

Beera Adithya
deepintern4@iphindia.org

Adithya Beera
adithya.beera@gmail.com

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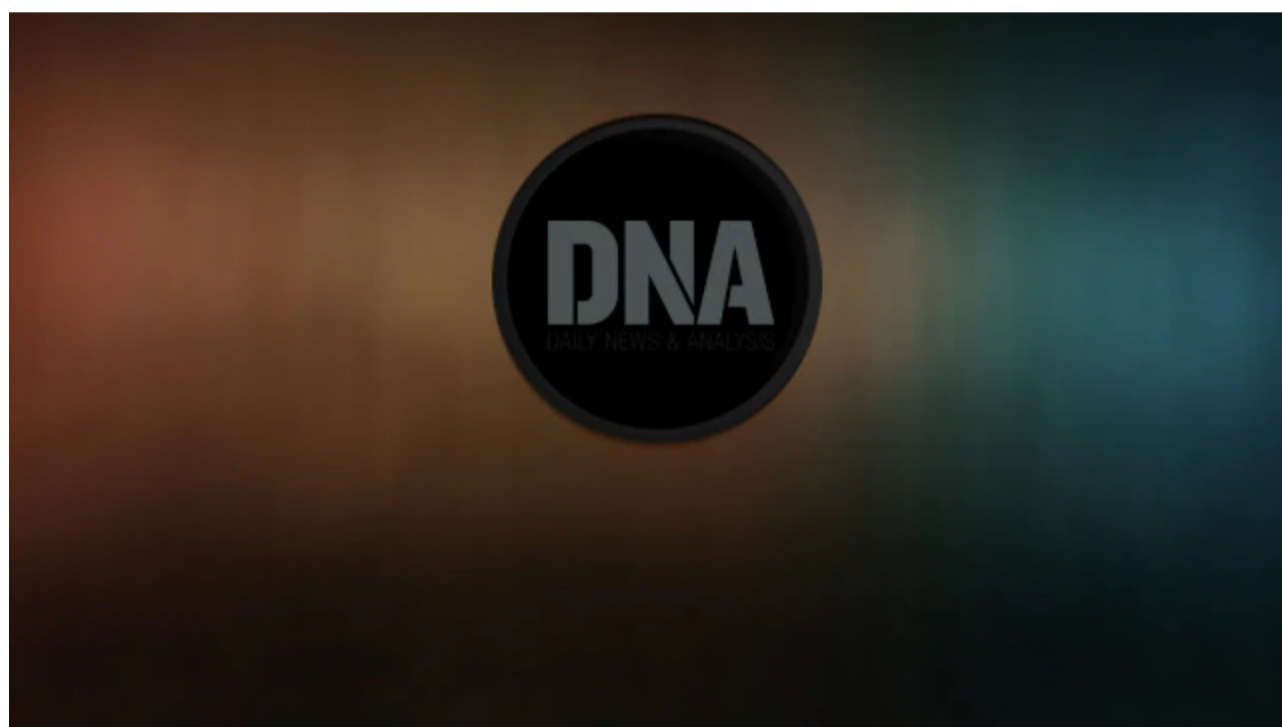
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Did govt fail to live up to its promise of no-tobacco ad?

Notice sent by lawyer asks state govt and AMTS to follow court orders that prevented use of tobacco-related ads on state transport buses.

Reported By:  | Edited By: dna Correspondent | Source: DNA | Updated: Aug 18, 2012, 01:52 PM IST



While chief minister Narendra Modi's announcement banning gutkha has been welcomed by most, a question mark, however, remains over its effective implementation.

A notice sent to the chief secretary, secretary health, the municipal commissioner AMC and managing director of GSRTC has once again brought to fore the fact of government's poor record in following its own promises. The notice was sent by a lawyer VD Parghi after the government allegedly failed to stick to its promise of not using gutkha and tobacco products advertisements on AMTS and ST buses in the state.

"The notice has been sent after we found that the municipal corporation and state government were not complying with the high court order. The order prevents display of tobacco-related advertisement on public buses. We even have photographs as proof of the same. This amounts to contempt of court," said Parghi.

Earlier in 2009 a special civil application was filed by one Amarsinh Choudhari through his lawyer Parghi seeking a ban on display of tobacco-related advertisement on city and state buses despite a ban on public smoking. Following the PIL, the division bench of then chief justice SJ Mukhopadhyaya and justice Akil Kureshi had in 2010-11, directed the Gujarat State Road Transport Corporation and the AMTS to stop displaying advertisement of tobacco-related products.

"At that time the GSRTC and the AMTS had told the court that it would stop displaying such ads but yet they continue to do it," said Parghi.

Meanwhile, Arjay Shah, transport manager, AMTS, said that he is yet to receive any such notice. "But I can assure you that we don't carry advertisements of tobacco-related products on AMTS buses," said Shah.



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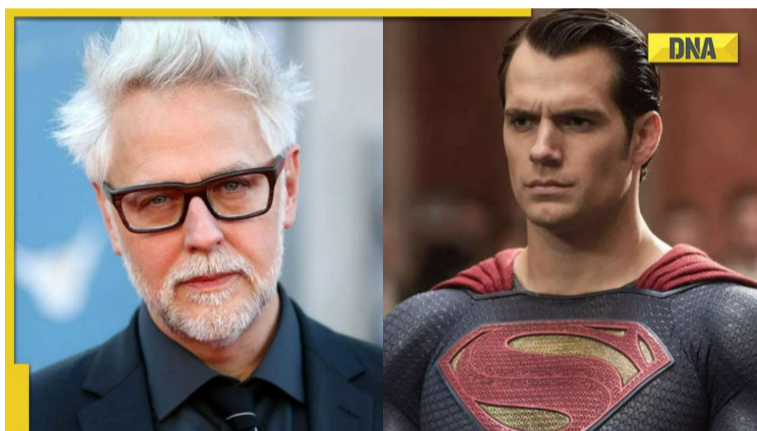
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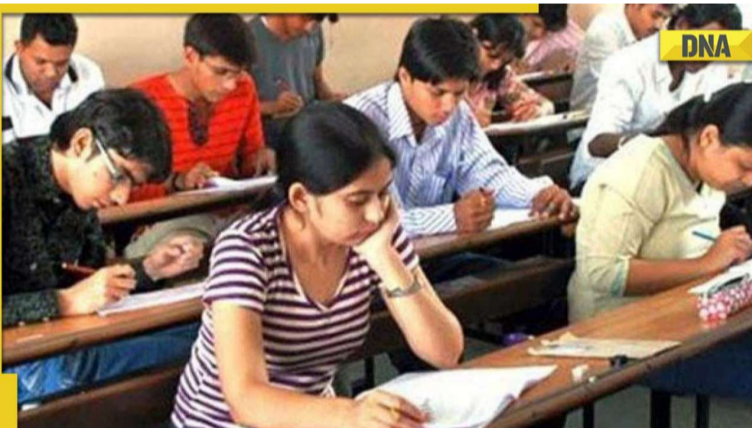
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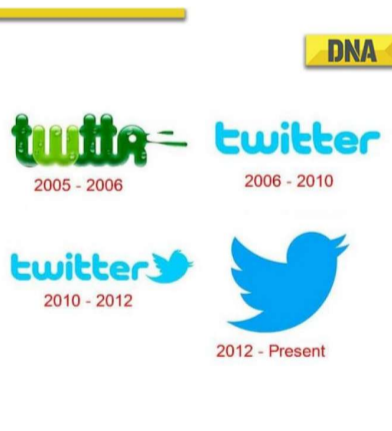
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