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Government To Issue Challans To COTPA Violators

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 THIS STORY IS FROM MARCH 6, 2012

Government to issue challans to COTPA violators

[Nishant Sinha](#) / TNN / Updated: Mar 6, 2012, 03:23 IST

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PATNA: Initiating action against 1,300 incidents of violations reported under [Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act \(COTPA\)](#), the state health department has directed the authorities concerned to issue [challans](#) to those found violating the Act. The consumption of tobacco in [Bihar](#) has assumed an alarming proportion with 54 percent of the state's population consuming tobacco in one form or the other. Incidentally, this was the second time in less than a year when letters have been sent to all the SPs and SSPs of the state to ensure compliance of COTPA in their respective areas. Earlier, the principal secretary, home department, had written a letter to the SPs and the SSPs for effective implementation of COTPA in the state. However, much remains to be done at the ground level as 1,300 cases of COTPA violation were reported in the last six months in five districts alone -- Samastipur, Darbhanga, Katihar, Vaishali and Bhojpur -- where anti-tobacco programme, 'Awareness To Action Through Multi Channel Advocacy For Effective Tobacco Control In India: Capacity Building In Five States', was launched last year under a grant from the [Bloomberg](#) Initiative (BI) and implemented by the Health Related Information Dissemination Amongst Youth (HRIDAY) and the Socio Economic and Educational Development Society (SEEDS). State [Health Society](#) (SHS), Bihar, health secretary and executive director Sanjay Kumar recently dashed off letters to all the DMs, SPs (including railways) and SSPs across the state directing them to issue challans to violators under their respective jurisdiction. Kumar, in

railways) and COTPA across the state directing them to issue challans to violators under their respective jurisdiction. Kumar, in his letter, said, "Even after implementation of strong anti-tobacco laws in the state, it has been found that a large section of the society is still consuming tobacco. The Act needs to be implemented more vigorously as tobacco alone is responsible for five million deaths worldwide. In Bihar, 66 percent of men and 40 percent of [women](#) consume tobacco in one form or the other which is largely responsible for increase in [cancer](#) patients in the state."

He said that the main objective behind implementing COTPA was to check access to tobacco amongst younger generation and placing ban on advertisement of tobacco products. However, Kumar admitted that the law alone is not sufficient to stop consumption of tobacco at public places and a committed effort is required at the district and state level for effective implementation of the programme. A directive has been issued to all the DMS, SPs, and SSPs to issue challans to violators of the Act, he said, adding under Section 4 of the Act which prohibits

[smoking](#) at public places, Rs 200 fine will be imposed while under Section 5 which places ban on advertisement of tobacco products, two years of jail or Rs 1,000 fine or both will be imposed for violating the law for the first time and five years of jail or Rs 5,000 or both for violating the law the second time. Similarly, under Section 6, Rs 200 fine will be imposed for selling tobacco products near educational institutions, Kumar said, adding a massive drive against sale of tobacco products near such institutions with the help of the police will also be undertaken shortly.

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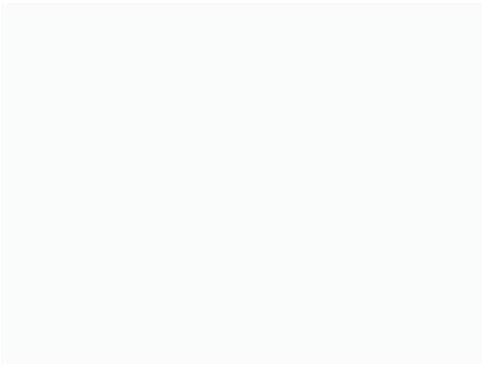
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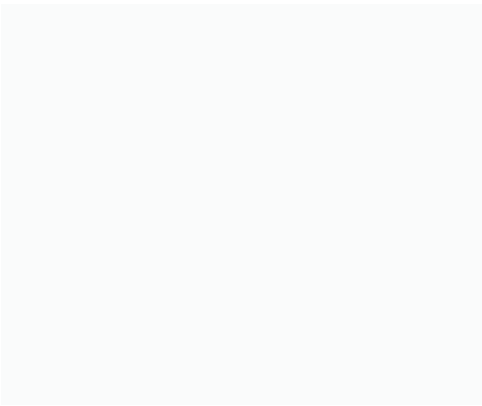
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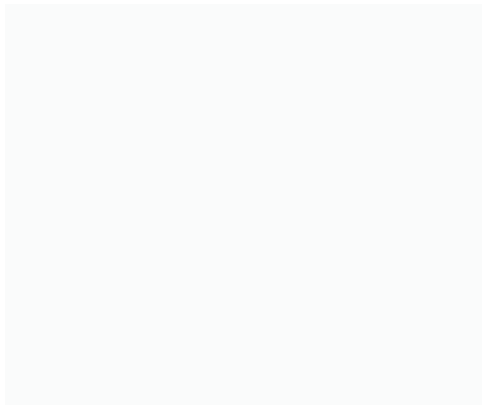
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