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IT firms told to ban smoking on campus

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## Government directs them to adhere strictly to COTPA

AFSHAN YASMEEN

COMMENTS

To check the increasing habit of smoking among IT professionals, the State government has directed the IT sector to strictly comply with section 4 of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act 2003 (COTPA) and prohibit smoking in office and within the campus. In an order dated October 26 issued by V. Manjula, Principal Secretary (IT, BT and Science and Technology), the government has written to five largest associations of IT professionals to disseminate this information among all their members.

Asking the companies to take up 'tobacco control and awareness on tobacco hazards' as one of their agendas, the Principal Secretary – in the order – has said all offices need to put up signage as per COTPA rules. "These boards need to be displayed prominently at the entrance of the public place," the order stated.

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COMMENTS

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