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Crackdown on illegal sale of tobacco in Idukki

May 22, 2013 12:00 am | Updated 06:03 am IST - KATTAPPANA:

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The anti-tobacco squad on Tuesday raided nearly 40 shops and seized banned tobacco items as part of the crackdown on illegal sale of tobacco in the district.

The raids were conducted on shops near educational institutions and in outlets that sell banned tobacco items.

The district administration intensified action against tobacco sellers after it received many complaints from the public in this regard. A team consisting of officials of revenue, police, health and education departments conducted the raid with the support of the local bodies.

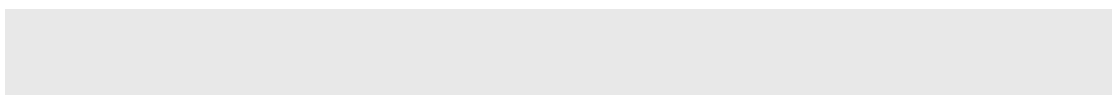
District Collector T. Bhaskaran said the raid would be intensified in the coming days as there were chances of sellers stocking tobacco items near the educational institutions prior to the start of the academic year.

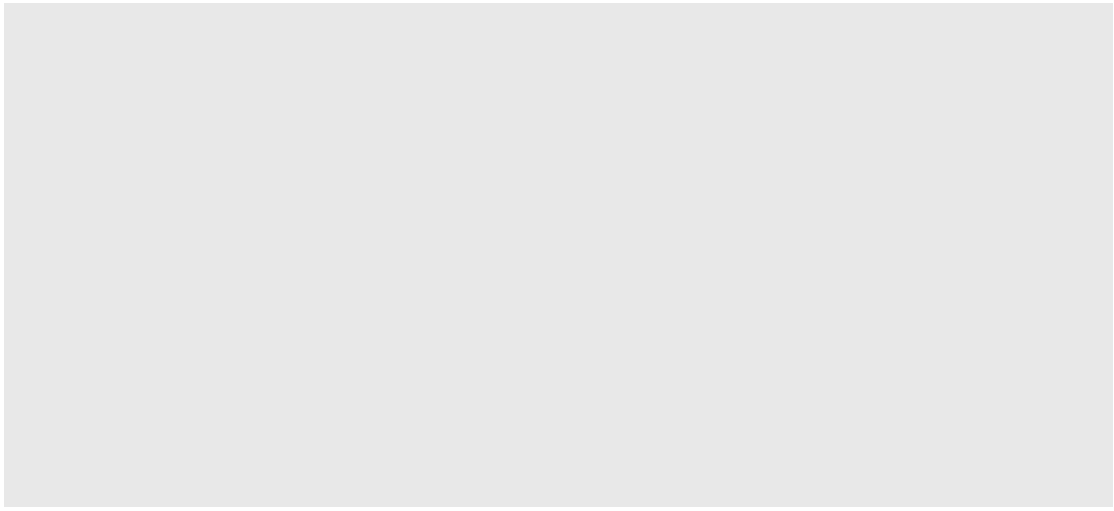
He said that a blueprint for conducting the raids and creating awareness had been prepared in view of the threat it posed especially to the young generation. Schools in the district will be included in the campaign.


Mr. Bhaskaran said 'anti-tobacco school' tags would be given and the campaign would be intensified with the participation of the National Service Scheme and the Student Police cadets.


Tuesday's raid was conducted in Painavu and Cheruthoni areas. The towns of Munnar, Adimaly Kattappana and Kumily will be included in the next phase.

He asked the business community to extend support for the campaign against illegal sale of tobacco. Mr. Bhaskaran said that smoking in public places was also being checked.





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