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KARNATAKA

Hookah search goes up in a puff of smoke

February 07, 2013 12:00 am | Updated 05:39 am IST - Bangalore:

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

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The Central Crime Branch (CCB) sleuths carried out surprise checks on more than 80 pubs, bars and restaurants, besides coffee shops on Wednesday evening to unearth illegal hookah joints operating on their premises.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime) D. Devaraj said the checks were prompted by the issue being raised in the ongoing legislature session.

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The police action concentrated on M.G. Road, Brigade Road, Koramangala, Jayanagar and Basavanagudi.

“But they did not find any hookah bars,” Mr. Devaraj said.

The police suspect that the owners might have got wind about the checks and taken pre-emptive action.

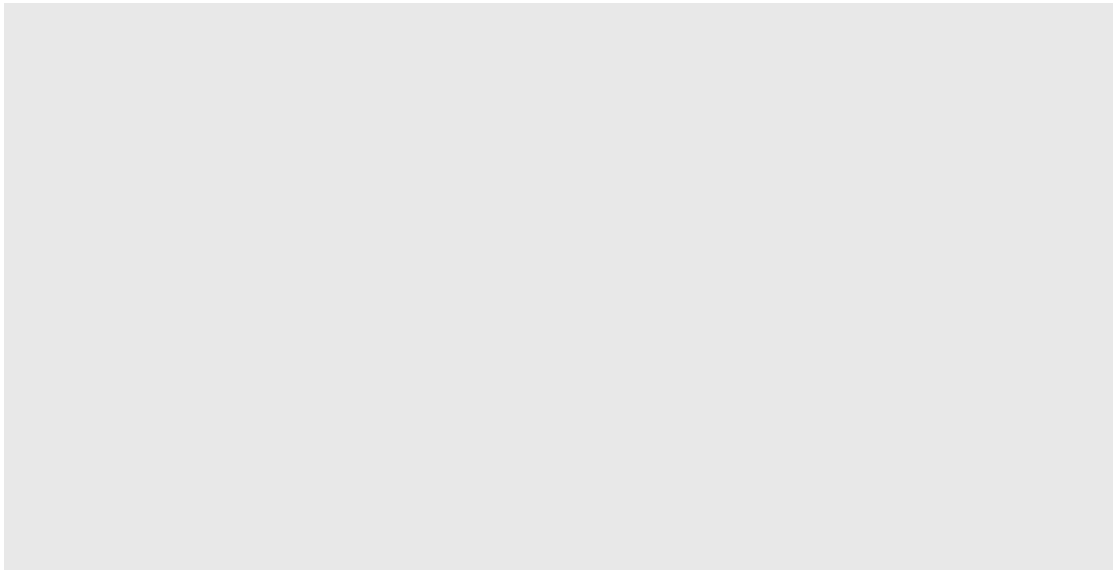
Several teams from the Central Crime Branch including five assistant commissioners of police, 20 police inspectors and 50 subordinate staff were involved in the operation that started around 6.45 p.m. and continued till 10 p.m.

Report sought

The Karnataka High Court on Wednesday directed the State government and the Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to submit details of hookah bars operating with permission.

A Division Bench comprising acting Chief Justice K. Sreedhar Rao and Justice S. Abdul Nazeer passed the order on a public interest litigation (PIL) petition, which questioned telecast of visuals of raids by BBMP officials on hookah bars.

It was contended in the petition that telecast of visuals on raids, which showed schoolchildren in uniform inside the bars, was violation of the provisions of Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000.



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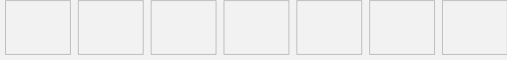
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