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## Hoteliers told to crack down on smoking on their premises

August 13, 2013 12:00 am | Updated 05:33 am IST - DHARWAD:

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

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The police, who have launched a drive against smoking in public places recently, have asked hotel and restaurant owners not to allow smoking on their premises.

Vidyagiri police have intensified the drive since Monday and penalised people found lighting cigarettes in public places. So far they have booked 70 cases and penalised offenders upto Rs. 200.

Parameshwar Pujari, Police Sub-Inspector of Vidyagiri Police Station, said the police would undertake random checking at hotels, restaurants and other places and impose a penalty on the owners, if they failed to contain smoking.

Mr. Pujari said there was a Supreme Court ruling in 2003 that smoking in public places would invite hefty penalty and even jail imprisonment.

Moreover, the Centre has implemented the Cigarettes and other Tobacco products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003, which prohibits smoking in public places.

The main provision under this Act is prohibition of smoking in public places like auditoriums, hospital buildings, railway waiting room, amusement centers, restaurants, libraries and public conveyances. An offence is punishable with a fine of up to Rs 200 and is compoundable if the offence is repeated, he said.

The drive includes raids on pan shops selling tobacco products to youth. There were complaints that pan shops located near schools and colleges were selling tobacco to minors.

To check this, the police are conducting raids on pan shops near educational institutions.

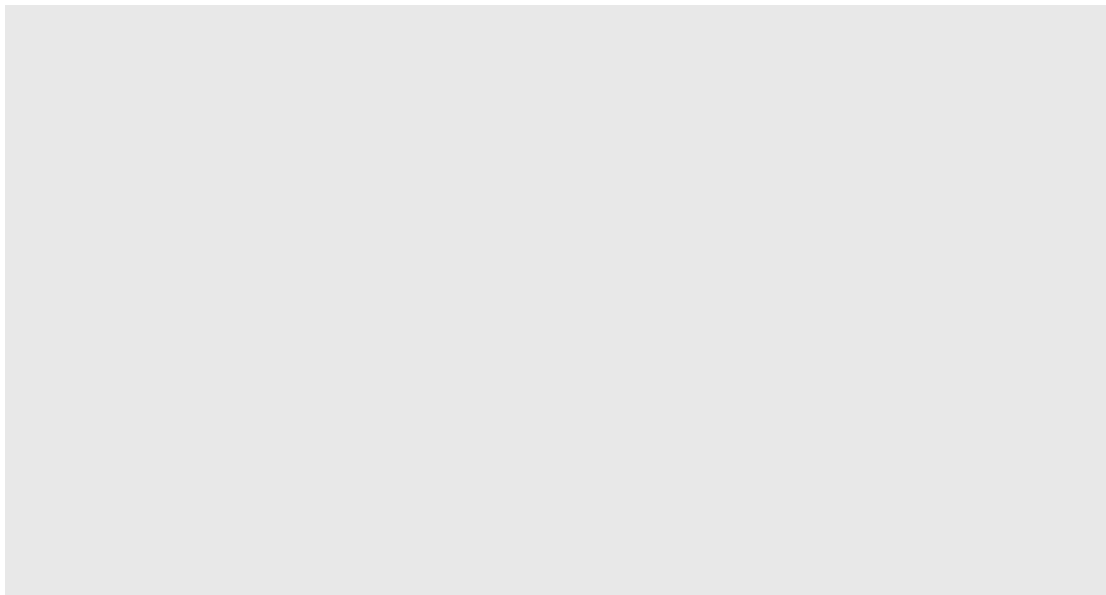
The Act clearly states the sale of tobacco products is prohibited within a radius of 100 yards from any educational institution. So far, raids have been conducted near JSS College, Vidyagiri. Pan shops have been directed to strictly follow the rule, failing

which they would be penalised, he said.


### **Display of board**

Mr. Pujari said boards should be displayed prominently in public places, preferably one at the entrance and one at a conspicuous place inside any public place.

The minimum size of the board should be 60 cm by 30 cm. It should display the warning “No Smoking Area – Smoking here is an offence” in the regional languages.



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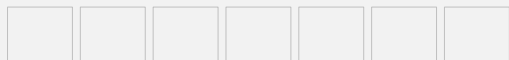
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