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# Anti-tobacco drive for cops

TNN / Nov 5, 2013, 01:03 IST

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KOTTAYAM: Police officials here of the ranks of sub-inspectors underwent an awareness session that exposed them to the various sections of the Control of Tobacco Products Act (COTPA). The sensitization programme conducted by Tobacco Free Kerala - a coalition of like-minded organizations chaired by Kerala health minister V S Sivakumar - was aimed at exposing police officials not just on COTPA but also on the harms of tobacco use ranging from physical, psychological to financial and social losses. The presentation informed participants that tobacco use is a major cause of mortality and morbidity in India and Kerala. Section 4 of COTPA prohibits [smoking](#) in all public places. Violation will invite a fine of Rs 200.

M P Dinesh, SP, Kottayam said, "Violations of all COTPA sections will be strictly acted upon by the district police for the sake of public health." All 39 police officials present signed a self-pledge against tobacco use.

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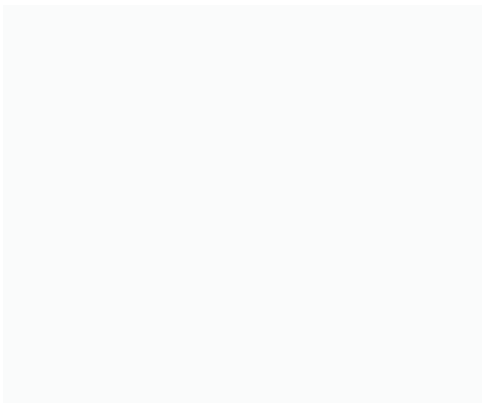
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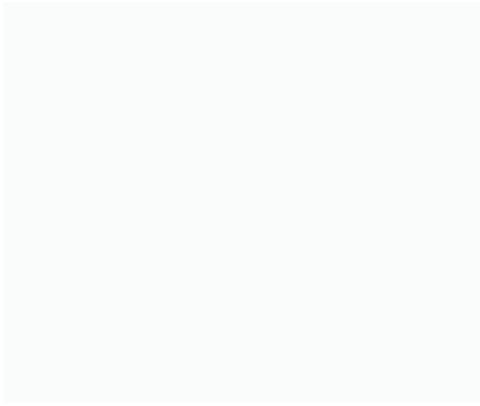
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