

Tobacco lobby strong, says social activist

Social activist Hemant Goswami highlights lax implementation of the ban on smoking in public places in the city. "The government in New Delhi is doing a better job in Bihar and other states. In the city, it hasn't sanctioned even a penny for this campaign," he says, blaming it on the "tobacco lobby".

"The tobacco companies influence both the authorities in New Delhi and the city and that's why the enforcement is

weak. The UT has empowered 11 Police Sub Inspectors to implement the ban but none has reported any action, regular checks, or awareness campaigns.

The UT Senior Superintendent of Police, Naunihal Singh, who took charge a week ago, says: "Effective implementation of rules is top priority. I will ensure complete compliance be it about anti-smoking provision or any other prohibitory order."