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Cops Act Tough Against Smoking In Public Places

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 THIS STORY IS FROM MAY 28, 2012

Cops act tough against smoking in public places

Rejith Balakrishnan / TNN / Updated: May 28, 2012, 22:49 IST

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THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: The city police have found the recent [state government](#) decision to ban the production and sale of [pan masala products](#) in the state a reason to restart action against [smoking in public places](#). As district administrations in the state are gearing up for rigorous action against the sale of pan masala products, the city police have decided to carry out action against smokers in public places. And they have started the drive from Monday onwards. The [Medical College police](#) on Monday booked as many as 30 persons on charge for [smoking](#) in public. Three shop owners were also booked for selling pan masala. Peroorkada police booked 16 for smoking and one for selling pan masala.

The number of cases booked on charges of smoking and selling pan masala respectively at other police stations are as follows, Museum (10 for smoking and 2 for selling pan masala), Pettah (8 for smoking), Poojapura (8 and 1), Thumba (12 and 4), Valiathura (1 and 3) and Vanchiyur (0 and 1). The central government had banned smoking in public places with effect from October 2, 2008. Following this the state police had carried intensive drives and penalized those who violated the ban. However, the drive by the police lost momentum. Thiruvananthapuram too is one of those cities, where people still smoke in public. "We find this a perfect opportunity to restart the drive. I have given directions to all my subordinates to start booking those who are found smoking in public places from Monday onwards. A fine of Rs 100 will be levied from the offenders." said

those who are found smoking in public places from Monday onwards. A fine of Rs 100 will be levied from the offenders, said city police commissioner T J Jose. Meanwhile, the city police have also started raids in shops to check the sale of pan masala products as per the state government order on May 24. The commissioner said that the raids would continue.

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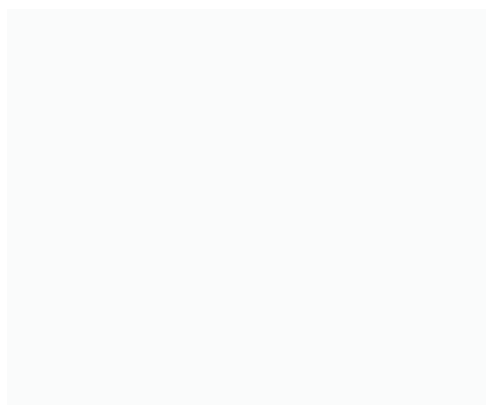
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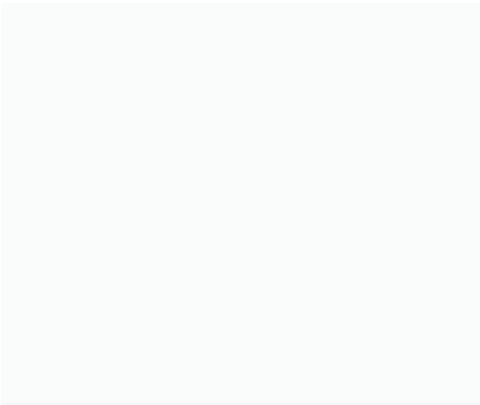
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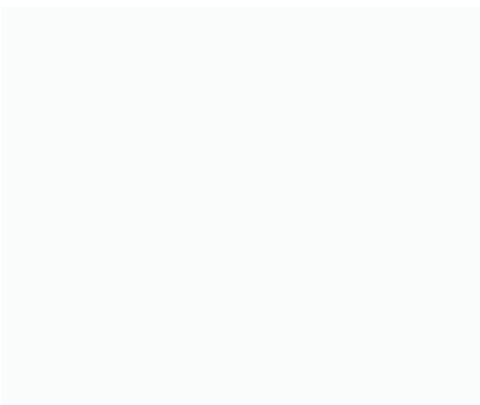
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