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THIS STORY IS FROM DECEMBER 24, 2013

Dept: Extend ban on sale of tobacco

TNN / Updated: Dec 24, 2013, 05:49 IST

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BANGALORE: [Sale of cigarettes](#) and other [tobacco products](#) should be banned within the 100-metre radius of [bus stands](#), [railway stations](#) and in other public places, but this decision has to be taken by the Centre, said KB Eshwarappa , deputy director of the directorate of health and family welfare on Monday. "Earlier, there were no rules to ban sale of tobacco products. Now, after implementation of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA) 2003, their sale has been banned near schools," he pointed out. Eshwarappa was speaking on the sidelines of an event organized by the department of health and family welfare, Karnataka Pradesh Hotel and Restaurant Association and Bruhat Bangalore Hotel Association (BBHA).

The three organizations have come together to implement COTPA 2003 at eateries and hotels to ensure that customers are spared of health problems due to tobacco consumption. Passive-smoking victims: Dr Vishal Rao, head and neck surgeon of BGS Global Hospitals , said every year around 10,000 people become asthma victims due to passive smoking. About 30% of the country's population is addicted to tobacco products. "We will spread awareness about the need to stop smoking and abstain from tobacco products by installing boards in hotels," he added.

Chandrashekar Hebbar, president of BBHA, urged the health department to start an awareness drive and hotel owners to become members of BBHA to stop smoking in bars, restaurants, and pubs. The numbers There are around 6,000 hotels in the city Only 1,500 have become members of BBHA, which has banned smoking in hotels Of the 1,500 hotels, 50 are bars and restaurants BBHA will distribute 10,000 no-smoking boards to hotels across the city

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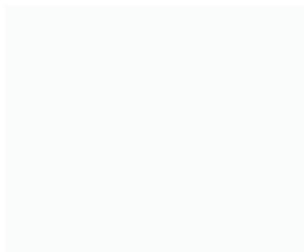
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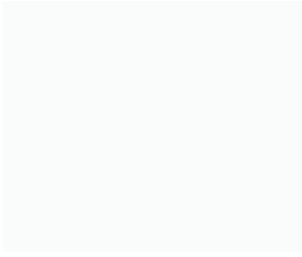
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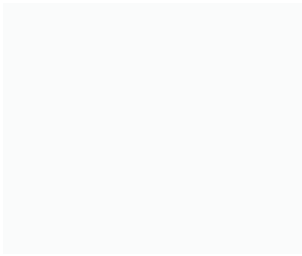
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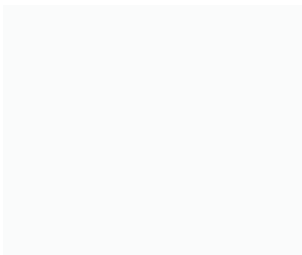
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