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BMC helps hoteliers enforce smoking ban

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BMC helps hoteliers enforce smoking ban

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Mumbai: While the ban on smoking has helped restaurateurs cut costs, they are facing practical difficulties in enforcing it.

Seven months after the ban on smoking in public places came into force, on Monday, restaurant owners and hoteliers in the city came together with civic health authorities and anti-smoking organisations at Tata Memorial Hospital to check on its enforcement.

helped them "save unnecessary costs" as they no longer needed to service their air-conditioners frequently or replace sofas that were damaged with cigarette burns.

However, restaurateurs also pointed out the hurdles to successful implementation. One of them said that nights were a problem as neither the police nor BMC officials were around in case a customer refused to put out a cigarette on their premises. Another hotelier pointed out to a unique problem. "Some customers step out-



Hoteliers have requested us to provide them with anti-smoking signs and initiate a flying squad for nights. We will provide them with the signs soon but we are yet take a decision on the other suggestion

— P Tipre | BMC ASSISTANT HEALTH OFFICER

The meeting was the first of the BMC workshops to be held for hoteliers to sensitise them about smoke-free laws and take their feedback on how to make them work. The initiative that kick-started on Monday will cover the 10,000 eating houses in Mumbai before May 22.

Welcoming the ban, Vishwapal Shetty, joint secretary of the Association of Hotels and Restaurants, said it

doors to take a puff and walk away without paying their bills."

"Hoteliers have requested us to provide them with anti-smoking signs and initiate a flying squad for nights," said BMC assistant health officer P Tipre, adding that the civic body would provide them with the signs soon but was yet to make a decision on the other suggestion.

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