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## Ban up in smoke as fags, gutkha sale goes on at Barkatullah University

Ramendra Singh / TNN / Jun 14, 2014, 11:39 IST



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BHOPAL: State government's decision to ban tobacco products in colleges and make them tobacco-free have gone up in smoke at Barkatullah University, Bhopal. Right opposite Satya Bhawan - administrative block of the university, cigarettes and gutka are freely available. As a faculty member states, it is difficult to get a glass of pure drinking water inside the campus, but not tobacco products. Higher education department recently issued guidelines stating stuffs like ashtrays should also not be allowed on campuses of government educational institutions. Furthermore, sale of tobacco is banned within a 300-ft radius of educational institutions. President of Barkatullah University Teaching Association (BUTA) Prof HS Yadav said, "Sale of tobacco products should be immediately stopped in or around the campus."

Interestingly, besides gutka pouches, cigarettes are also available at an eatery that is being used as canteen for the last many years by university staff and students. "Professors and other staff members of the university use this eatery not only to purchase snacks and tea but gutka and cigarettes as well," a university faculty member said. Vice-chancellor of the university professor MD Tewari was not available for comment while the registrar LO Solanki did not respond.

Media in charge of BU, Vindo Singh said, "BU campus is a no-smoking zone but people don't take it seriously. Some vendors had put up temporary structures to sell tobacco. Indian Coffee House has now been contracted to start a canteen which will solve this problem."

Cigarette and chewing tobacco are available in abundance around Maharani Laxmi Bai Government Girls College campus. A couple of shops adjacent to the boundary wall of the college have been doing brisk business. Higher education department has categorically stated in its circular that if any college failed to punish offenders then the college principal will be held responsible. When contacted, principal of MLB College Manjula Sharma said, "I had lodged a complaint with police last year. They had removed the shops but they mushroomed again."

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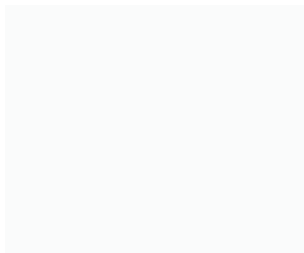
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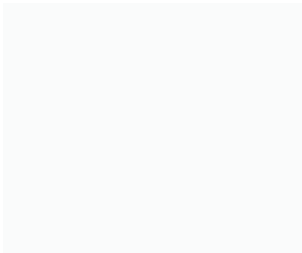
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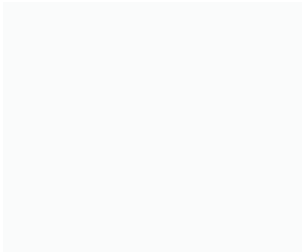
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