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There Are No Smokers In Ahmedabad

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# There are no smokers in Ahmedabad

[Aneri Nihalani](#) / TNN / Nov 29, 2012, 04:05 IST

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AHMEDABAD: Amdavadis don't smoke. Though this assertion might seem ludicrous, but records with the [Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation \(AMC\)](#) suggest there are no [smokers](#) in this city. It has been four years since The [Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act \(COPTA\)](#) came in to force in the city, but AMC has not caught a single individual [smoking](#) in the posh new west zone of the city - Jodhpur Gam, Thaltej, Bodakdev, Sarkhej, Chandlodia, Ghatlodia, Ranip -as also in the south zone. Poor implementation of this law has only led to authorities making a joke of it. It does not end here, a glance at the number of individuals fined will show that in the North zone - Naroda, Saraspur, Sardarnagar, Nobelnagar, Krishnagar, India colony and Saraspur - authorities fined the most people, 182 individuals.

What the AMC has been efficient at, is issuing notices to firms and individuals. The maximum warning notices were issued in the north zone. "We admit there has been a weak implementation of the law. This is because many offenders we caught had resisted. The police too is responsible for implementation. The special anti-smoking committee that was formed has only met a handful of times," says a senior AMC health official.

The action taken report of the AMC over the past four years show how authorities were least interested in implementing the law. A senior health officer of the North Zone adds, "Whenever we witness a breach of law, we immediately issue a notice to

law. A senior health officer of the north zone adds, "Whenever we witness a breach of law, we immediately issue a notice to the offender and fine an amount between Rs 50 and Rs 100. There are instances where we have fined officers of our department." The city's south zone is indeed a smoker's paradise - which has seen the least action taken, in terms of issuing notices and no one getting caught. A senior health officer in the south zone claims the poor enforcement is due to the presence of a large number of food factories. "We had already distributed stickers for not smoking, and people are already aware in the concerned area," the official claims. Another official, the deputy health officer of the central zone claims, "The number of people issued notices and fined has declined in these 4 years, since people are now aware about not smoking, at least in public areas."

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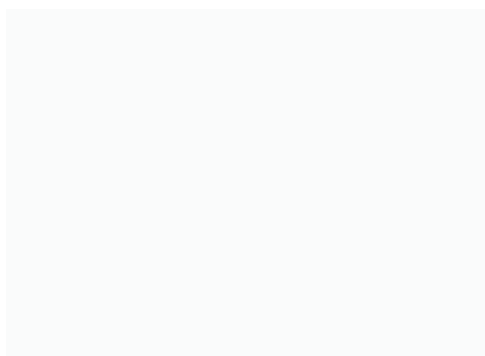
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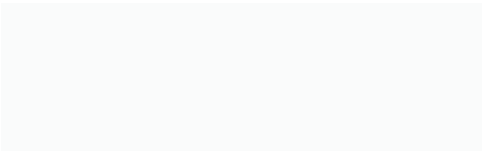
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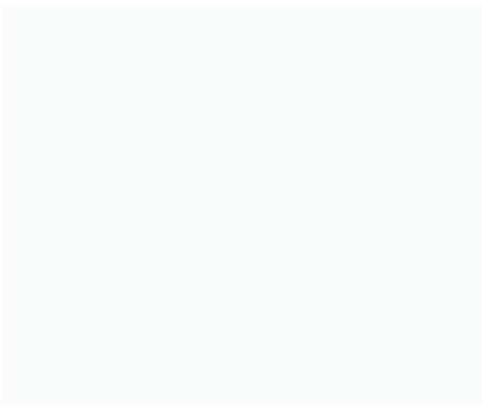
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