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Surat Municipal Corporation Gears Up To Implement Gutka Ban

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Surat Municipal Corporation gears up to implement gutka ban

TNN / Sep 10, 2012, 23:25 IST

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SURAT: [Surat Municipal Corporation](#)'s (SMC) health department is gearing up for the strict implementation of the comprehensive ban on gutka and pan masala in the city which comes into effect from today. Special health squads will fan across all seven municipal zones to ensure that the ban is strictly implemented, said Dr [Hemant Desai](#), deputy commissioner (health). According to Desai, the department had organized a meeting with all the tobacco dealers in the city and issued strict guidelines about the storage and distribution of gutka and pan masala products before the September 11 deadline. While the dealers have stopped supplying gutka and pan masala products to the retailers, there are black marketers are expected to do a brisk business as they have already hoarded stocks. Sources said there are tens of thousands of road side pan shops in the city and that the health squad has been given a gigantic task to carry out checking at each and every stalls. Meanwhile, the department of psychiatry at the [Government Medical College](#) has decided to provide free treatment and consultancy to the addicts willing to quit gutka. Dr Kamlesh Dave, [associate professor at the department](#), said that a team of seven doctors will provide relaxation therapy, group and individual counselling and medications.

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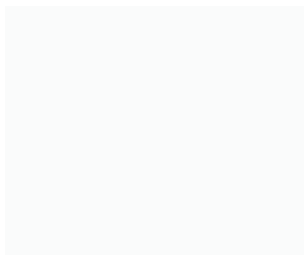
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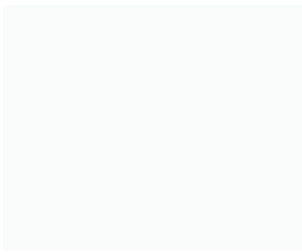
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