



THE TIMES OF INDIA

RAHUL TARGETS RUPANI OVER SEBI SLAPPING FINE ON GUJ CM'S COMPANY 7

IST DRAFT OF NEW NAT'L EDU POLICY BY DEC-END: MIN 6

OPENER KL RAHUL HITS 92, K'TAKA DRAW THEIR GROUP RANJI MATCH AGAINST DEL

Drug menace: City's PGs to come under police scanner

We'll Write To MCC To Close Down All Illegal PGs, Says DCP

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Mangaluru: Illegal paying guest (PG) accommodations, houses and apartments rented out to students without proper scrutiny have come under police scanner after many cases of drug peddling were reported from these places in the city.

According to sources in the city police, the move comes after scores of students were arrested for consumption and peddling of drugs from their paying guest accommodations, most of which are unlicensed.

"A police team has been moving around places with highest number of educational institutions. During a visit to Valachil, which has several engineering and other colleges, the team learnt that most of the PGs don't have valid licence and still worse there was none to monitor activities of inmates," a police officer told TOI on condition of anonymity.

Further, investigations

FINDINGS OF THE POLICE TEAM



- ▶ Most of the PGs don't have valid licence
- ▶ Activities of inmates are not monitored
- ▶ No mechanism to verify antecedents of inmates
- ▶ Many such illegal PGs around major educational institutes
- ▶ Safe haven for any person with criminal background
- ▶ Many apartments are sub-let to complete strangers



revealed that some of the apartment owners have been letting out rooms to students without much scrutiny. "One apartment is sub-let to 2-3 people, who are totally strangers to each other and stay under one roof. Their activities are not monitored. We have learnt that most of these inmates were addicts and actively engaged in drug peddling," he said, adding that such places are under police scanner and if the issue is not addressed, owners will be

held responsible.

Confirming this, Hanumantharaya, DCP (Law and Order), said students who stay in PGs are influenced by drug addicts. "After investigations, we are now writing to the Mangaluru City Corporation to close down all illegal PGs in city limits. Meanwhile, police have also asked owners of girls' PGs in the city to mandatorily install CCTVs around the premises, and appoint a security guard," he said.

An activist blamed that

there was none to check the antecedents of those staying in such accommodations. "There are good chances of a person with criminal background, too, staying in a paying guest accommodation," he said.

Asked whether city police were able to control drug menace through their drive, Hanumantharaya said it has brought down the menace to nearly 50%. "We are now trying to catch the peddlers so that the entire drug supply chain is disabled," he said.