call to peddlers (sic)," one message reads, eliciting a reply: "Nope not having it firm long time (sic)." The conversation then moves on to other queries. One message says "big time tracking is going on," while another says "Sandeep Patil sir." Then, one says: "came to know yesterday from sources (sic)," and the other thanks him.

Police reproduced an April 12 chat between Ravi and Loum Pepper, a peddler from Senegal arrested last week, in which Ravi requests for "less than 1 gram," and Pepper replies it would be 1gm as it was in "rock form".

► No clarity on drugs, P 3