

HC orders refund of stamp duty after property registration is refused

Govt cannot keep money for a transaction that was never completed

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

THE Telangana High Court on Friday ruled that the State government cannot retain stamp duty when the registration of a property is officially refused. The court held that the government cannot keep money for a transaction that was never completed.

The HC division bench of Chief Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh and Justice Ghouse Meera Mohiuddin delivered the judgment in a case involving more than Rs 65 lakh. It observed that retaining such money would be unfair because the sale never became legally valid.

The case arose after Amer Ali Khan of MM Pahadi, Rajendranagar, agreed to purchase a large parcel of land in Shaikpet in 2021. He paid Rs 65,37,500 towards stamp duty and transfer charges to complete the transaction. The sub-registrar refused to register the sale deed because certain legal requirements had not been fulfilled. Khan later sought a refund of the amount. While authorities returned the registration fee, they refused to refund the stamp duty, arguing it had already been used once the

document was presented for registration.

The HC single judge had earlier accepted the government's stand, holding the law did not specifically provide for a refund when registration was refused. The division bench set aside that decision. It held that stamp duty is collected on completed legal transactions. Since the registration was refused, the sale was never completed; ownership of the property never passed to the buyer. As a result, the purpose for which the stamp duty was paid was never achieved.

The bench found the government had relied on internal administrative circulars to reject the refund. It observed that such circulars cannot override the purpose and spirit of the law. The judges pointed out that the Stamp Act contains provisions to protect people when a document becomes useless for the purpose for which it was executed.

The court described the government's decision to retain such a large amount despite the failed transaction as arbitrary and contrary to the principles of fairness. Allowing the appeal, the HC directed the government to



refund the entire amount of stamp duty and transfer charges to the appellant within eight weeks.

The judgment makes it clear that the government cannot retain money for a transaction that never took effect and must act fairly when dealing with citizens whose property registrations are officially refused.

Court asks Endowments dept to re-consider notice on Hanumakonda temple

The HC on Friday directed the Assistant Commissioner (Endowments), Warangal district, to re-consider a notice seeking to bring a Hanumakonda temple under government control, after the its welfare society objected.

Justice Surepalli Nanda heard a writ filed by Sri Laxmi Ganapathi Saraswathi Abhayanjaneeya Swamy Temple Welfare Society, represented by its president Sirangi Sunil Kumar. The society challenged a notice issued by the AC on July 15 proposing to register Sri Maha Laxmi Amavari Temple, also known as the Sri Laxmi Ganapathi Saraswathi Abhayanjaneeya Swamy Temple, at FCI Colony, Gopalapuram, under Section 43 of the Telangana Charitable and Hindu Religious Institutions and Endowments Act, 1987.

The society asked the court to declare the notice illegal and arbitrary, set it aside, and stop authorities from interfering with temple's management.

Pronouncing the order, Justice Nanda noted that the AC had issued the notice to ensure proper administration of the temple. The judge observed that although the temple is not currently registered under the Endowments Act, the AC has the power under Section 43 to register it. The counsel for the department told the court that appropriate orders could be passed in the case.

The court noted that the temple society had already responded to the notice with a detailed explanation, objecting to the temple being brought under the department and asking for the notice to be withdrawn. The society had also submitted signatures of all members supporting this objection.

Since the society had already placed its objections on record, the court disposed of the petition with a direction to the AC to consider the society's explanation, dated July 23, in accordance with law and the principles of natural justice. The court ordered the society be given a personal hearing before a final decision is taken; the decision be communicated within three weeks from the date of receiving a copy of the order.

Police hold awareness meeting on ban of laser lights near RGIA

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HYDERABAD

HYDERABAD Police conducted an awareness meeting on July 31 to educate convention hall, function hall, banquet hall, and farmhouse owners about the strict ban on laser beam lights, sky beam lights, searchlights, and other high-intensity illumination near Rajiv Gandhi International Airport.

The meeting took place at the Office of the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Shamshabad, under Additional Commissioner of Police (Law and Order) Tafseer Iqbal, alongside DCP Shamshabad B Rajesh, senior police officers,

the GMR Chief Operating Officer, and GMR Airside safety officials. Around 70 venue owners and representatives attended the session. Officials explained that such lights distract pilots, create glare, and interfere with aircraft during take-off, approach, and landing, posing severe risks to flight safety. Participants were instructed to avoid using high-intensity lights, inform event organisers and contractors regarding restrictions, and immediately cease usage if directed by authorities. Police warned that violations will attract legal action under Aircraft Rules, DGCA regulations, and relevant BNS provisions.

TG CETs extends MPharm, PharmD and LLM admission deadlines

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HYDERABAD: TG CETs Admissions 2026 Convener I Panduranga Reddy announced an extension for online registration and certificate uploading across multiple professional courses to assist prospective students. Candidates seeking admission to MPharm and PharmD post-baccalaureate programmes now have until August 18, 2026, to finish their application processes and document verification. Similarly, the deadline for online registration and certificate uploading for LLM admissions has been extended to August 15, 2026. Eligible candidates are advised to utilise this extra time to ensure their applications are completely filled and uploaded for the upcoming academic year. I Panduranga Reddy stressed that all applicants must strictly adhere to the revised schedule to avoid last-minute technical issues or administrative complications.

Hyderabad Police felicitate 25 retiring officers

HANS NEWS SERVICE

HYDERABAD: As many as 25 police personnel who retired on superannuation after serving the department for over four decades were accorded a grand farewell by the City Police Co-operative Credit Society Limited in Hyderabad on July 31. Hyderabad Police Commissioner VC Sajjanar presented retirement benefits to the officers and lauded their dedicated service to the force. Addressing the gathering, VC Sajjanar praised the retirees for their unwavering commitment during their 42-year careers, noting that they had witnessed and contributed to the transformation of policing from bicycle patrols to modern vehicle-based patrolling. He said their dedication played a significant role in building the strong reputation that the Telangana Police enjoys nationally. The Commissioner reminded the retirees that once a policeman, always a policeman, while acknowledging the sacrifices made by their families throughout their long careers. He advised the retired personnel to safeguard their retirement savings by investing only in secure government-backed institutions and to remain vigilant against fraudulent investment schemes promising unusually high returns.

The farewell programme was attended by Police Officers Association President and City Police Co-operative Credit Society Secretary Nalla Shankar Reddy, Vice President MD Asif Khan, and other senior officers.

Ex-MLA Rega Kantha Rao booked on sexual exploitation charges

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HYDERABAD

A sexual harassment case was registered against former MLA Rega Kantha Rao at Punjagutta Police Station. Following a complaint by a woman alleging that she was sexually exploited for over years on the false promise of marriage, cheated and blackmailed with private pictures. According to the FIR, a complaint was filed on July 26 by a 22-year old woman resident of Durga Nagar, Somajiguda and a native of Yellandu in Bhadradi Kothagudem and she works in the media sector.

In her complaint, she alleged that she first met the former MLA in 2022 during an interview when she was 18years old. She alleged that he later called her to a private flat on the pretext of launching a New YouTube channel and entered into a physical relationship with her on the promise of marriage. She claimed they lived together in a flat in Ameerpet owned by actor Sanjosh. She further alleged that he took her private photographs and blackmailed her whenever she refused to meet him. Their physical relationship allegedly continued until the first half of 2025. The complainant further

alleged that the former MLA took Rs 4 lakh from her in investing in real estate, promising to return double the amount, but later began avoiding her.

The woman further alleged that she had earlier approached the SHE Teams through an online complaint.

She claimed that bank transaction details were submitted before the authorities and that she was falsely portrayed as attempting to extort money.

Based on her complaint, Panjagutta Police registered an FIR under Sections 69 and 351(2) of the BNS and launched an investigation.

Meals welcome, but clear our dues first: TPTF to govt

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HYDERABAD: The Telangana Progressive Teachers Federation (TPTF) urged the state government on July 31 to resolve long-pending demands rather than attempting to appease educators solely through free breakfast and lunch. Speaking on the initiative, TPTF State Additional General Secretary M Ravindar stated that while teachers welcome the complimentary meals, the scheme indicates the government is not facing a financial deficit. The federation highlighted a series of critical pending issues, including surrender leave salaries, leave salary arrears, TSGLI maturity benefits, GPF part finals, GPF loans, DA arrears, medical reimbursement bills, six DAs, the Pay Revision Commission implementation from July 1, 2023, and functional health cards. TPTF emphasized that if the government truly intends to make teachers happy, it must address these pressing financial and administrative grievances promptly. The federation urged immediate intervention to clear all pending dues to ensure long-term welfare.

Cabinet okays extension of PM-KISAN scheme

This will enhance farmers' capacity to invest in agriculture

NEW DELHI

THE government on Friday extended the PM-KISAN scheme for the next five years till 2030-31 with a total outlay of over Rs 3.15 lakh crore, a decision aimed at providing financial support to farmers. Under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme, launched in February 2019, eligible land-holding farmer families get financial assistance of Rs 6,000 per year. The amount is transferred directly into their bank accounts in three equal instalments. Nearly Rs 4.5 lakh crore have been disbursed so far under this scheme. The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved continuation of the PM-KISAN scheme from 2026-27 to 2030-31, I&B Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told reporters here. A total financial outlay of Rs 3,15,614 crore has been approved for the Scheme during this period, he added. "The approval reiterates the government's commitment that the prosperity of farmers forms the foundation of the nation's prosperity," the government said in a statement.

The extension of the scheme will enhance farmers' capacity to invest in agriculture, improve productivity, help reduce agricultural risks and strengthen the rural economy, it added. Through this scheme, timely and transparent income support is being provided to eligible farmer families through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system. Talking about the successful implementation of this programme, the government said it has



so far disbursed more than Rs 4.47 lakh crore directly into farmers' bank accounts through 23 instalments under the scheme. Under the 23rd instalment, more than 9.49 crore farmers benefited, with over Rs 18,984 crore released. "Women farmers have received more than Rs 1.06 lakh crore under PM-KISAN, and nearly one out of every four beneficiaries is a woman farmer," the statement said. The government highlighted that the assistance provided under PM-KISAN has enabled farmers to make timely investments in seeds, fertilisers, irrigation, agricultural machinery and other agricultural requirements. "This has enhanced farmers' productive capacity, reduced their dependence on informal credit and strengthened the financial stability of rural households," it added. Further, the government said that the impact of the PM-KISAN Scheme has been assessed by various independent institutions. According to the evaluation conducted by the Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO) of NITI Aayog, more than 92 per cent of beneficiaries reported that the amount was used for agricultural activities and agricultural investment. Around 85 per cent of beneficiaries confirmed an improvement in agricultural income and a reduction in dependence on informal credit.

2020 DELHI RIOTS Ex-AAP leader gets lifer for killing IB officer Ankit Sharma

NEW DELHI: A Delhi court on Friday sentenced former AAP councillor Tahir Hussain and four co-convicts to life imprisonment for the murder of Intelligence Bureau officer Ankit Sharma during the 2020 Delhi riots, saying the case did not fall within the "rarest of rare" category warranting the death penalty. The judgement was pronounced by Additional Sessions Judge Praveen Singh in the presence of Hussain and others amid tight security. The judge awarded the sentence after hearing arguments on the quantum of sentence and denied the state contention to award death penalty to the convicts, saying the prosecution was not able to prove that they were beyond reformation.

The courtroom was packed with lawyers and senior Delhi Police officials including Crime Branch's Joint Commissioner and DCP. The family of Hussain was so present in the court. In its order, the court said, "I find myself unable to agree based on the SPP that the convicts are beyond reformation or have such a fiendish character that their continued existence, even in prison, will be a menace to society. For the other offences the convicts have been found guilty of, they must face the full force of the law." It said that the state has not bought anything on record to establish that any of the convicts has any violent disposition or propensity to crime. "The final test that law requires me to undertake before I conclude that this case invites capital punishment is whether the convicts are beyond redemption and there being no chance of reformation, it is now firmly established in our criminal jurisprudence that death penalty is of the last absorption," the judge said. On being asked about his sentence, Hussain said the high court will serve him justice.

Average rainfall during 2nd half of monsoon to be below-normal: IMD

NEW DELHI: India as a whole is most likely to witness below-normal rainfall during the second half of the southwest monsoon from August to September, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said in its monthly forecast issued on Friday.

The rainfall is expected to be less than 94 per cent of the Long Period Average (LPA).

The LPA of rainfall over the country as a whole during the August to September period, based on historical data of 1971 to 2020, is 422.8 mm. LPA refers to the rainfall recorded over a particular region in a given period, such as a month or a season, averaged over a long period, typically 30 to 50 years.

ATCs, Skills University to offer EV, drone tech courses: CM

Continued from front page

The significant increase in the use of drones in agriculture is also creating job opportunities. In this context, the Chief Minister instructed the officials concerned to introduce courses on EV servicing and drone technology in ATCs as well as the Skills University.

The establishment of a dedicated department within the university to facilitate learning of foreign languages such as German, Japanese, Korean, Chinese, and Russian was discussed in the meeting. Revanth Reddy asked the authorities to establish a dedicated wing by hiring instructors from the respective countries, alongside local experts proficient in the respective foreign languages.

The Chief Minister took a decision to strengthen the TOMCOM (Telangana Overseas Manpower Company) by entrusting it with the responsibility of the entire process -from providing training, organising job fairs to facilitating passport services and securing good job opportunities for the aspiring youth in foreign

countries. He observed that a large number of workers from north Telangana were going to the Middle Eastern countries and often falling victim to fraud by agents and facing significant hardships.

Hence, the authorities of the TOMCOM would henceforth enter into agreements with manpower agencies in the destination countries to assist the workers, including obtaining passports. A former IFS officer would be appointed as the CEO of TOMCOM to oversee these operations.

Revanth Reddy stressed that students, by pursuing internships alongside their studies, would earn a stipend and acquire skills relevant to their future careers.

The officials briefed the Chief Minister about the increasing demand for nursing services both domestically and abroad, rising elderly population in several developed countries, which created a demand for home-based nursing care. Revanth Reddy said that permissions for nursing colleges are being granted to meet the growing demand for nurses.

Continued from front page

The corporation has been enquiring about the hurdles faced by the state government in acquiring 400 acres of land near Shamshabad for the common high-speed rail station and rolling stock depot.

Although the state administration has been directed to expedite land acquisition, officials concerned said that the government has been facing formidable challenges to complete the land acquisition due to local factors. Court directions and resistance by local people against the land acquisition

could stall the process if the state government does not address the issue expeditiously. Now, the major challenge is to realign the bullet train track and station locations if the land acquisition is not completed in a time-bound manner.

Farmers have already raised objections over land acquisition at Bahadurguda, where the government proposed to acquire 500 acres of land for a bullet train hub. State officials have been told: "The Union government will not give a clearance to the realignment of the bullet train routes unless

the land acquisition is completed. The state government has to resolve the land issue to ensure the approval of the bullet train projects by the Centre immediately."

It is learnt that environmental issues are also creating trouble for laying bullet train tracks alongside the Vikarabad forest area. The demand for realignment of the Hyderabad - Chennai bullet train has already been raised in the old Nalgonda district. Ministers and opposition leaders from BRS and BJP are demanding bullet train route in their Assembly segments.

Ten killed in building collapse in Bhiwandi

Continued from front page

A portion of the Kohinoor Building in the Balaji Nagar area of the powerloom town, around 50km from Mumbai, came crashing down at 11.20 pm on Thursday. Rescue workers from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Thane Disaster Response Force (TDRF), and the municipal fire brigade pulled out ten bodies as heavy machinery and sniffer dogs were deployed to look for survivors under the debris of the four-storey structure, said the officials of the district disaster management cell.

The structure comprised 48 rooms, 12 on each floor. Around 9 pm on Thursday, residents heard "loud cracking sounds" emanating from the building, an official said. Fearing the worst, locals immediately helped evacuate many families to other locations. However, while some occupants were still making their way out, the 'B' wing of the building caved in, he said. The officials said five of the deceased were identified as Shamim Shaikh (32), Ranjeet Singh (45), Miraj Rasul Shaikh (34), Santosh Kumar Pandey (42) and Shamim Ansari

(30). The Bhiwandi Nizampur City Municipal Corporation (BNCCM) said it had identified the building as "dangerous" in September 2020, and finally issued eviction notices on June 5 this year, subsequently disconnecting electricity and water supply.

But despite that, the property owners initiated structural repair works without obtaining any permission from the civic body. Hours before the crash, on July 30, 2026, a civic team led by an Assistant Municipal Commissioner visited the site and noticed structural instability.

Modi to inaugurate Alluri International Airport today

Continued from front page

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, who shared the Prime Minister's announcement on social media, said Andhra Pradesh is ready to welcome him.

"The Bhogapuram Airport will give wings to the development aspirations of north Andhra," the Chief Minister posted. The Prime Minister is scheduled to arrive at 10.45 a.m. and will be received by Governor Justice S. Abdul Nazeer, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan and Union and State ministers.

He will inaugurate the passenger terminal, go around the airport, and later travel in an open-top vehicle to the public meeting venue, where he will address a public gathering.

A grand cultural welcome has been planned with 13,500 tribal women performing the

traditional 'Dhimsa' dance, while 200 students will present a Kuchipudi performance inside the airport terminal. The state government is also organising a drone show at the Visakhapatnam Beach Road themed "Giving Wings to North Andhra's Dreams."

The newly built airport has been extensively decorated to showcase Andhra Pradesh's rich cultural heritage. Visitors will be greeted by large-scale Etikoppaka artwork at the entrance, while the interiors feature leather puppetry, the Bobbili Veena, Banganapalli mango motifs, and several other displays reflecting the state's history, traditions, and artistic legacy.

Constructed in just 31 months—nearly five months ahead of schedule—the greenfield airport is among the fastest-completed international airports in the country.

Trump mulls \$100,000 fee on work visas

Continued from front page

At DHS we are always having conversations about how to use all tools in our arsenal to protect the integrity of our legal immigration system."

In addition to the H-1B and student visas, officials at the State Department are also weighing attaching a \$1,00,000 bond on applicants for green cards outside the US, redeemable only after they move to the US and become citizens.

The OPT program is one of the primary attractions for international students choosing to study in the US.

Without OPT, most international students would be forced to leave the US immediately after graduation, taking the skills they gained at American universities to foreign markets.

