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Special Teams To Prevent Gutka Sale In Udupi District

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Special teams to prevent gutka sale in Udupi district

Prakash Samaga / TNN / Updated: Jul 26, 2013, 02:33 IST

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UDUPI: The Udupi district administration has decided to form [special teams](#) to efficiently implement the ban on sale of gutka and pan masala in the district. The administration will form 14 teams to carry out checks in both urban and rural areas. Sources in the district health department said that the decision came in the wake of allegations that gutka and pan masala are sold separately in shops across Udupi even though the state government had imposed a ban on them under the [Food Safety and Standards \(Prohibition and Restrictions on Sales\) Regulations, 2011](#) on May 31 this year. Additional deputy commissioner (ADC) Kumar told TOI that the special the teams will conduct checks at shops under Udupi CMC, Kundapur TMC, Karkala TMC and Saligrama town panchayat limits. "Each team will have a health inspector, revenue inspector, food safety officer and a police constable. The teams formed for rural areas will have a revenue inspector, a food safety officer, police constable and a panchayat development officer (PDO)," he added. There are 146 gram panchayats in nine hoblis in the district. "The teams will act on complaints from the public," he added. All the shops have been asked to compulsorily display boards that caution the public against the consumption of gutka, the officer said. "Legal action will be initiated against violators. Already fines amounting to Rs 29,000 has been collected so far," he added. He has also instructed the [regional transport officer](#) (RTO) to convene a meeting of bus owners and ask them to stick bills containing messages supporting the ban on sale of gutka in buses.

Superintendent of police, M B Boralingaiah told TOI that under Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), cops in the department will carry out more raids in the coming days to prevent the sale of gutka. that this move of forming teams to check sale of gutka was taken on the backdrop of pan masala and tobacco sachets were still being sold separately in most of the shops in Udupi. The teams will function in City Municipal Council, Town Municipal Council and Town Panchayat limits. There will be 14 special teams to function in both urban and rural areas. Sources in the district health department told TOI that this move of forming teams to check sale of gutka was taken on the backdrop of pan masala and tobacco sachets were still being sold separately in most of the shops in Udupi..

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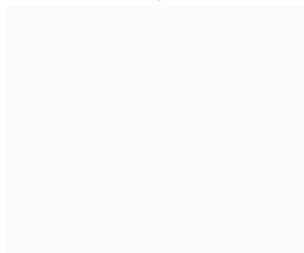
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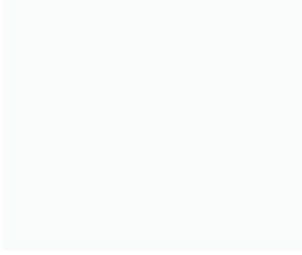
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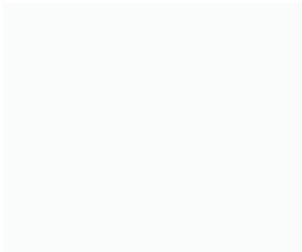
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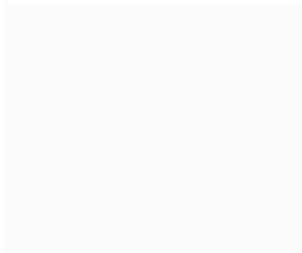
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