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THIS STORY IS FROM FEBRUARY 14, 2013

Nicotine fixes Modi's guards

Prashant Dayal / Updated: Feb 14, 2013, 12:17 IST

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AHMEDABAD: Ten commandos of [Gujarat police](#) are currently facing departmental inquiry after being debarred from the chief minister [Narendra Modi](#)'s security team in the past two years. They were kicked out because they could not kick the habit of consuming tobacco! Just recently, a commando manning one of the look-out towers at the chief minister's bungalow was caught chomping gutkha while on duty, said deputy commissioner of police, BK Jha, who is in-charge of CM's security cover. Virtues required to qualify for deputation to the CM's security team go even beyond being the most eligible bridegroom! Besides a good professional track record, cops handpicked for the assignment are not expected to have vices like [smoking](#), chewing tobacco or drinking. The last one is strictly [taboo](#) in 'dry' Gujarat where policemen are often found drunk.

CM's security has less than 100 men plucked from different cadres of the police and paramilitary forces. The best men apply for the positions as it is considered a prestigious assignment to guard someone who is perhaps highest on the terror hit-list. However, in their enthusiasm, many personnel lie about their habits, which later lands them in trouble. Such officials are suspended with immediate effect from the CM security and face departmental inquiry," said the senior official.

Personnel in the CM security usually follow eight-hour shifts to ensure that they are not overworked. On outdoor assignments, however, they have to often stand on their feet for over 24 hours. Reasons for not allowing any window to take a smoke break are obvious. Securing a CM is a job of high concentration. We cannot have craving get the better of concentration. Every second matters in securing high profile people.



About the Author

[Prashant Dayal](#)

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Prashant Dayal is special correspondent at The Times of India, Ahmedabad. He reports on crime and politics. He likes to work among people

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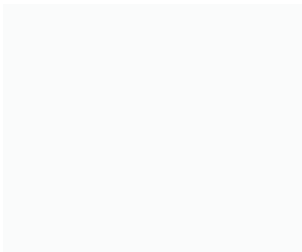
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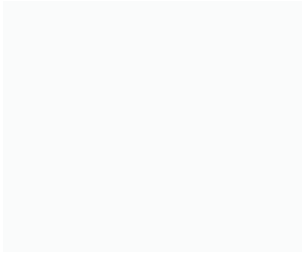
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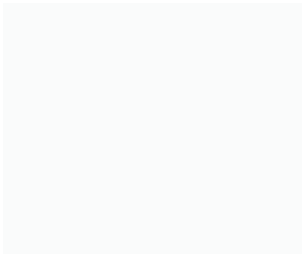
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