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City administration gets tough, makes city smoke free

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In an effort to live up to the status of a 'smoke free city', the city administration will take strict action against those who will act in a way to tarnish this image. From now on, all the public offices, institutions and private offices will have to display 'smoke free' signages as per the prescribed specifications within 10 days.

An intensive drive to check the violations in taverns and pubs and discos will be carried out. Moreover, the police will enhance challoaning for which the beat constables will be asked to be more vigilant. They will be directed to call the sub-inspector of the area to issue the challans on spotting the violators.

The decision to this effect was taken in the meeting of Chandigarh Tobacco Control Cell (CTCC) under the chairmanship of UT Homecum-Health Secretary Ram Niwas on Wednesday. He directed the UT Director Health Services to issue a circular to this effect to all the head of the departments.

Besides, UT Chief Engineer has also been directed to put up hoardings declaring the Smoke-Free City status of Chandigarh at all entry points of the city



and also at prominent public spots in the city.

Also, the various members of the Cell will get the identity cards to this effect so as to enable them to confront violators.

In continuing with the efforts to make the city to be the first city to bring Tobacco and Tobacco products under license as desired, a draft rules document has been prepared after a series of meetings and interactions with the Director Health Services, the officers of city Municipal Corporation and legal remembrance department.

Home secretary has asked all the members of the CTCC to go through the same and give their views on it within the period of 15 days following which the same can be forwarded to the legal remembrance for further action and notification.

Also, a case study report of Smoke Free Chandigarh conducted last year, by M/S Jon Dawson and Associates, New York in association with the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases, was tabled in the meeting. The study was the third of its kind in the world after those done for New York and Mexico City.

The report acknowledged the commitment and drive of the key stakeholders, the effective coordination between the civil society and the Government, the innovative use of the legal system and leading by example by ensuring that the Government premises were complying with the law as also the robust enforcement and maintaining the focus as the main stays and highlights of going and also maintaining the Smoke Free status of the city.