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Illegal cigarettes worth Rs 3,300 seized in joint raids across Chandigarh



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The UT Administration conducted joint raids at several locations across the city today to strengthen enforcement of tobacco control laws and curb the sale of illegal tobacco products.

The joint team, led by the Health Department, also comprised officials from the police, excise and taxation, legal metrology, and food safety and drug control departments. It inspected shops and tobacco vendors in Manimajra and Sector 16 and detected violations of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), 2003, and provisions of the Excise Act.

During an inspection of Shiv Shankar Confectionery and Departmental Store at Sector 13, Manimajra, the team found cigarettes being sold without proper billing and the mandatory warning signage. The shop operator, Jai Dayal, was fined Rs 1,000 by the Health Department and Rs 500 by the Excise Department. Seven packets of cigarettes worth Rs 2,100 were also seized for lack of proper billing.

At a kiosk outside in the NAC, Sector 13, loose cigarettes were found being sold by Umesh without the mandatory warning signage. The Health and Excise departments imposed fines of Rs 500 each. Two packets of imported cigarettes worth Rs 600 were seized, while the vendor destroyed 15 packets of loose cigarettes valued at Rs 6,000.

During the drive, the departments imposed total fines of Rs 5,500. The Excise Department also seized illegal and imported cigarettes with an estimated wholesale value of Rs 3,300. The seized cigarette packets did not carry the mandatory pictorial health warnings. Besides, 255 packets of loose cigarettes and other tobacco products worth Rs 34,500 were destroyed by retailers and vendors.

Dr Suman Singh, Director, Health and Family Welfare, UT, said such enforcement drives would continue through the Permanent Task Force constituted by the Administration.

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