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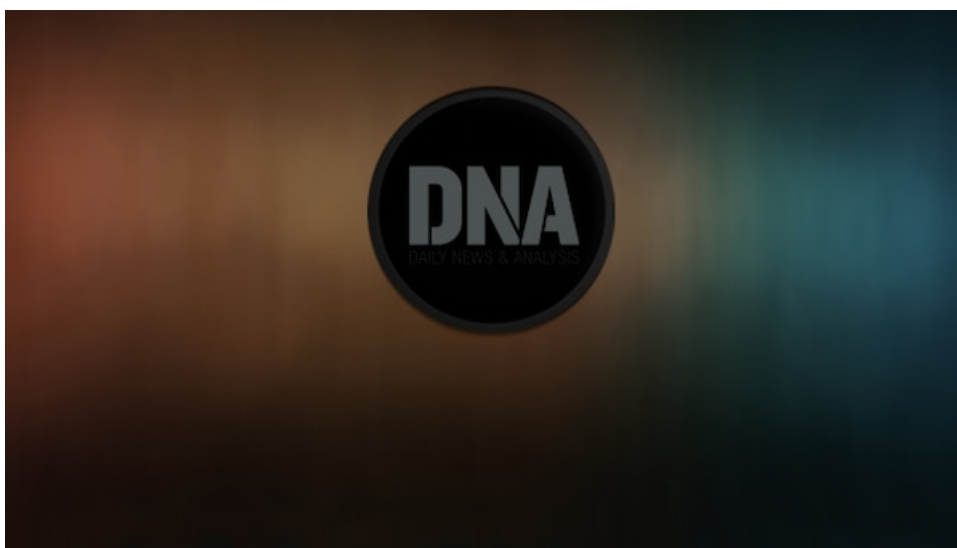
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Bangalore

Hookah bar for school kids found in BBMP raid

BBMP raids club on Residency Road, finds 60 students in hookah bar; seals club.



[dna Correspondent](#)

Updated: Mar 06, 2012, 01:13 PM IST



While the central government, based on a Supreme Court direction, has banned the sale of cigarettes within a radius of 100 yards of schools and colleges to discourage children from taking to the vicious habit, a city snooker club on Residency Road was found caring two hoots about the rules while running a hookah bar exclusively for the schoolchildren on Residency Road.

At least 60 students were found in the hookah bar on Monday afternoon. Some schoolchildren (wearing uniforms) were caught smoking hookahs.

The incident came into the open when BBMP health department officials conducted a raid on Seven Hills Snookers Club at Golden Towers on Residency Road and found schoolchildren smoking hookahs while awaiting their turn to play pool at the club.

Health department officials found three schoolboys and two schoolgirls, all aged below 16, were busy smoking the hookah while their friends were enjoying snooker.

The legal age to be allowed to smoke is 18 and above.

It was not immediately known whether the young students had bunked their classes or had come to the club after school hours when the raid took place at about 1.30pm.

The schoolchildren, studying in class 8 and 9, and mostly belonging to two reputed schools on Residency Road and St Marks Road, were all in their school uniforms when the raid took place.

Acting on a tip-off, BBBMP officials along with the Shantalanagar ward corporator K Shivakumar, conducted the raid.

“We found only school students at the club and no one else. The club was allowing the schoolchildren to smoke the hookahs in blatant violation of law,” BBMP deputy health officer Dr Satish said.

The BBMP seized five hookahs (with pipes and all), 25 packets of flavoured tobacco, 14 cigarette packets and other tobacco products before sealing the club.

Corporator Shivakumar said a notice will be served to the club. “We have also registered a police complaint with Ashoknagar police station against the club,” he said.

BBMP health department joint commissioner YM Ramachandra Murthy said he has directed the zonal joint commissioners to conduct raids on all illegal hookah bars in the city.

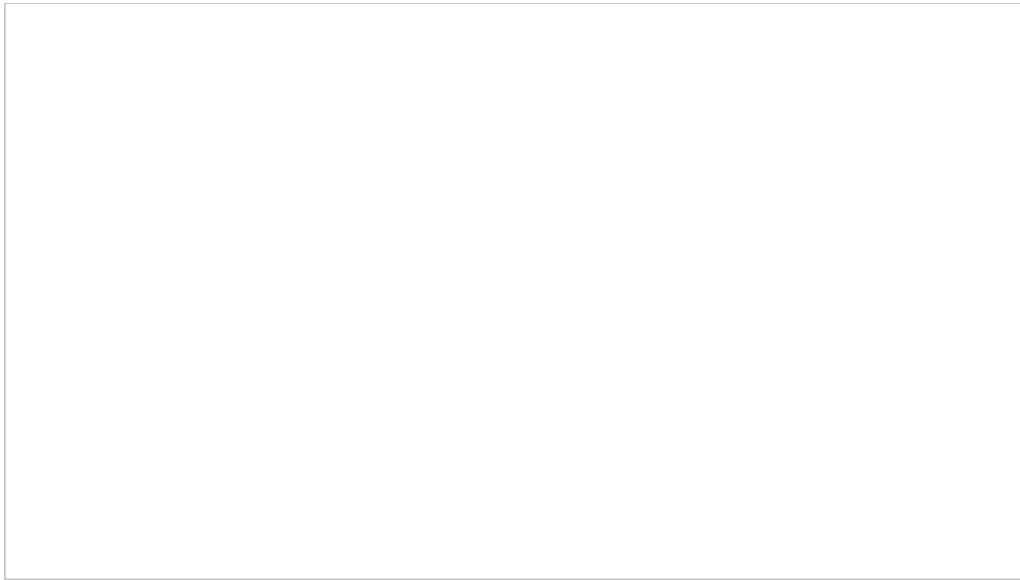
He also requested the public to provide information to the BBMP on such illegal hookah bars in their localities to curb the menace.

The school managements have sent SMSes to parents threatening to rusticate students found at the club.

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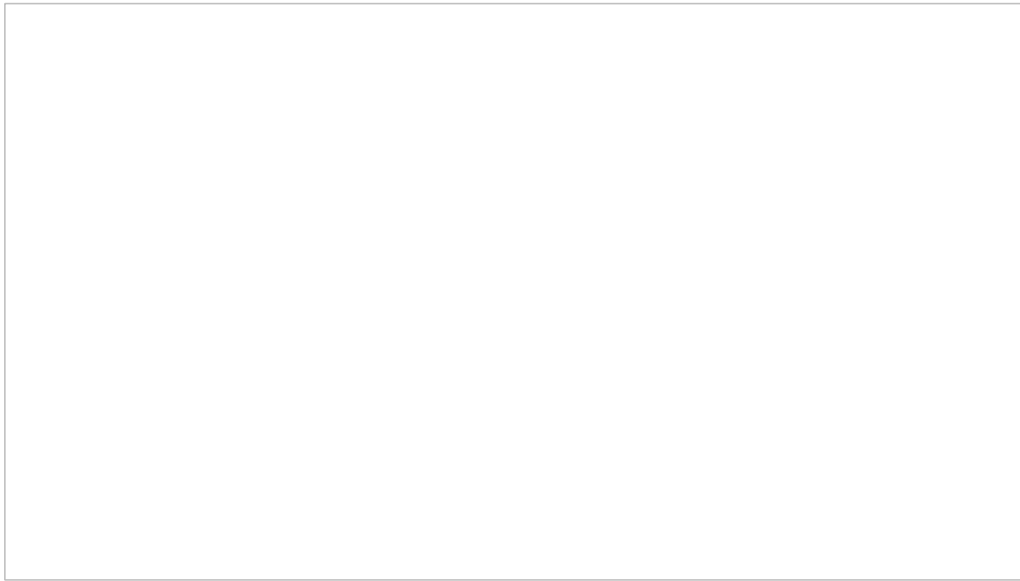
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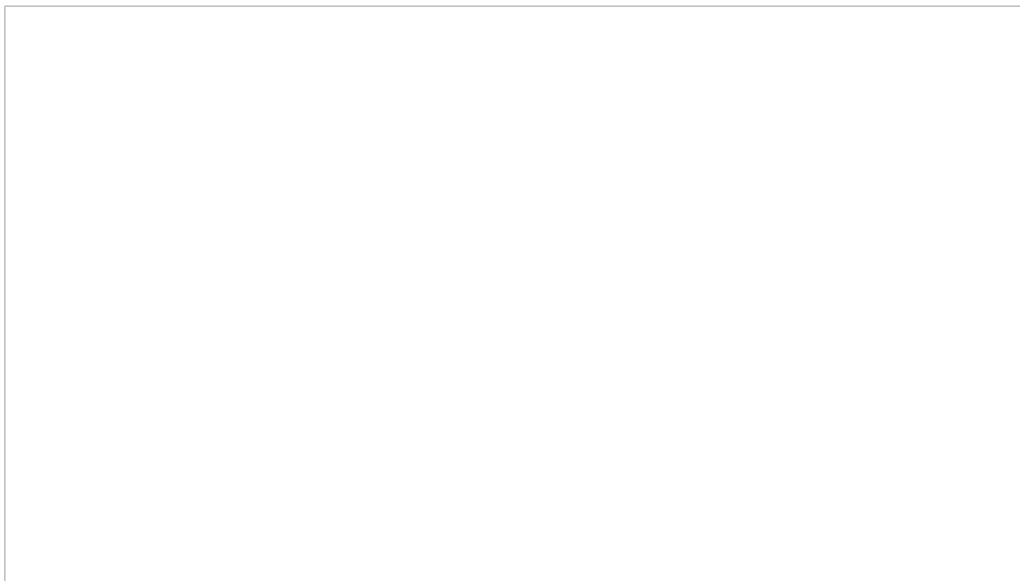
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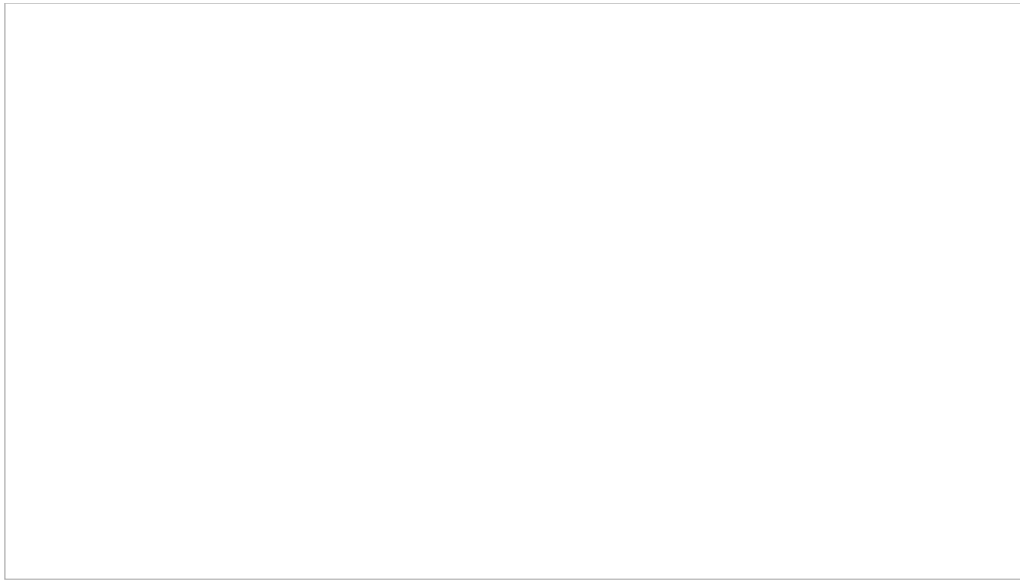
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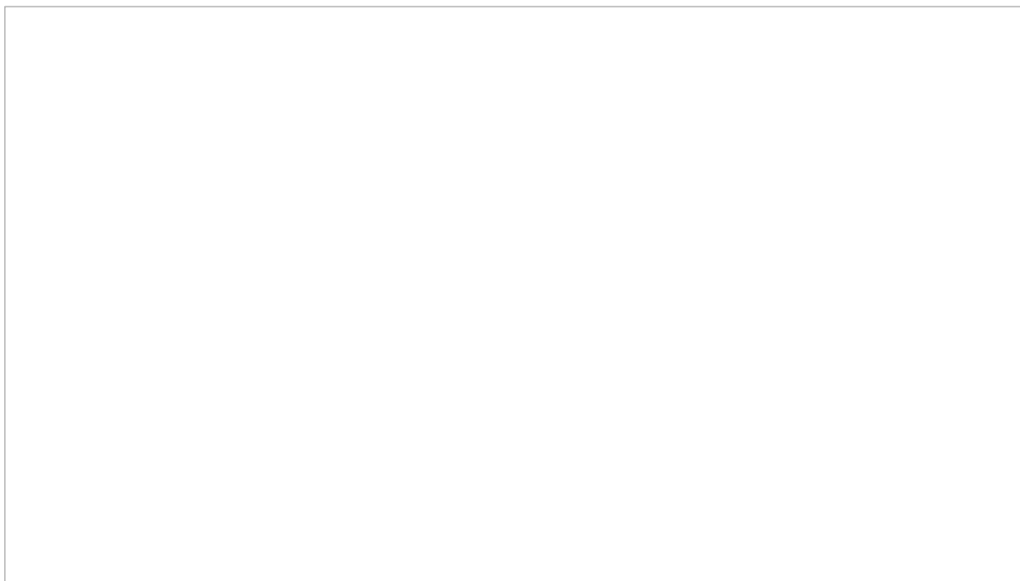
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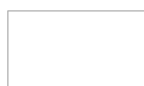
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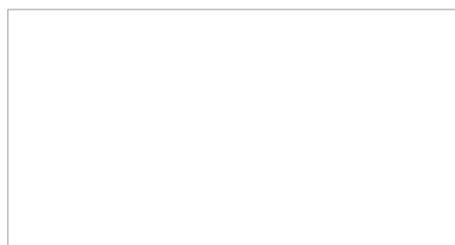
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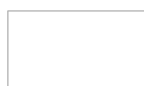
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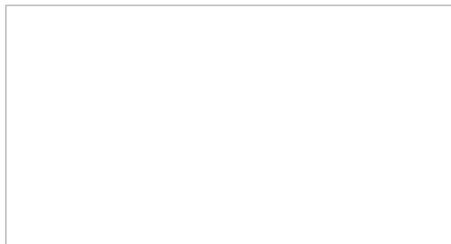
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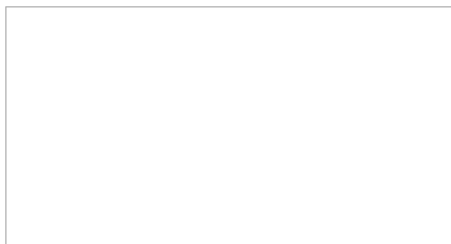
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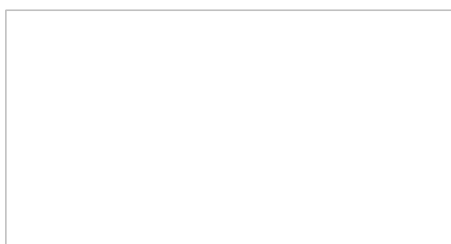
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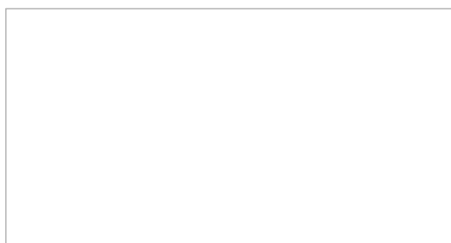
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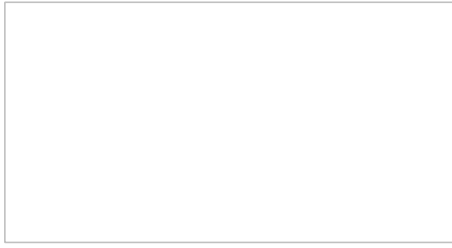
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