

# THE TIMES OF INDIA

## Officials raid shop, seize pan masala containing tobacco sachets

TNN | Nov 21, 2019

Dehradun: A local shop was raided in Doiwala on Wednesday where a joint team of the Food and Drugs department and the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) seized several sachets of 'pan masala'.

Officials suspect that the seized samples of pan masala may have high nicotine and tobacco content, and hence sent the samples to a laboratory for testing.

In October, the state government had banned the sale and distribution of tobacco sachets, which are sold along with pan masala packets. "Though pan masala comes under edible category, but the product shouldn't have nicotine and other harmful chemicals. We have raided a store in Doiwala who is the distributor of pan masala. We have sent the samples for testing at laboratory," food safety officer, FDA, Dehradun, Yogendra Pandey, told TOI.

An FDA official, on the condition of anonymity, said that the ingredients were not clearly mentioned in the product, but they suspect that the items may have some harmful contents like tobacco or nicotine.

Food safety officer Pandey said DM C Ravishankar had conducted a meeting of FSSAI and FDA and ordered them to conduct raids at shops and collect samples of pan masala to verify its content.