



TOBACCO-FREE



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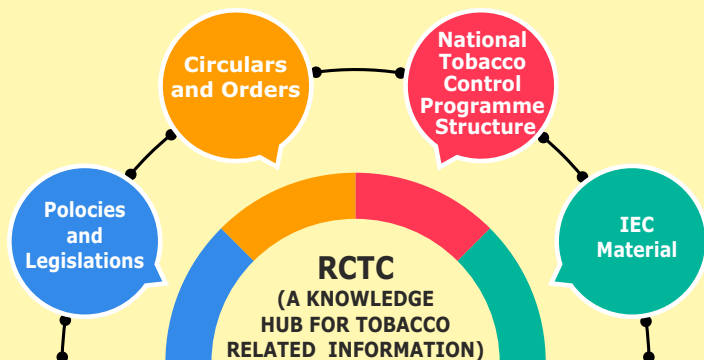
THE NEWSLETTER

E-RCTC IS PAVING THE ROAD TO TOBACCO FREE WORLD

E-RCTC's viewership is growing at a rapid pace with the main goal of putting an end to tobacco consumption. It is also working to develop a common strategy amongst organizations actively engaged in tobacco control. This portal is a coalition between PGIMER Chandigarh and The Union and has so far helped in understanding the landscape of tobacco control and related legislations and policies in India and globally. Further, it has enhanced the knowledge and understanding of how to accelerate the pace of reduction in tobacco use and the experience of tobacco control initiatives in diverse policy settings.

Tobacco Control has become one of the key pillars of Public Health Domain.

E-RCTC aimed at the protection of people's health and the environment. It is also paving the way forward for scientific research and action to overcome emerging challenges that are slowing down the target reduction of tobacco use. It is helping the public, health professionals, and other people working on, or interested in areas of tobacco control in providing variety of authentic information regarding tobacco control activities.



Be it policies or legislations, circulars or notifications, publications or IEC material; the resource center houses them all and thus acts as a knowledge hub for all the researchers and academicians who need to gather data for innovations and best practices in the field of tobacco control.

Experts Speak



The E-RCTC is a great value addition to the current available information on tobacco control. Kudos to Dr. Sonu Goel in leading this initiative with vision, passion, and perseverance. So much is happening under National Tobacco Control Programme around the country that one needs a platform to fully comprehend it and learn from the experiences, and E-RCTC is surely the perfect place.

Mr. Narender Kumar

Principal Consultant – State Policy Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, Delhi

The E-Resource Centre for Tobacco Control (E-RCTC) is a joint initiative of PGIMER, Chandigarh and The Union (SEA), has given an unique opportunity as a resource hub in a single learning platform for providing necessary information on tobacco control themes and activities. Such a knowledge based resource centre would definitely helpful for researchers, academicians, implementors, policy making bodies and stakeholders. Best wishes for more success.



Dr. Rashmi Ranjan Satpathy

Additional Director NCD and State Nodal Officer - NTCP, Odisha



Good informative Booklet and awareness programs were well covered from different parts of the country. Really appreciate the great efforts of the people involved in Tobacco control activities. These activities will have a great impact towards Tobacco free society.

Mr. Vijay Kumar

Deputy food Controller Food and Safety Department Government of Telangana

A great initiative to pool all resources for tobacco control in India in a unified platform. Thanks to the vision of the anti-tobacco champions across India for this concerted effort to bring information closer to people, a big step in the fight against tobacco. Best wishes!



Dr. Sonali Sarkar

Additional Professor and Head, Department of Preventive & Social Medicine, JIPMER, Puducherry



WEBINAR ON "TOBACCO FREE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION" CONDUCTED IN MEGHALAYA

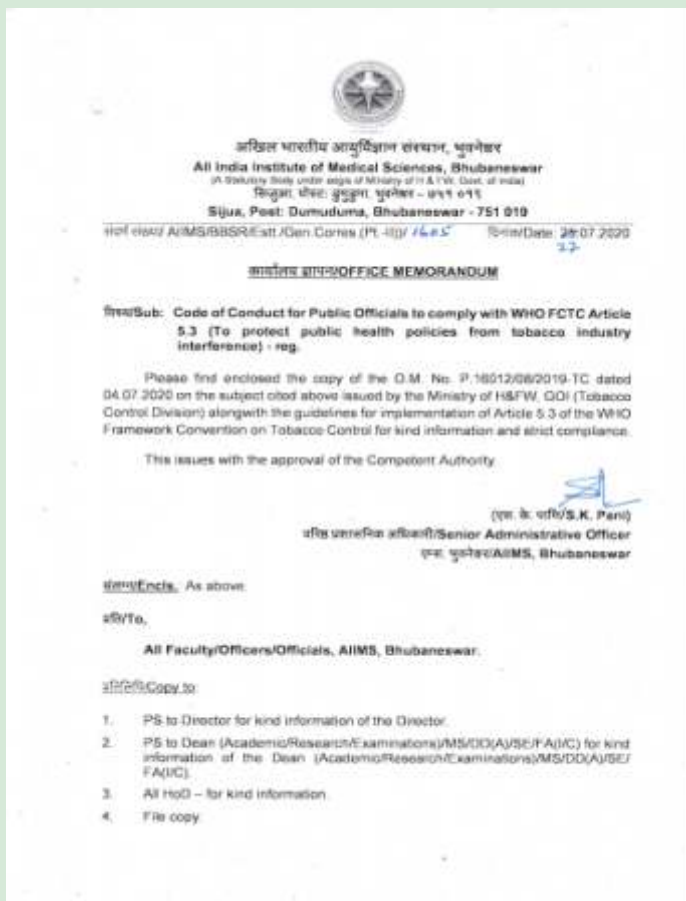
A Webinar on "Tobacco Free Educational Institution" organized by Resource Centre for Tobacco Control and North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences (NEIGRIHMS), Shillong in collaboration with the Department of Health and Family Welfare, Meghalaya and The Union South-East Asia (The Union) was conducted on 14th



August 2020 from 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM. Many sessions like tobacco burden, harmful effects of tobacco and guidelines for tobacco free educational institutes were discussed in the webinar by eminent speakers including Dr. Rana J Singh, Dr. Star Pala, Dr. Sonu Goel, Dr. Lana and Shri. Ambrose Ch. Marak, Director School Education grace the occasion as Chief guest. Over 500+ participants including NSS units across the state took part in the Webinar.

SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION ARTICLE 5.3 OF CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PUBLIC OFFICIALS: BHUBNESWAR

Code of Conduct for Public Officials in to comply with WHO FCTC Article 5.3 (To protect public health policies from tobacco industry interference), notified at AIIMS, Bhubaneswar was success issued on 22nd July 2020.



A RESEARCH STUDY CONDUCTED IN THE PROJECT STATES:

All the four project states has completed the data collection for the study "To evaluate the threat perception among tobacco and non-tobacco users during Covid-19" from both rural and urban areas. (300 in each project states).

COMPLETED DATA COLLECTION FOR RESEARCH STUDY ON THREAT ANALYSIS OF TOBACCO AND COVID-19.

A research study on threat perception about COVID 19 among tobacco users and non-users from rural and urban was initiated in all four project states.





IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL TOBACCO CONTROL PROGRAMME (NTCP) – OVERVIEW

Introduction

Government of India launched the National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) in the year 2007-08 with the aim to

- (I) Create awareness about the harmful effects of tobacco consumption
- (ii) Reduce the production and supply of tobacco products
- (iii) Ensure effective implementation of the provisions under "The Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003" (COTPA)
- (iv) Help the people quit tobacco use
- (v) Facilitate implementation of strategies for prevention and control of tobacco advocated by WHO Framework Convention of Tobacco Control

Organizational Structure:



NTCP is implemented through a three-tier structure: National, State and District level. The key functions of each tier is provided as under:

NATIONAL

1. Public awareness / mass media campaigns
2. Establishment of tobacco product testing laboratories.
3. Mainstreaming research and trainings with other nodal ministries.
4. Monitoring and evaluation including conduction of GATS/ GYTS
5. Expansion of cessation facilities
6. Establishing National Quit-line [1800-11-2356] and Helpline [1800-11-0456] and m-cessation [011-22901701]

STATE

1. Establishment of State Level Coordination Committee and conducting its regular (quarterly) meetings
2. Recruitment and Training for staff appointed at STCC under NTCP.
3. Training / sensitization of relevant stakeholders from various departments including Police, FDA, Health, Judiciary, Media, Academicians, NGO etc.
4. Incorporating tobacco control in state level IEC/ Advocacy Campaigns
5. Establishing tobacco cessation clinics in health care facilities.
6. Enforcement of COTPA
7. Regular reporting to NTCC
8. Use of PIP Flexipool in HR support, travel of staff, IEC etc.
9. Integrating tobacco control with other programmes
10. Monitoring enforcement of tobacco control law

DISTRICT

1. Establishment of District Level Coordination Committee and conducting its regular (quarterly) meetings
2. Recruitment and Training for staff appointed at DTCC under NTCP.
3. Training/ sensitization of key stakeholders: health and social workers, NGOs, school teachers, enforcement officers and nodal persons of different departments.
4. Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities/ media campaigns
5. Setting-up and strengthening of cessation facilities at district and block levels.
6. Enforcement of COTPA and FSS Act.
7. School awareness programmes
8. Monitoring and enforcement of tobacco control law
9. Co-ordination with Panchayati Raj Institutions for inculcating concept of tobacco control at the grassroots.

IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL TOBACCO CONTROL PROGRAMME (NTCP) – OVERVIEW



REPORTING FORMATS

Quarterly report:

The State Tobacco Control Cell should report to the National Tobacco Control Cell at the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the District Tobacco Control Cell should report to the State Tobacco Control Cell respectively on quarterly basis. It has three parts- A, B and C. The quarterly reports are meant to depict the set up and working of the cell (State and District), staff position, constitution of committees, SOE/UC submitted, meetings of committee, training workshops/ meetings, TCC and challan details.

Prescribed format of the quarterly report

Utilization Certificate:

It specifies the details of the grant sanctioned and utilized for the purpose of various activities approved by the Government of India for implementing National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP).

Prescribed format of the utilization certificate

Statement of Expenditure:

The expenditure details is a valuable tool to know whether the cells (National/State/District) are continuously undertaking activities as mentioned in the National Tobacco Control Programme(NTCP) guidelines. It provides a clear information of the fund that has been sanctioned to each cell for carrying out various activities and the details of the expenditure spent on each activity during a particular period of time.

Prescribed format of Statement of expenditure form

NGOs under NTCP

One of the main thrust of NTCP is to involve NGOs for various activities, including trainings and capacity building, IEC and awareness generation, school health programs, advocacy, and monitoring/ evaluation. NGO should be registered under the Indian Societies Registration Act / Indian Trust Act /Indian religious and Charitable Act for more than three years. Further, they have working experience in the health / social sector for 3 years and have well-trained staff in health care to organize and carry out various activities under the scheme. The NGO should not have been black listed by any government agency. However, it is up to the respective state governments to decide whether the above stated activities are to be carried out in collaboration with NGOs or by the available state infrastructure.



IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL TOBACCO CONTROL PROGRAMME (NTCP) – OVERVIEW

INDIA'S PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL TOBACCO CONTROL PROGRAMME:

2007-2008	National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) was launched by the GOI during the 11th Five-Year-Plan.
2007-2008	Training of NTCP programme managers from 21 states and 42 districts by Government of India in collaboration with The Union.
2007-2008	(03) National Tobacco Testing Laboratories (NTTLs) established for monitoring/testing tobacco products.
2007-2008	Operational guidelines developed for effective implementation of NTCP.
2008	Implementation of FCTC Article 5.3 code of conduct for government employees was created prescribing the standards with which public officials should comply in their dealings with the tobacco industry
2008-2009	Launch of first smoke-free mass media campaign (Dhaun) with support from World Lung Foundation.
2009-10	First Global Adult Tobacco Survey conducted.
2010	A pilot intervention introducing brief advice on tobacco cessation during treatment of TB patients launched in distt. Vadodara.
2011	Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on Sales) Regulations, issued under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, lays down that tobacco and nicotine shall not be used as ingredients in any food products.
2012	Regulation of the use of cigarettes and other tobacco products in films and TV programme.
2013	Guidelines for implementation of pictorial health warnings on cigarette packaging.
2016	Implementation of large pictorial, graphic health warnings (separately for smoked and smokeless tobacco products) launched.
2016	Prohibition on Sale to and by minors and sale around Educational Institution under Section 6 of COTPA.
2016	India hosted the Conference of the Parties at its seventh session (COP7) which focused on implementation of WHO FCTC Article 5.3.
2016	GOI launched a country wide tobacco cessation program and bilingual m-cessation programme (missed call at 011-22901701)
2016	National Toll- Free Quitline (1800 11 2356) launched.
2019	GOI issued a ban on Electronic Nicotine Delivery System (ENDS). Training resources for NTCP programme managers were developed and trained officials from all 35 states and UT's in collaboration with NIHFW, The Union and WHO

BEST PRACTICES

Mass Media Campaigns

India – “Heartbreak”-Anti Bidi Smoking Campaign

An anti-bidi smoking mass-media campaign was launched by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare under the National Tobacco Control Programme in July 2011. It was launched to raise awareness of general public regarding the risks of heart attacks due to smoking bidis and cigarettes. This was the first government-sponsored mass media campaign in the world that links bidi smoking to heart health.

<https://www.who.int/fctc/implementation/news/indianews/en/>

National Consultation on Smokeless Tobacco

A National Consultation on Smokeless Tobacco was organized by the Indian Council of Medical Research in April 2011 with an objective to highlight the current pattern and burden of use of smokeless tobacco in India along with a view learning global best practices. It recommended increasing the age of sale of tobacco to beyond 21 years and restricting sale of flavoured smokeless tobacco in less than 50gm pouches/packs.

<https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=7139>



Anti Tobacco campaign for youth

An anti-tobacco campaign was started in partnership with Delhi Police and Sambandh Health Foundation, Delhi in May 2016 to save the youth and school children from indulging in tobacco use practices and ensure correct implementation of COTPA for making Delhi into a healthier capital. From health outreach in semi urban areas, to media outreach and strategic partnership with law enforcement agencies, it was one of the major steps to ensure that the voice against tobacco is heard across the country.

<http://www.maxindiafoundation.org/project-anti-tobacco.html>

IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL TOBACCO CONTROL PROGRAMME (NTCP) – OVERVIEW



Nasha Mukti Abhiyan

The Nasha Mukti Abhiyan was launched in the state of Haryana in 2015 to free



people, particularly the youth population from drug addiction. Under this campaign the police department set up "Yuva Clubs" in the villages which helped in sporting youth activities and weaning them away from menace of drugs. In this regard, a helpline number(88140-56100) was also released where anybody could provide information regarding trafficking and misuse of drugs.

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/archive/feature/s/-nasha-mukti-abhiyan-launched-in-sirsa-54051>

A campaign for banning e-cigarette

Voice for Tobacco Free Victims (VoTV) moved a campaign with over 1000 doctors from 24 states of India in April 2019 which appealed to the Prime Minister to enforce a ban on e-cigarettes for protecting youngsters from getting indulged in smoking practices. The campaign also appealed to ban the sale of loose cigarettes which increases easy accessibility and affordability of tobacco products amongst youngsters.

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/ban-sale-of-loose-cigarettes-voice-of-tobacco-victims-kerala-to-pm/articleshow/45899571.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst

"What Damage will this Cigarette/Bidi Do" cessation campaign.

"What Damage Will This Cigarette/Bidi Do," campaign embarked by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India as a national media campaign with technical support from Vital Strategies in June, 2018 at a World Health Organization event. By highlighting tobacco's links to stroke and heart disease, the leading cause of death among tobacco users globally, the campaign amplifies the theme of 2018 year's World No Tobacco Day, which was "Tobacco Breaks Hearts." Smoking cessation was the main highlight of this campaign.

<https://www.adgully.com/ministry-of-health-launches-what-damage-will-this-cigarette-bidi-do-78550.html>

"Spit-free India" movement.

Amid Covid-19, "Spit-free India" movement was started by beautiful Bengaluru in June 2020 by starting an online petition on change.org urging the Prime Minister to make spitting a punishable offense. The main objective of this campaign was to ban spitting in public places and to check the spread of the virus.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/chennai/spitters-beware/article31771315.ece>



School-Health Programs

Quit Tobacco Movement



Salaam Bombay Foundation (SBF), under its leadership program conducts tobacco control awareness campaigns engaging the school children. Launched in 2008, this campaign is implemented every year in the schools having SBF's Super Army Leadership Program to promote freedom from tobacco inspired by the Quit India Movement.

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/323492410_Engaging_youth_in_anti-tobacco_awareness_campaigns_in_India

Yellow Line Campaign

Yellow Line Campaign began in the state of Punjab from 1st November, 2018

to 7th November, 2018 with a main goal to further tighten the noose around the neck of offenders who are bent on violating the anti tobacco law and to create awareness among the students of the educational institutes against tobacco. The State Government had adopted a stringent policy by the demarcating 100 yard area around an education institution as a place under yellow line and declaring this area as Tobacco Free Zone. Many other states are also conducting such campaigns.

<http://diprpunjab.gov.in/?q=content/hm-launches-%E2%80%98yellow-line-campaign%E2%80%99-declares-100-yard-area-around-educational-institutes>





IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL TOBACCO CONTROL PROGRAMME (NTCP) – OVERVIEW

Tobacco Free Educational Guidelines

The Tobacco-Free Education Guidelines were released by Government of India in 2008 with an objective to provide a fresh momentum in implementation of tobacco control initiatives among adolescents and young adults and to create more awareness about harmful effects and long-term health impact of tobacco use.

<https://ntcp.nhp.gov.in/assets/document/TEFI-Guidelines.pdf>

TOBACCO FREE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION

Sale of cigarettes and other tobacco products in an area within radius of one hundred yards of this educational institution is strictly prohibited and is a punishable offence.

If you see any violation, please report to –

Name _____
Designation _____
Contact Person _____
OR
Call at Tollfree Number – 1800-112-356 (Toll free)

By Order

Mcessation or National Quit Lines

Tobacco cessation clinics (TCCs)

The first formal tobacco cessation clinics were set up as a joint initiative of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India and the World Health Organization's Country Office for India in 2002 to develop simple intervention models for tobacco cessation for smokers and smokeless tobacco users. Thirteen tobacco cessation clinics (TCC) were set up in this regard in different departments viz. psychiatry (3), cancer (5), surgical (2), cardiology (1), chest diseases (1) as well as in a non government organizational setting (1). The TCCs were subsequently expanded to five more Regional Cancer Centres (RCC) in 2005. A network of 19 tobacco cessation clinics (TCCs) was set up over a period of time.

<https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/329824/whoseajphv1i2p159.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

WHO-ITU's 'Be Healthy Be Mobile' initiative

The Be Healthy, Be Mobile (BHBM) initiative was set up by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the

International Telecommunication Union (ITU) supported by Government of India in 2012 with a goal to support tobacco users for successful quitting through constant text messaging on mobile phones. It reaches out

to all categories of tobacco users who wanted to quit. As future perspectives, this initiative might help to achieve Goal 3 of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 viz. "To ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages".

<https://www.who.int/activities/Addressing-mobile-health>



"Mobile (m) Cessation"

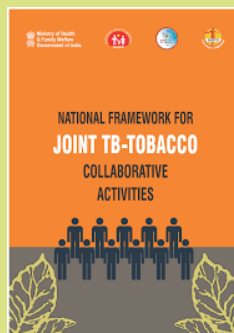
The Union Health Ministry launched "Mobile (m) Cessation" in 2015, to develop tobacco use abstinence among people interested in quitting. As part of the programme, tobacco users can enroll themselves by giving a missed call to a particular phone number and they will start getting three to four messages daily which will counsel and consistently motivate them to quit tobacco.



https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/cons-products/tobacco/government-to-launch-m-cessation-to-help-kick-tobacco-habit/articleshow/49308988.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst

Integration with other health programs

TB-Tobacco Collaboration



Tuberculosis (2.8 million incident cases per annum) and tobacco use (nearly 275 million adults) continue to be major public health concerns in India; both of which are mostly preventable. The vast body of evidence suggests that there is a strong association between tobacco use and TB treatment outcomes. Recognizing this the collaboration between RNTCP and NTCP creates an opportunity within the health care

system by providing cessation services to every TB patient who is a tobacco user and imparting awareness about consequences of being exposed to secondhand smoke to every TB patient who is not a tobacco user. In this context, The National Framework for Joint TB Tobacco Collaborative Activities was launched in 2017 providing step by step guidelines on the implementation of tobacco cessation services as an integral part of TB case management with support from domain experts, WHO and The Union. India is the first country in WHO South-East Asia Region to implement collaborative framework for TB-Tobacco co morbidities with an expectation of collateral benefits for TB & tobacco control in the country.

Tobacco Cessation Centers in Dental Institutes - An Integrated Approach

The tobacco cessation centers were established in Dental Institutes programmes in accordance with the WHO Oral Health Programme tobacco control policy and WHO policy on tobacco cessation. The operational guidelines for the same were launched in 2018. The initiatives was started to support national oral health programme (NOHP) to routinely identify patients who use tobacco, brief tobacco cessation and providing them with interventions.

IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL TOBACCO CONTROL PROGRAMME (NTCP) – OVERVIEW



Resource Centre for tobacco control

Department of Community Medicine and School of Public Health, Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh has been conducting various capacity building workshops and programs from last over 5 decades. In this context, Resource Center for Tobacco Control was conceptualized in the year 2018 in collaboration with The Union, SEA, as a platform from where we can fetch all the information related to tobacco control activities of the country. The platform shall not only assimilate and channelize the existing information on tobacco control which are lying scattered, but also a boon for the building aspirants (researchers and academicians) in tobacco control where they can explore opportunities in this area.

NGO's involvement in enforcement of NTCP

Consultation on Tobacco Vendor Licensing was held in partnership of Tobacco Control Cell, Dept. of Health Punjab and technical support of International Union and Generation Saviour Association in June 2019. In this regard, courtesy notices (Unofficial orders) were issued from time to time against the tobacco vendors if they violate the rules laid down by COTPA(2003)

State-Specific Initiatives

Bihar banned the sale of tobacco and nicotine mixed gutkha and pan masala in 2012 for one year. The ban extends every year. Government has banned Pan Masala brands which were found not in conformity with the standards of Pan Masala as specified in Regulation 2.11.5 of the Food Safety and Standards (Food Products and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011

Goa bans manufacture, storage, distribution and sale of any article of food containing tobacco.

Goa Public Health Amendment Act, banned gutkha and other flavored SLT in the state by whatever name it is called which contains tobacco and nicotine as an ingredient and chewing tobacco products such as chaap tobacco, zarda, khaini, khairi etc. in 2017.

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/58523453.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst



Karnataka launched 'STOP TOBACCO', a mobile application

Karnataka government has launched 'No Tobacco', a mobile application, to report complaints of any kind of COTPA violation by uploading photographs of the violators. The app 'StopTobacco' is being launched to commemorate the World No Tobacco Day on May 31, 2019..

<https://www.deccanherald.com/state/app-to-help-report-tobacco-rule-violations-737554.html>



Rajasthan High Court banned the sale of gutkha, pan masala in plastic sachets:

Rajasthan court prohibited all gutkha manufacturers in the state from using plastic packaging in 2007. The industry challenged the ruling in the apex court, and directed the Centre to ensure that gutkha and paan masala are not sold in plastic pouch. Taking suo moto initiative, the judges asked the central government to conduct a comprehensive study of the ingredients of gutkha and similar products manufactured in the country and their harmful effects on human health.

<https://www.downtoearth.org.in/coverage/centre-bans-gutkha-33857>



'Rose Campaign'- India's first Campaign on Tobacco Free Educational Institutions.

Karnataka has introduced India's first 'Rose Campaign' – a Movement for Tobacco Free Educational Institutions led by student and teacher community to sensitize Point of Sale owner on not selling tobacco within 100 yards of any educational institution.

Punjab and Gujarat imposed complete ban on Hookah Bars

The state governments passed a bill on September 18th, 2018, for amendment in the Cigarette and other Tobacco Products Act, 2003 for a complete ban on hookah bars. Punjab and Gujarat government decided to impose a permanent ban on hookah bars in the state instead of issuing temporary orders against them every two months. The move was aimed at reducing the trend of hookah bars, besides use of tobacco in various forms amongst youngsters.

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2018/mar/19/after-gujarat-now-punjab-decides-to-permanently-ban-hookah-bars-1789434.html#:~:text=CHANDIGARH%3A%20After%20Gujarat%2C%20Punjab%20Government,against%20them%20every%20two%20months.&text=The%20amendment%20would%20result%20in,Hookah%20Bars%20in%20the%20state.>



Jharkhand banned 11 brands of Paan Masala

The Jharkhand government has banned 11 premium brands of pan-masala for a year, in May 2020, as products contain magnesium carbonate which can cause acute hyper magnesemia and sometimes cardiac arrest, as per the notification issued by the department of health, medical education and family welfare in May 2020. According to the health Minister, Mr. Banna Gupta, the ban would also help contain the spread of Covid-19 in Jharkhand, as people spit after consuming Pan Masala.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/jharkhand-bans-11-pan-masala-brands-on-health-concerns/story-QXv1MiD7rVHSoABJ00y60J.html#:~:text=Jharkhand%20health%20minister%20Banna%20Gupta,premium%20brands%20for%20a%20year.%E2%80%9D>





TOBACCO REPORTER

Delhi extends bans on manufacture, storage, distribution and sale of gutka, pan masala for another year.

D N Singh, Commissioner (Food Safety), National Capital Territory of Delhi, has prohibited the manufacture, storage, distribution, or sale of tobacco which is either flavored, scented or mixed with any of the said additives, and whether going by the name or form of gutkha, pan masala, flavored/scented tobacco, kharra etc. The decision was taken in the interest of public health for a period of one year in NCT



Health Ministry notifies new pictorial health warnings for tobacco products

Union Health Ministry on Thursday (July 23) notified new sets of specified health warnings with enhanced pictorial images to be printed on all tobacco products. The new and amended rules will be applicable from December 1, 2020, according to an official statement.



Amid Covid-19, Tobacco ban was to save lives in the country, court told: Africa

The supreme court in Africa presented a judgment to ban the sale of cigarettes. The judgement may present an opportunity for the illicit trade of cigarettes as well as underworld activities and that it had also severely affected the collection of tax in the country.



Plain packaging will accelerate progress towards ending the tobacco epidemic: Singapore

Non-compliance with the plain packaging (or standardized packaging) regulations in Singapore has been implemented from July 1 2020, and violations will be an punishable offense with a fine not exceeding \$10,000, imprisonment for a term of up to six months, or both for first offenders. Those with a prior qualifying conviction will face heavier penalties.

UK tobacco sales fell faster after plain packaging rules came into force.

The underlying rate of decline in tobacco sales almost doubled after the plain packaging rule was implemented. It has decreased by about 20m a month, researchers have found.

Smoking still a core challenge for child and adolescent health reveals WHO report

The latest Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) study focusing on adolescent health and well-being has revealed that levels of cigarette-smoking are worryingly high, particularly among 15-year-olds. In this age group, 15% of adolescents report having smoked a cigarette at least once in the past 30 days and nearly 1 in 3 mentioned having tried smoking (27% of girls and 29% of boys).

GST Council urged to levy COVID19 cess on tobacco products, to generate Rs 50,000 crore

Public Health Groups along with doctors and economists called out for a complete ban on all smokeless tobacco products and pan masala which results for 90% oral cavity cancer in India. The imposition of COVID cess on all tobacco products will not only help raise the much-needed revenue to fund the stimulus it will also prevent the further spread of the virus, especially amongst vulnerable populations by making tobacco products unaffordable and forcing them to quit.



WTO Reaffirms Australia's Tobacco Plain Packaging Measure

The World Trade Organization (WTO) has reaffirmed its earlier decision that Australia's tobacco plain packaging is a legitimate policy measure that is making a meaningful contribution to public health. "This is a fantastic win not just for Australia, but for governments around the world who want to reduce the terrible toll of sickness and death caused by smoking," Minister Hunt said.

Pakistan urged to enforce strict taxation for tobacco control

Anti-tobacco campaigners in Pakistan have urged the government to formulate effective measures for tobacco control like increasing the ratio of taxes which will limit the sale and consumption of these products.



At least 2,146 schools in Delhi now tobacco-free

With the efforts of State Tobacco Control Cell (STCC), around 2,146 schools are tobacco-free in the national capital, according to Delhi government's Directorate of Health Services. State Tobacco Control Cell (STCC) along with other stakeholder departments like police, education, health, MCD etc are implementing Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products Act 2003 in Delhi.



Australia wins tobacco case at the World Trade Organisation

Australia has seen off a final challenge to its "plain packaging" rules for cigarettes, as the tobacco industry's epic campaign against the measures finally runs out of road.

Pass a cigarette puff, get corona virus for free

The World Health Organization in its website, clearly warns that smoking could lead to transmission of COVID-19. Tobacco smokers may be more vulnerable to contracting COVID-19, as the act of smoking involves contact of fingers (and possibly contaminated cigarettes) with the lips, which increases the possibility of transmission of viruses from hand to mouth.

27.1% of India's all cancer cases in 2020 will be tobacco-related, ICMR report estimates

The National Cancer Registry Programme Report 2020, released by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), estimates there will be 13.9 lakh cases of cancer in India in 2020, and that this number is likely to rise to 15.7 lakh by 2025. The estimates are based on data retrieved from 28 Population-Based Cancer Registries (PBCRs) and 58 Hospital-Based Cancer Registries (HBCRs) from across India, between 2012 and 2016.



Smokers likely to be more vulnerable to Covid-19: Health Ministry

Smokers are likely to be more vulnerable to Covid-19 as the act of smoking means that fingers (and possibly contaminated cigarettes) are in contact with the lips, increasing the possibility of transmission of virus from hand to mouth, warned the Union Health Ministry.

Smoking rooms at airports should be permanently closed: Experts

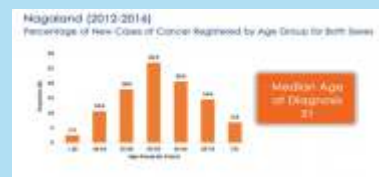
According to public health group member and Chairman of Max Institute of Cancer Care, Harit Chaturvedi, there is imperative need to close smoking room at the airports permanently to minimize the risk of virus spread as well as to reduce the health harm from second hand smoke. This is important as there is growing evidence of smoking being a risk of Covid-19.

No More Tobacco, Nicotine Products For Those Under 21 in Palatine (France)

A local ordinance prohibiting anyone under 21 years old from buying tobacco products is now in effect in Palatine. As of Aug. 1, police are now issuing local ordinance citations to those who violate the legislation.

Tobacco Related cancer is higher among men in Nagaland :NCPR

The relative proportion of cancers associated with the use of tobacco in Nagaland was 39.3% and 11.5% in males and females respectively, according to the recent National Cancer Registry Programme Report (NCPR) 2020.



Follow START to quit tobacco and lead a healthy life

As Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has projected that 27.1 per cent of India's all cancer cases in 2020 will be tobacco-related, a highly experienced surgical oncologist has urged people to quit all tobacco products for a healthy and cancer-free life. He has urged people who are addicted to smoking and tobacco products to follow 'START.' Dr Vedant Kabra, Head, Department of Surgical Oncology, HCMCT Manipal Hospitals, New Delhi, said that quitting all tobacco-related products is the first step one can take towards improving their overall health.

Maharashtra: Spit, tobacco, smoke to fetch fine and jail

Municipal commissioner Tukaram Mundhe issued a notification regarding spitting, smoking (including e-cigarettes) and chewing tobacco and related products in public places and on premises of private establishments will attract fine as well as imprisonment for both consumer and sellers.



TOBACCO-FREE *Times*

5th National Conference on Tobacco or Health (NCTOH)

"Multisectoral convergence for Tobacco-Free India by 2030: Leading the way towards SDGs"

September 25-27, 2021 | PGIMER, Chandigarh



REGISTRATION

Category	Early Bird
Delegates	5500
Accompanying / Co – Delegates	4000
Students	3000
International delegates	11000
CME's / Workshops (Only one workshop/ CME can be applied for each participant.	Free (50 Seats for each workshop) -First come first basis



Register here - www.nctoh2020.com

Benefits of registration for the conference:

- To avail the early bird registration features
- Certificate of participation to all participants
- Learning and networking opportunity with eminent national and international experts
- Increase knowledge on various emerging topics of tobacco control.
- More chance for acceptance of your abstract



Send us your feedback, comments and suggestions at rctcupdates@gmail.com,

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