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THIS STORY IS FROM OCTOBER 3, 2012

Cops raid hookah bar, crackdown to continue

TNN / Updated: Oct 3, 2012, 02:25 IST

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KOLKATA: In a clear indication that it will keep up the pressure on hookah bars flouting anti-smoking laws, Kolkata Police raided a bar on Jhowtola Road in Beniapukur on Monday evening and arrested its owner. This is the second phase of the crackdown after the July 28 raids on 16 hookah bars in south and south east Kolkata, which led to the arrest of 10 people. The coordinated crackdown followed a July 24 TOI report on how rules were being flouted in hookah bars. The Beniapukur bar raided on Monday evening was actually a fast-food joint and doubled up as a [hookah bar](#). "Such raids will continue if we get any specific complaint," a senior officer said, adding that they are keeping a watch on hookah bars that do not bar under-age clients. Students are seen in many such bars, even in uniform, but the managements serve them without asking for age-proof.

In June this year, city police commissioner R K Pachnanda had written to mayor Sovan Chatterjee asking that trade licenses issued to hookah bars be scrapped if they sold tobacco in violation of the Prohibition of the Cigarette and Other Tobacco Products Act, 2003, and Smoking in Public Places Rules, 2008. But KMC argued that the trade licenses were for food joint and as long as they served food, the corporation could do nothing.

But later the mayor gave police a free hand to deal with any violation of the rules. A senior police officer added that hookah bars cannot get away by claiming that they sell only molasses or other aromatic substances because the material sold has a specified nicotine content.

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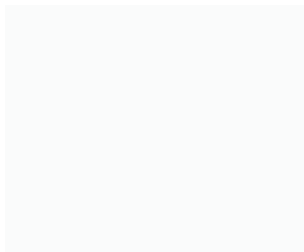
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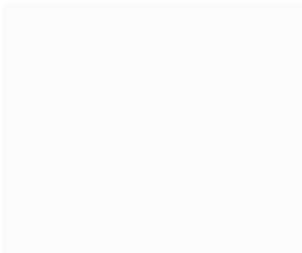
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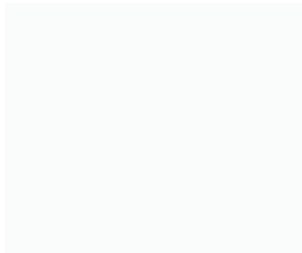
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