



# TOBACCO-FREE Times

www.rctcpgi.org

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## E-RCTC IN ITS PIONEERING LOOK!



As the trend of tobacco use is increasing despite growing evidence of its harmful effects on health, health care professionals can play a pivotal role in tobacco control activities. Keeping this in view, a portal (www.rctcpgi.org) which has been launched as a joint initiative of PGIMER Chandigarh and The Union, has emerged as one of the most viewed platforms in fetching information related to tobacco control. After nearly 2 years of its launch and viewed by over 2.5 lakhs viewers from around 85 countries, we have revamped it for its viewers. The new portal is more comprehensive and accessible in drawing information viz. state specific circulars and orders (36 states/UT's), tobacco related articles and publications, state specific factsheets (GATS 1 and GATS 2), global and national level policies and legislations and much more.

In addition to this, the portal is planning to start its first ever online course on "Basics of Tobacco Control" which will target public health professionals, students, implementers, social workers and people from other backgrounds who want to contribute towards tobacco control. A key focus of course will be the development of the knowledge and skills needed to support tobacco control initiatives in the country along with the strengthening the tobacco control policies globally.



The USP of E-RCTC is on being the one-stop reference point for all the updates on tobacco control activities and initiatives. It is commendable of the Editorial team to collate information from across the country and making it easily accessible for researchers, policymakers, government and non-government TC advocates.

- Tshering D Bhutia

Vice President – Preventive Health & Nutrition  
Salaam Bombay Foundation, Mumbai

## EDITOR'S SPEAK



As E-RCTC is fast striding its way towards disseminating knowledge in tobacco control, I am extremely delighted to share that this portal has been revamped not only in its looks but also in terms of its components for better accessibility of the data. I am also glad to report that the 11th Edition of Tobacco Free Times is headlining the best practices and expert recommendations to tackle the burden of Tobacco Product Waste in our country. I urge the decision makers of our country to formulate strict guidelines on TPW which will help to maintain the balance of nature and achieve the overarching goal of 'tobacco free world'.

- Dr Sonu Goel

Director, E-RCTC & Professor PGIMER Chandigarh

## EXPERTS SPEAK



E-RCTC is a resource centre which provides complete information about prevention and control of tobacco on one single platform. This helps the policy makers, programme managers, academic institutions, governmental and non-government organizations in implementing tobacco control initiatives including capacity building and research.

- Dr Suneela Garg

National President Elect IAPSM  
Professor of Excellence, Director Professor HAG,  
Ex Head (CM) Sub Dean, Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi 110002



The team at PGIMER has done a great job of collating and regularly updating the content on E-RCTC. I hope this will also grow into a repository of relevant academic research in the area of tobacco control in India to become a one-stop resource for researchers, civil society organizations, and policymakers to access tobacco control-related content in India.

- Dr Rijo M John, PhD

Economist & Public Health Policy Analyst  
Kochi - Kerala - India



# PROJECT UPDATES

## National Consultation on Tobacco Product Waste (TPW), it's Health and Environmental impact conducted by E-Resource Centre for Tobacco Control

A National Consultation on Tobacco Product Waste (TPW), it's Health and Environmental impact was organized by E-Resource Centre for Tobacco Control (E-RCTC) under the Department of Community Medicine & School of Public Health, PGIMER Chandigarh and Strategic Institute of Public Health Education and Research (SIPHER) in collaboration with The International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The UNION). It was held on November 1st, 2020 and was attended by 100 participants.

Mr. C D Singh, IFS Additional Principal Conservator of forest. Ministry of Environment, Regional office, Chandigarh was the Guest of Honour in consultation along with eminent dignitaries from tobacco control field viz. Mr. Chandra Bhushan; Dr. Rana J Singh; Dr. Jagdish Kaur; Dr. Mira B Aghi, Dr. Pankaj Chaturvedi; Dr. PC Gupta, Dr. Ravinder Khaiwal, Dr. Amit Yadav, Mr Pranay Lal , Dr. Rakesh Gupta and Dr. Sonu Goel; shared their experiences in the session.

## National Consultation on Human Rights Dimension of Tobacco Control conducted by E-Resource Centre for Tobacco Control

The poster for the National Consultation on Human Rights Dimension of Tobacco Control (FCTC Implementation) held on December 21, 2020, from 11:00am to 12:30pm. It features a blue and white color scheme with a wavy bottom edge. Logos for the Research Center for Tobacco Control, The Union, and SIPHER are at the top. The poster lists the following participants:

- Chief Guest:** Hon'ble Justice Iqbal Ahmed Ansari, Chairman, Poshik State Human Rights Commission.
- Panelists:** Dr. Pankaj Chaturvedi (Deputy Director, Tata Memorial Centre, Mumbai), Dr. Mira Aghi (Behavioral Scientist, Communication expert), Dr. Rana J Singh (Deputy Regional Director, Tobacco and NCD Control, The Union), Mr. Ranjit Singh (Legal Expert, Advocate at Supreme Court), Dr. Amit Yadav (Senior Technical Advisor, The Union), Ms. Radhika Shrivastav (Director, Health Promotion, HRIDAR).
- Moderators:** Dr. Rakesh Gupta (President and Director, Public Health SIPHER, Chandigarh), Dr. Sonu Goel (Professor, Department of Community Medicine & School of Public Health, PGIMER, Chandigarh).
- Host:** Mr. Arun Verma (Director Finance and Operations, SIPHER).

Organized by: Strategic Institute for Public Health Education and Research (SIPHER), E-Resource Center for Tobacco Control (E-RCTC), under Department of Community Medicine & School of Public Health, PGIMER Chandigarh, and The Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union).

A 'REGISTER HERE' button with the URL <http://t.me/gk9R219TUGy131> and a 'YouTube Live' logo are also present.

A National Consultation on Human Rights Dimension of Tobacco Control was organized by E-Resource Centre for Tobacco Control (E-RCTC) under the Department of Community Medicine & School of Public Health, PGIMER Chandigarh and Strategic Institute of Public Health Education and Research (SIPHER) in collaboration with The International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The UNION).

It was held on December 21st, 2020 with a gathering of about 70 participants. Eminent dignitaries from disparate backgrounds viz. Dr. Rana J Singh; Dr. Mira B Aghi, Prof. Dr. Pankaj Chaturvedi; Mr. Ranjit Singh; Dr. Amit Yadav; Ms. Radhika Shrivastav; Mr. Arun Verma; Mr. Rakesh Gupta and Dr. Sonu Goel; shared their experiences in the session. Hon'able Justice Iqbal Ahmed Ansari graced the occasion as being the chief guest of the consultation.

## TOBACCO-FREE TIMES 10<sup>TH</sup> EDITION RELEASED

Tobacco-Free Times 10<sup>th</sup> edition, with the theme "Tobacco Free Educational Institutions" was launched in the webinar on "Tobacco Free Educational Institutions" organized by E-Resource Centre for Tobacco Control (E-RCTC) in collaboration with AIIMS Bhubaneswar and Department of Health & Family Welfare and Higher Education Department, Government of Odisha and The International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The UNION), held on 20th November, 2020.

## Report of 5<sup>th</sup> National Conference on Tobacco or Health (NCTOH)-Virtual released

The report of 5<sup>th</sup> National Conference on Tobacco or Health (NCTOH)-virtual with the theme "Multi-Sectoral Convergence for Tobacco-Free India: Leading the way Towards SDG's" was launched during National Consultation on Human Rights Dimension of Tobacco Control. It was organized by Resource Centre for Tobacco and Strategic Institute of Public Health Education and Research (SIPHER) in collaboration with The International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The UNION) on 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2020.



**Webinar on “Tobacco Free Educational Institutions”**  
 20th November, 2020 (3.30 PM to 5.20 PM)

**Organised By:** AIIMS Bhubaneswar and Resource Centre for Tobacco Control, PGIMER, Chandigarh.  
**Supported by:** Department of Health & Family Welfare and Higher Education Department, Government of Odisha, and The International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The UNION)

**Speakers:**  
 Dr. Manoj Mishra, Health & Family Welfare Department, Government of Odisha  
 Mr. Sarvesh Kumar Swain, Deputy Commissioner MCI Coordination, Higher Education Department, Government of Odisha  
 Dr. Sumanta Kumar Swain, Additional Secretary, MCI, (MCI, Odisha) Deputy Care & Support, Health & Family Welfare Department, Government of Odisha  
 Dr. Rakesh Ranjan Dasgupta, Additional Director, MCI, (MCI, Odisha) Health & Family Welfare Department, Government of Odisha  
 Dr. Rana J Singh, Deputy Regional Director, Tobacco and MCI Control, The WHO, New Delhi  
 Dr. Sonu Goel, Professor, Dept. of Community Medicine & School of Public Health, Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur  
 Dr. Binod Kumar Patra, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Community Medicine & Family Medicine, AIIMS, Bhubaneswar  
**MODERATOR:** Mr. Rajendra Choudhary, Project Lead/Co-PI, RCTC, Chandigarh

Click here for registration:  
<https://forms.gle/1nMJ17bpg2SuWdN87>

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## Webinar on “Tobacco Free Educational Institutions” conducted in Odisha

A Webinar on “Tobacco Free Educational Institution” was organized by Resource Centre for Tobacco Control in collaboration with AIIMS Bhubaneswar and Department of Health & Family Welfare and Higher Education Department, Government of Odisha with the support of The International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The UNION), held on 20th November, 2020. Many sessions like implementational modalities of tobacco free educational institutions; roles and responsibilities of education department in tobacco control and guidelines for tobacco free educational institutes were discussed in the webinar by eminent speakers of tobacco control field.

### Endline assessment for compliance to COTPA completed in all 4 project states

The data collection in Puducherry, Odisha and Telangana in regard to endline assessment for compliance of COTPA has been completed successfully. In addition to this, data cleaning and analysis of collected data in state of Meghalaya is in progress.

### Baseline assessment for compliance to COTPA completed in Puducherry and Telangana & Meghalaya

The data collection in Puducherry, Meghalaya and Telangana in regard to baseline assessment for compliance of COTPA has been completed successfully. In addition to this, Odisha state has also initiated the process.

### DLCC meeting held in Odisha in Sambalpur district

A DLCC meeting was held on 01.12.2020 in Sambalpur district of Odisha. Officials / representations from various Departments attended the meeting viz. Health, Drugs Control, Food Safety, Education, Police, Municipality, District Welfare Office, District Labour Office, Tourism Office, Information and Public Relation and Social Welfare.

### Training on Tobacco Cessation for Dental Surgeons and Counsellor held in Meghalaya

A training on tobacco cessation for dental surgeons and counsellor organized by State Tobacco Control Cell (STCC) Meghalaya on 15th & 16th December 2020 at NHM training center, DHS campus. The training was attended by counsellors working in Khasi and Jaintia Hills region on the 15th December and by Dental Surgeons working in Khasi and Jaintia Hills Region on the 16th December.

### Weekly review meetings of the project held

A total of four (4) weekly monitoring meeting is being done regularly (every Tuesday) by Dr. Sonu Goel, PI with project staff and co-principal investigator of the project to update the tasks being undertaken by means of structured presentations by the states. Dr. Rana J Singh also provide valuable technical input in the meeting.

### One-to-one meetings held

A total of fifty three (53) one-to-one meetings were held with Health Commissioner, State program coordinator, State IEC team, Assistant program officer the state consultant, Health Commissioner, District NTCP Team and Drugs Inspector SNO and the social health worker for tobacco control regarding implementation of project in new districts, virtual sessions NTCP webinar for district nodal officers and medical Officers, discussion on IEC materials changes and its approval, and having the DLCC meetings at regular interval and resuming the strict enforcement.

### Orientation Workshop on National Tobacco Control Programme was held in Meghalaya

An orientation workshop on National Tobacco Control Programme organized by The International Union against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union) in collaboration with the State Tobacco Control Cell and Voluntary Health Association of Meghalaya (VHAM) held on 9th December 2020 in City Hut Dhaba, Meghalaya. The Deputy Commissioner, East Khasi Hills graced the workshop as the Chief Guest. The workshop was attended by representatives from Police Department, Labour Department, Social Welfare Department, DIPR, Rangbah Shongs from various localities, Traditional leaders from the O/o of the Hima Mylliem, KHADC., Health Department.



# TOBACCO PRODUCT WASTE (TPW)



## Q1. What is tobacco product waste (TPW)?

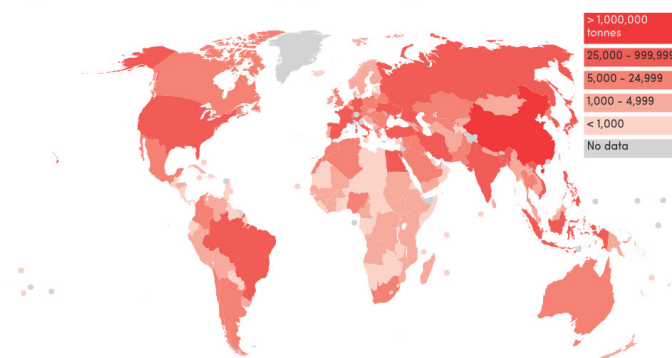
The waste generated during tobacco production (pesticides, fungicides, growth regulators), tobacco products manufacturing (nicotine and harmful chemicals), packaging (paper, ink, cellophane, foil and glue) and after consumption constitutes tobacco product waste (TPW). Cigarette butts (30-40%) is the most common form of litter with non-biodegradable cellulose acetate filter attached to most manufactured cigarettes as the main component of cigarette butt waste (arsenic, lead, nicotine and ethyl phenol). In addition, batteries, chemicals, packaging and other non-biodegradable materials of electronic cigarettes also constitute TPW resulting in extensive consequences for the environment, climate, and human population.<sup>[1-3]</sup> Besides, polythene pouches used for smokeless tobacco products also constitute TPW.



## Q2. What is the burden of TPW?

As many as 5.6 trillion cigarettes are discarded as litter each year, comprising up to 770,000 metric tons of waste. 98 percent of cigarette filters are made of plastic fibers (cellulose acetate) that are tightly packed together, which leads to an estimated 1.69 billion pounds of cigarette butts winding up as toxic trash each year. Besides cigarettes, other tobacco products make significant contributions to the prevalence of tobacco-associated litter. Plastic cigar tips, which are most commonly used with cigarillos and small cigars, are one of the most abundant items of plastic marine debris on beaches around the world, sometimes second in quantity only to cigarette butts.<sup>[4,5]</sup> In India, 15,000 tonnes of plastic waste is generated daily from smokeless tobacco products of which only 9,000 tonnes is collected and processed.<sup>[6]</sup>

Cigarette Butt and Packaging Waste By Tonne



## Q3. How long does it take for cigarettes to decompose?

Although cigarettes don't break down naturally, they can gradually decompose depending on environmental conditions like the rain and sun. Estimates on the time it takes vary, but a recent study found that a cigarette butt was only about 38 percent decomposed after two years.<sup>[7]</sup> Littered plastic pouches of smokeless tobacco pose an environmental threat and take up about 1000 years to decompose in the landfills.

## Q4. What are the various constituents of TPW?

There are 7000 chemicals contained in cigarettes TPW, and many of them, such as ethyl phenol, heavy metals and nicotine, are themselves toxic. At least 50 are known human carcinogens. Some polyaromatic hydrocarbons in roadside cigarette butt waste and roadside soil are:<sup>[8]</sup>

PAHs	Concentration (mg/kg wet)		Load potential (mg/km/month) <sup>1</sup>
	Cigarette butts	Roadside soil	
Fluorene	0.028	0.01	0.0023
Phenanthrene	0.078	0.14	0.0063
Anthracene	0.071	0.0058	0.00057
Pyrene	0.091	0.36	0.0074
Benzo(a)anthracene	0.026	0.084	0.0021
Chrysene	0.044	0.11	0.0035
Benzo(b)fluoranthene	0.031	0.088	0.0025
Benzo(k)fluoranthene	0.015	0.055	0.0012
Benzo(a)pyrene	0.031	0.12	0.0025
Dibenzo(a,h)anthracene	0.0065	0.016	0.00053
Benzo(g,h,i)perylene	0.031	0.093	0.0025
Total	0.39	1.1	0.032

Dangerous pesticides that are used during agricultural production of tobacco have devastating effects too. Some of them are:<sup>[6]</sup>

Pesticides	Effects
Aldicarb	Affects brain, immune and reproductive system in animals and humans, highly toxic even in low doses.
Chlorpyrifos	Affects brain and respiratory system at high doses; found widely in soil, water, air and food.
1,3-Dichloropropene	Highly toxic effects on skin, eye, respiratory and reproductive system; probable cancer causing agent in humans.
Imidacloprid	Affects brain and respiratory system; highly toxic to bees.
Chloropicrin	Lung-damaging agent, high-level exposures cause vomiting, toxic to fish and other organisms.
Methyl Bromide	Affects skin, eye, brain and respiratory system, may cause fluid in lungs, headaches, tremors, paralysis and convulsions.



## Q5. What is the possible pathway for human health risks due to TPW?

The pollutant from TPW is transferred by deposition on land and water bodies followed by runoff to surface water that provides drinking water. It could also be transferred by deposition to vegetation that feeds humans or to vegetation that feeds the animals that supply meat and milk to troops. Toxic chemicals are leached from discarded tobacco products and may then contaminate our streams, rivers, beaches, and urban environments. Each of these scenarios also defines a pathway through the air emission of TPW.<sup>[2]</sup>



## Q6. What is the Indian scenario of tobacco product waste?

More than 100 billion cigarette butts are being dumped in India every year. The public discourse in India on the health impacts of tobacco use along with the discussions on its effect on environment has been scanty. Fortunately, India has taken up the legislative strategy of refraining smokeless tobacco manufacturers from using plastic materials in the sachets of gutkha and pan masala under the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016. However, until recently cigarette butts escaped any such regulations. Moreover, cigarette/bidi butts has been termed 'biodegradable' by Ministry of Environment and Forests. Recognizing the health hazard posed by non-biodegradable cigarette/bidi butts, the environmental experts in the country contended for the stricter implementation of laws on public smoking and an appropriate system in place for the management of TPW. In addition, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan or Clean India Mission was launched on 2nd October 2019 which follows '3R's' i.e. Reduce waste (by refusing unnecessary packaging), Reuse and Recycle is a viable option for the management of tobacco product waste. Besides, some legislations have been passed in our country so far to tackle tobacco product waste to an extent. Some of these are:

- The Rajasthan High Court applied 'polluter pays' principle on the gutka manufacturer being responsible for creating plastic waste and imposed exemplary damages while restrained the manufacturers of gutka and pan masala from selling their products in plastic sachets. The direction from the Apex Court in this matter resulted in changing of the plastic waste management and handling regulation which banned the storing, packing or selling of gutka, tobacco and pan masala in plastic sachets which resulted in restriction on the use of plastics for packaging of gutka, tobacco and pan masala.
- The following laws/legislations bans the use of plastic for the packaging of tobacco products:
  - Rules 2(2) and 4(f) and (i) of the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016
  - Sections 6, 8 and 25 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986
- The following laws/legislations bans the spitting and littering of tobacco products in public places:
  - Section 133 of the CrPC
  - Sections 268 and 269 of IPC,
  - Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Clean India Mission)

## Q7. What is the global scenario of tobacco product waste?

Cigarette butts are dropped on sidewalks in urban neighborhoods, in parks, beaches, and flicked from moving cars. Cigarette butts are the most common debris item collected from beaches and waterways during the annual International Coastal Cleanups, a status that has been maintained since 1986 (Novotny, 2009). In the United States, an estimated 326.6 billion cigarettes were sold in 2011 (CDC, 2012), and in California, approximately 2 billion cigarettes were sold in that year. It is estimated that 1 in every 3 smoked cigarette are discarded as environmental waste. Discarded cigarette butts have been linked to wildfires, which result in the destruction of wildlife, vegetation and structures (National Fire Protection Agency, 2010).<sup>[9]</sup>

## Q8. What are the harmful effects of tobacco product waste?

Cigarette butts contain all the carcinogens, heavy metals, pesticides, and nicotine that make tobacco use the leading cause of preventable death worldwide (Moerman, 2011, Sheets, 1991, Hoffman, 1997).

Some of the harmful effects of TPW are summarized as under

<b>Agricultural Chemicals</b>	The harmful chemicals in tobacco leaf are transferred to cigarette smoke, they are retained by the cigarette filters and tobacco remnants in cigarette butts which have the tendency to bioaccumulate in the human food chain.
<b>Effect on marine/aquatic life</b>	Numerous chemicals from tobacco leaf such as heavy metals, nicotine and ethylphenol get into water and contaminate aquatic environments. The toxic exposure can poison fish, as well as animals who eat cigarette butts.
<b>Effect on animals</b>	Animals indiscriminate eaters, and ingested plastic trash, including cigarette butts, can choke an animal or poison it with toxins and leads subsequent under-nutrition.
<b>Effect due to nicotine presence</b>	These may represent a wide variety of symptoms including nausea, vomiting, salivation and diaphoresis; with severe poisoning, there may be convulsions, bradycardia with hypotension, cardiac arrhythmias and respiratory depression.
<b>Effect on children</b>	Children often explore their environment through oral contact or through mimicry of adult behaviours. It causes nausea and vomiting in low doses, and more extensive neurological symptoms with higher doses.
<b>Effect on birds</b>	Curious birds ingests cigarette butts left in household ashtrays and this ingestion can cause excessive salivation, excitement, tremors, vomiting, lack of coordination, weakness, convulsions, respiratory failure and even death



## Q9. What are the environmental principles applicable to TPW management?

**Extended Producer Responsibility Principle (EPR) and Product Stewardship (PS):** Thomas Lindqvist, Senior Lecturer, The International Institute for Industrial Environment Economics, defined EPR as an environmental policy protection strategy to reach an environmental objective of a decreased total environmental impact from a product, by making the manufacturer of the product responsible for the entire life-cycle of the product and especially for take-back, recycling and final disposal of the product. PS contrasts with EPR in that PS may involve other actors along the supply and retail chain, whereas EPR focuses all the responsibility for waste management onto manufacturers.

**Polluter Pays Principle (PPP):** As framed, the PPP meant that the polluter should bear the expenses of carrying out pollution prevention and control measures decided by public authorities to ensure that the environment is in an acceptable state.

**Precautionary Principle:** The Precautionary Principle is based on the caution that governs many aspects of daily life, and responds to the complexity of environmental risks to health and the often indeterminate nature of cause-and-effect relationships between potentially hazardous waste products and health effects. This principle calls for preventive, anticipatory measures to be taken when an activity raises threats of harm to the environment, wildlife, or human health, even if cause-and-effect relationships are not fully established.<sup>[8]</sup>

## Q10. What are the initiatives (best practices) taken by various stakeholders to curb TPW?

Several initiatives have been set forth to fight the crusade against TPW in various parts of the world.

### 1. Swachh Association

Swachh Association, an NGO in Nagpur, India started in December 2019, as an innovative project of collecting and recycling the cigarette butts. About 150 kg of cigarette butts have in been collected per month in the past three months as a part of this campaign



### 2. CODE- A recycling company

A company named 'CODE' was started by two entrepreneurs Naman Gupta and Vishal Kanet in Noida, India which offers a one-time recycling solution to TPW. The company provides user collection units called VBins to the customers in which the cigarette waste is segregated. After every 15 days the company's garbage collector collects the waste from the generator's location. The company pays Rs. 700 for every kilogram and Rs. 80 for every 100 grams of cigarette waste collected.



### 3. Anti-Littering Campaign

To mark World Cleanup Day 2019, over 3,900 people from 31 countries took part and picked up 83 tons of waste, including 827,000 cigarette butts. These cleanups had a powerful impact on the communities where they took place, and that is why it has been included as a part of the "Reduce Litter from the Ground" anti-littering strategy

### 4. 'The only butt' campaign

The 'only butt campaign' has been successfully used by businesses, government departments and since 2004 in Australia to educate smokers about the problem of cigarette butt litter – with sensational results.

When combined with an appropriate photo, 'the only butt' campaign encourages smokers to consider their cigarette butt litter in the context of the organisation's

specific situation. To maximize their smokers interest in their organisation's efforts to reduce cigarette butt litter many of our clients actually run intra-corporate competitions amongst their staff and employees for them to submit their own 'butt' photos.



### 5. Let's Do It India (LDII) Campaign

'Let's Do It India', a Delhi based NGO is working towards educating people on this kind of waste and also encourages people to collect and donate their cigarette butts to the organization for recycle purposes The NGO targets to collect about 1 crore cigarette-butts (3 tonnes approx) until the end of 2021.

The campaign aims to stir awareness around the severe environmental impact of cigarette butts while shifting behaviours to regulate butt litter



## 6. Fill the Bottle Campaign

'Fill the Bottle Campaign' launched in August 2019 by a group of French teenagers to clean the cigarette butts flicked into drains, mashed under foot or dropped in parks. The campaign has inspired thousands to clean up what is thought to be the most common form of litter around the globe.



## 7. Bin The Butt Campaign

The 'Bin The Butt' campaign is being developed in UK for local authorities, to help stamp out the smoking related litter issue and aims to raise awareness amongst smokers and highlight the link between the cigarette butt they drop on the street or down the drain and the impact it has on the marine environment.



## Q11. What are the various models proposed by the stakeholders on TPW ?

The imperishable nature of TPW renders it a potential hazard for the environment and therefore requires appropriate policy interventions.

Following models have been proposed by the stakeholders for possible action on TPW:

**Labeling:** There is enough evidence stating the effectiveness of package warning on tobacco products. Additional labels on the toxicity of the cigarette butts on the environment should be considered.

**Deposit/Return:** Several US states have implemented deposit-return schemes on glass and metal beverage containers wherein a

consumer-paid monetary deposit is imposed, which is reimbursed on return of these items. This system has proven effective in reducing the litter and increasing the recycle of goods. A similar system could be put into place for the management of TPW.

**Litigations:** Litigations can be filed by the state or local authorities against the tobacco industry; holding them responsible for clean up and nuisance costs associated with tobacco products.

**Fines:** Fines can be levied against the tobacco users and the manufacturers by the government authorities for public littering of TPW.

**Product changes:** States could consider banning the sale of filtered cigarettes if these were to be considered an environmental hazard and nuisance burden. All tobacco product packaging should be environment friendly and made of bio-degradable materials e.g. paper, other natural fibres or metals such as tin.

**Consumer education and responsibility:** It is an accepted notion in health behavior science that human behavior changes only if there are costs, benefits, and social norms to support these changes. Tobacco control enthusiasts and environmentalists should join hands for educating the public on the hazardous impact of TPW on the environment.

**Cost recovery/Waste tax:** Tobacco litter abatement costs to cities are substantial. One solution to reducing toxic waste from computers, telephones, and televisions is a consumer-funded Advanced Recycling Fee (ARF) which is assessed at the time of purchase for these products and it is meant to pay for the costs of recycling and disposing properly of any non-recyclable material. San Francisco has implemented this intervention by raising the price by approximately \$0.20–\$0.40 per pack. Such a price hike would also result in reduced consumption.

**Mitigation Fees:** Some governments impose mitigation fees to offset costs they incur to deal with improperly disposed cigarette butts. These costs cover services such as litter collection and disposal, public education, signage, and administration of the self-funding program. A mitigation fee is also likely to result indirectly in an increase in cigarette prices.

**Deposit and Refund Programs:** A deposit and refund program requires that consumers pay an extra fee when purchasing cigarettes. Consumers then recoup the fee by returning used filters to the manufacturer or place of purchase. Unreimbursed deposits can be used to fund cigarette butt waste cleanups, public education programs about the negative consequences of smoking and butt flicking.

**Biodegradable Filters or Unfiltered Cigarettes:** Some companies have developed biodegradable and compostable cigarette filters using natural fibers like hemp, cotton, and food-grade starch. These alternative filters are intended to help reduce environmental pollution from cigarette butts, since they decompose more quickly in the environment, as well as in smokers' lungs.

**Product Stewardship:** The product stewardship approach requires that a manufacturing industry assume responsibility for the entire lifecycle of its products.

**Filter Recycling:** Several programs and processes have been developed to recycle used filters into useful materials, such as sealants or adhesives, with the goal of keeping cigarette butts out of landfills and off streets and beaches.



# NATIONAL CONSULTATION (VIRTUAL) ON TOBACCO PRODUCT WASTE AND ITS HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

A national consultation on tobacco product waste (TPW) & its health and environmental impact was virtually organized by E-Resource Centre for Tobacco Control (E-RCTC), Department of Community Medicine & School of Public Health, PGIMER Chandigarh in collaboration with Strategic Institute of Public Health Education and Research (SIPHER) and The International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union) South-East Asia Office, New Delhi on 1st November 2020.

Mr. C. D. Singh, IFS, Addl. Principal Conservator of Forests (C), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Regional

Office (NZ) Chandigarh was the Guest of Honour at the consultation that was attended by experts from The Union South East Asia, International Forum for Environment Sustainability and Technology (iFOREST), WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia, Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai, Healis Sekhsaria Institute of Public Health, Mumbai, Rajasthan Cancer Foundation, Jaipur, Department of Community Medicine & School of Public Health, PGIMER, Chandigarh and Strategic Institute of Public Health Education & Research (SIPHER), Chandigarh. In addition, more than 50 other experts and participants joined the consultation and gave their inputs through various online platforms.

## EXPERTS COMMENTS



The tobacco epidemic is one of the biggest public health threats the world has ever faced, killing more than 8 million people a year around the world and more than 1.25 million per year in India.

- Dr. Rakesh Gupta  
President & Director of Public Health,  
SIPHER



Tobacco product waste (TPW) has received little attention despite post-consumption litter produced by the approximately 6.3 trillion cigarettes smoked globally every year.

- Dr. Sonu Goel  
Director E-RCTC & Professor, PGIMER  
Chandigarh



Cigarette filters are made of cellulose acetate, which is a nearly non-biodegradable plastic that collects chemicals that are produced by smoking. This plastic component of filtered cigarettes may not degrade in the environment for many years.

- Dr. Rana J Singh  
Deputy Regional Director,  
The Union - South East Asia



Tobacco not only kills 13.5 lac Indians who consume it but also kills many more millions by adversely impact our environment. Tobacco users should be conscious that they are patronizing an Industry that will not only kill them but also causing humongous damage to our nature endangering all living species and polluting air/water/soil. One tree is cut for every 300 cigarette sticks.

- Prof. Dr. Pankaj Chaturvedi  
Deputy Director, Center for Cancer  
Epidemiology, Tata Memorial Center,  
Mumbai



The Government is in process to develop guidelines for cigarette butt disposal by December. The country has done tremendous work on the health aspect of tobacco; however, the environmental aspect is yet to be worked on.

- Chandra Bhushan  
Environmentalist and CEO iFORESTS



## The Consultation ended with following recommendations:

### RELATED TO MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS TO BE IMPLEMENTED BY CPCB:

Appropriate amends may be made in rules for implementation of Pollution Control Act

1. Cigarette butts, which primarily contain cellulose acetate (95%), a redundant addition to cigarettes should be banned to be used in manufacturing of cigarettes.
2. All tobacco product packaging should be environment friendly and made of bio-degradable materials e.g. paper, other natural fibres or metals such as tin.
3. The central pollution control board should classify tobacco product wastes including spitting induced from tobacco use as toxic waste and issue regulations for its proper collection, management and disposal.
4. The CPCB should ensure proper disposal of TPW and impose hefty penalty for littering of TPW.
5. Regulations should also require that all tobacco products pack should be labeled that they comply with and have paid for waste collection, management and disposal.
6. Extended Producer Responsibility should be imposed on the manufacturers of all tobacco products who shall be responsible for collection, transport, processing and safe disposal of their TPW i.e. for the entire lifecycle of the products they produce.

### NATIONAL PROGRAMME ON CLEANLINESS

National missions on cleanliness like Swachh Bharat Mission and the Swachh-Nirmal Tat Mission should

### RELATED TO MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE

#### 1. Regulation under the COTPA, 2003:

All the provisions of COTPA should be implemented strictly by all stakeholders departments including those related to TPW in compliance to WHO FCTC treaty signed by Govt. of India.

#### 2. National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP)

State level coordination committee under NTCP, should include a member from the state pollution control board to guide about the collection, management and disposal of TPW.

### RELATED TO DEPT. OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT (REGULATION BY MUNICIPAL, PANCHAYAT AND LOCAL BODIES)

1. Onus of compliance with the provision should be placed equally on the manufacturers, distributors, retailers and the users. They should be required by the municipal authorities to pay for the cleaning, recycling and tobacco litter abatement keeping with the 'polluter pays' principle.
2. Local authorities should ban use and spitting of tobacco in all public places as a preventive measure to control TPW induced communicable and infectious diseases.
3. Limit the number of tobacco product retailers within a jurisdiction by licensing of tobacco shops, wherein the retailers should be held responsible for collection and disposal of the TPW from their customers.



## RELATED TO MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

### Legal Metrology Act:

1. To reduce TPW, tobacco products should be sold in a standardized packaging of no less than 20 cigarettes and Bidis and no less than 100 grams for other tobacco products. Regulation to this effect should be issued under COTPA.
2. Regulations should also require that all tobacco products pack should be labelled that they comply with and have paid for waste collection, management and disposal.

## MASS AWARENESS INITIATIVES BY MOEF, MOH&FW AND MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

1. Central, State and District pollution control boards and tobacco control cells should inform the public about the toxicity and environmental hazards of TPW and discourage tobacco use in the interest of their own health, others health and the health of the environment.
2. Awareness of public through advisories in Print/ electronic / Social media regarding health and environmental impact of TPW should be prioritized through targeted IEC campaigns
3. Such awareness material should also target all manufacturers, distributors and retailers of tobacco products who should be directed to comply with existing provisions and regulations under various legislation e.g. Food Safety and Standards Act, Drugs and Cosmetics Act, Poisons Act, Indian Penal Code, Juvenile Justice Act, Prohibition on ENDS Act, Environment Protection Act etc.

**“TPW is also a concern of Human Rights. Hardly do smokers realize that butt litter pollutes our waters which is likely to affect and damage both physical and mental health. Smokers not only violate the Rights of the people by subjecting them to their smoke, but also polluting the water they drink and cook with and therefore, violating human rights.”**

### Way forward

Tobacco product manufacturing is extremely resource-intensive and releases millions of tons of hazardous waste and emissions, while tobacco-associated deforestation alone is a substantial contributor to climate change. Further, there is enough evidence pointing towards the ubiquitous nature of TPW and its toxic impact on environment to make a strong case on the need for our Government to address the issue as a matter of priority. Several models have been recommended for effective management of TPW but addressing the elephant in the room, strategy for imposing absolute liability of the TPW on the manufacturers of tobacco products is still in question. A strong partnership between environmental groups and tobacco control advocates is the need of the hour to layout the roadmap for effective TPW management.

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11. (Policy Tools for Minimizing Public Health and Environmental Effects of Cigarette Waste)
12. (Smokeless Tobacco Control in India)
13. (Centre, Tobacco Product Waste: Freuently asked Questions)

We are thankful to Dr Garima Bhatt and Dr Neema Joseph for their valuable contributions.



## Ensure implementation of new set of health warnings on tobacco products: Centre to states



The Union Health Ministry has asked all states to ensure implementation of a new set of health warnings with enhanced pictorial images on all tobacco which would bring greater awareness and sensitization about the serious and adverse health consequences of tobacco use, especially among the youth, children and the illiterate.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/cons-products/tobacco/ensure-implementation-of-new-set-of-health-warnings-on-tobacco-products-centre-to-states/articleshow/79592941.cms?from=mdr>



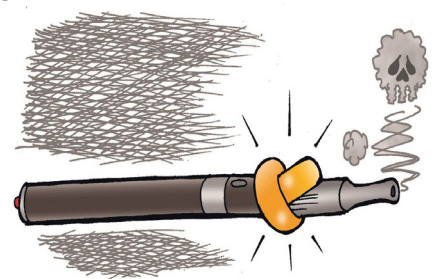
### Centre drafts law to raise legal age of smoking to 21 years

The Centre has prepared a bill to raise the age for allowing sale of cigarettes and tobacco products to 21 years from the current 18 years. The provision for raising the age limit to 21 years is part of the new bill being piloted by the Union Health Ministry.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/central-government-drafts-law-to-raise-legal-age-of-smoking-to-21-years-121010200391\\_1.html#:~:text=The%20government%20has%20drafted%20the,by%20the%20Union%20Health%20Ministry](https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/central-government-drafts-law-to-raise-legal-age-of-smoking-to-21-years-121010200391_1.html#:~:text=The%20government%20has%20drafted%20the,by%20the%20Union%20Health%20Ministry)

## Jharkhand orders youths to quit smoking if they want government jobs

State's nodal officer for national tobacco control programme Mr. LS Pathak voiced up that anybody getting employment in the Jharkhand government sector will now have to submit an affidavit declaring that they will not consume tobacco in any form whether in office or outside. This will be the basis of their recruitment in the state government. The decision to ensure the tobacco products are not sold within the radius of 100 meters from educational institutions was also taken and warned of strict action against the shopkeepers found violating the rule was also put in light.



<https://gulfnnews.com/world/asia/india/jharkhand-orders-youths-to-quit-smoking-if-they-want-government-jobs-1.75688134#:~:text=Patna%3A%20An%20eastern%20Indian%20state,products%20in%20office%20or%20outside>

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### 5<sup>th</sup> 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**

For more information, visit our website : [www.nctoh2020.com](http://www.nctoh2020.com)



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ABSTRACT



## National Law School of India University (NLSIU) report identifies 'glaring gaps' in tobacco control laws

According to the NLSIU report, the permission for smoking in designated areas of restaurants and airport and the prominent display of advertisements of tobacco products in stores and kiosks make the existing tobacco control laws ineffective for regulating tobacco consumption and exposure to second-hand smoke.

[https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/report-identifies-glaring-gaps-in-tobacco-control-laws/article33179531.ece#:~:text=Permission%20for%20smoking%20in%20designated,of%20India%20University%20\(NLSIU\).](https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/report-identifies-glaring-gaps-in-tobacco-control-laws/article33179531.ece#:~:text=Permission%20for%20smoking%20in%20designated,of%20India%20University%20(NLSIU).)



## Trinidad and Tobago to increase about 20 percent taxes on Tobacco

Finance Minister Colm Imbert passed the bill ensuring to increase the taxes on cigarettes and tobacco at least by 20% in terms of customs duties and excise duties as well as an improvement in weed tax for extra-regional products.

<https://wicnews.com/caribbean/trinidad-and-tobago-to-increase-about-20-percent-taxes-on-tobacco-512531347/#:~:text=Trinidad%20and%20Tobago%20to%20increase%20about%2020%20percent%20taxes%20on%20Tobacco,-By&text=Trinidad%20and%20Tobago%3A%20Finance%20Minister,given%20the%20severe%20health%20risks.>

## Policy responses to smokeless tobacco (ST) in India during the COVID19 pandemic

Against the background of smokeless tobacco, it was reported that up to 28 states and UTs had implemented various restrictions relating to ST products, specifically with the view to control the spread of COVID-19.

<https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/policy-responses-to-smokeless-tobacco-st-in-india-during-the-covid19-pandemic/>

## 246 men die weekly from tobacco-related diseases in Nigeria: NTCA



According to the report of Nigeria Tobacco Control Alliance, the morbidity and mortality caused by tobacco use in the country is currently causing huge loss to socio-economic development, which has affected individuals,

families, and the country at large and is acting as the main hindrance in achieving sustainable development goals.

<https://www.vanguardngr.com/2020/11/246-men-die-weekly-from-tobacco-related-diseases-ntca/>

## Palamur pitches for drug-free district

As a part of 'Nasha Mukta Bharat' programme launched in Mahabubnagar, the district administration has taken up a huge awareness campaign to eradicate drug addiction among the people and is aiming to make Mahabubnagar district free from all kinds of narcotic addictions.

<https://www.thehansindia.com/telangana/palamur-pitches-for-drug-free-district-660377>



## End of the road for ENDS! Why we must applaud ban on e-cigarettes



The Union and state governments took timely action and work towards banning Electronic Nicotine Delivery System (ENDS), or e-cigarettes in India as 26.68 crore Indians use tobacco. Though the consumption among kids witnessed a 33% decline, should be to stop its initiation itself.

<https://www.thespuzz.com/end-of-the-road-for-ends-why-we-have-to-applaud-ban-on-e-cigarettes/#:~:text=Why%20we%20have%20to%20applaud%20ban%20on%20e%20cigarettes,-By&text=Thus%2C%20indicating%20that%20they%20have,the%20country's%20tobacco%20manage%20efforts.&text=The%20Prohibition%20of%20Electronic%20Cigarettes,on%20December%205%20final%20year.>

## NMDOH celebrates the implementation of the Tobacco Products Act



The New Mexico Department of Health virtually celebrated the implementation of the Tobacco Products Act which went into effect on Jan. 1, 2021. It ensures to increase the minimum legal sales age for all tobacco products in New Mexico to 21 years. The act also creates new licensing requirements for tobacco retailers.

<https://www.nmhealth.org/news/awareness/2020/12/?view=1279#:~:text=NMDOH%20celebrates%20the%20implementation%20of%20the%20Tobacco%20Products%20Act,-December%2017%2C%202020&text=1%2C%202021%2C%20increases%20the%20minimum,licensing%20requirements%20for%20tobacco%20retailers.>

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