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 THIS STORY IS FROM SEPTEMBER 4, 2013

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[Rao Jaswant Singh](#) / TNN / Sep 4, 2013, 03:19 IST



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GURGAON: Two years after the district administration [banned hookah bars in the city, indoor smoking in public places](#) and hookah lounges are still thriving in the city. Arvind Rajput, a private firm employee, said illegal hookah bars are operating in hidden manner from various malls and commercial complexes. "Most of them are running in basement or small hidden chambers so that they do not get caught. Some of them, who are unable to provide hookah substances even allow party goers to carry nicotine stuff from outside," he added. Dozens of the exotic smoking dens have sprung up in the city since Section 144 of the CrPC was imposed in November 2011 to ban hookah bars in the city. As per orders, no hookah bar can operate within city premises and those found operating will be brought to books.

Another visitor to hookah bars said, "I got addicted to hookah due to my friends. After the ban, it has become little difficult, but still they getting their demand fulfilled at few bars, but at a higher price." When asked about the price, he said it varies from place to place but definitely we need to cough out more money due to ban. Nitin Singh, a college student said hookah is easily available in shops and therefore imposing ban makes no sense. People will still do it despite ban, they will do it at home if banned from bars, he said.

According to a drug control department official, the move was part of larger plan to make Haryana a nicotine-free state but

According to a drug control department official, the move was part of larger plan to make Haryana a nicotine-free state but many bars and lounge owners are doing the business in illegal manner. "We are conducting raids on regular basis and have also appealed to the people to inform department in case they come across any information about hookah bars," said an official.

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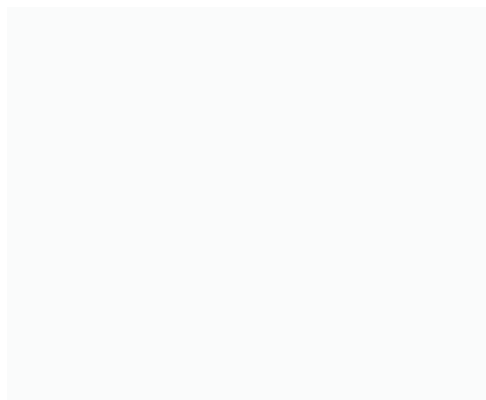
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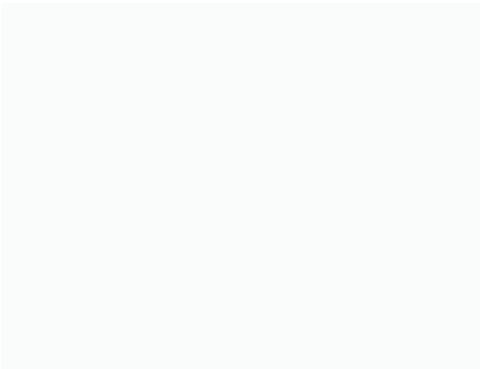
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