



TOBACCO-FREE Times

www.rctepgi.org

Issue XVIII : January-February, 2022

Tobacco Endgame Series Edition 1: Tobacco Free Generation

E-RCTC-An Eccentric Approach for Tobacco Endgame



To track and disseminate the tobacco-control activities from different parts of India, the Department of Community Medicine and School of Public Health, PGIMER Chandigarh in collaboration with International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases (The SEA) developed E-Resource

Centre for Tobacco Control (e-RCTC) in the year 2018. So far, the portal has been viewed by 3.1 lac individuals from over 95 countries. This portal aims to create awareness among the individuals about tobacco along with nefarious practices adopted by the tobacco industry leading to initiation of tobacco and nicotine use among youth of our country. The portal is a resource for those who are working for various tobacco control initiatives either at the national or global level.

Tobacco Free Times 17th Edition released



The 17th edition of tobacco-free times with the theme "Multi-Sectoral Convergence in Tobacco Control" was successfully released in a "State-level sensitization workshop for policymakers, officials of different stakeholder departments, and other key stakeholders organized at the state of Telangana" by Dr. Vikas Bhatia, Director, AIIMS Bibinagar; in the presence of various dignitaries viz. Dr. Anusha, Assistant Program Officer NTCP, NHM; Mr. Jagannath Reddy, State Program Coordinator, NHM Telangana; Mr. Rajeev Chaudhary, Project Coordinator, DCM-SPH, PGIMER, Chandigarh; Dr. Durgesh, Professor SPM, AIIMS, Bibinagar; Ms. Vandana, Professor SPM, AIIMS, Bibinagar; and Dr. Shravan Kumar, State Program Officer, PGIMER Chandigarh.

EDITOR'S SPEAK



The E-RCTC aims to strengthen tobacco control initiatives by disseminating reliable information to varied stakeholders. As there is a need to reach the highest level in the area of tobacco control and attain sustainable development goals, we have to push ourselves from 'Tobacco Control' to 'Tobacco Elimination'. In this regard, we are introducing our first theme-based publication on "Tobacco-Free Generation," (TFG) under the series of "Tobacco Endgame". This newsletter will focus on the various models and step-wise approach towards reaching TFG. Through this, I urge all the tobacco control stalwarts to gear up and strengthen the implementation of tobacco control policies so to achieve tobacco endgame in the country.

- Dr Sonu Goel,

Director, E-RCTC & Professor, PGIMER Chandigarh

EXPERTS' SPEAK



Tobacco control needs multi-stakeholder sensitisation, engagement and action. Working with communities on creating awareness is important.

- Ms Preeti Sudan,

Ex-Secretary Health, Government of India



"Tobacco Free Generation" is a concept close to my heart and I have seen with utter dismay that children as young as 6- years are chewing sweetened arecanut and tobacco in Pimpri-Chinchwad, Pune. Let us all pledge to fight this deadly menace together. I have accessed the E-RCTC in the past to know more about the status of ToFEI in the different States of India. The information that I gathered helped me shape up the research paper that I was writing. Kudos to the team who has worked hard for providing updated information.

- Dr. Sahana Hegde-Shetiya,

Prof and Head, Department of Public Health Dentistry
Dr. D Y Patil Dental College and Hospital, Pimpri, Pune



I am pleased to be a part of and contribute to Resource Centre for tobacco control. It provides comprehensive details of all circulars, orders issued in India and iec for tobacco control. It keeps us updated about the recent advancements being done under the program. I appreciate the work being done by PGI Chandigarh – RCTC.

- Dr. Kamlesh Jain,

Professor, Department of Community Medicine State Nodal Officer,
NTCP, Chattisgarh



PROJECT UPDATES

State level sensitization workshop for policymakers, officials of different stakeholder departments, and other key stakeholders in Telangana



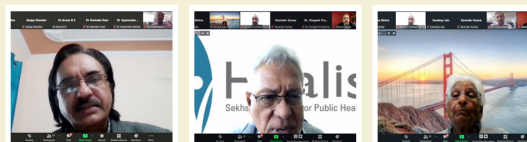
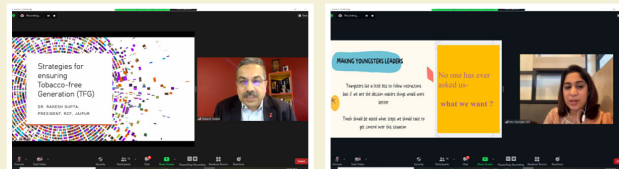
A state level sensitization workshop for policymakers, officials of different stakeholder departments, and other key stakeholders was successfully organized by AIIMS, Bibinagar; PGIMER Chandigarh and Govt. of Telangana supported by International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union, SEA) on January 5, 2022 at Hotel Sitara (SVM GRAND), Koti Hyderabad. Total of 74 participants (44 physical and 30 virtual) attended the workshop. The workshop was graced by various high level

dignitaries viz. Dr. Vikas Bhatia, Director, AIIMS Bibinagar; Dr. Anusha, Assistant Program Officer NTCP, NHM; Mr. Jagannath Reddy, State Program Coordinator, NHM Telangana; Mr. Rajeev Chaudhary, Project Coordinator, DCM-SPH, PGIMER, Chandigarh; Dr. Durgesh, Professor SPM, AIIMS, Bibinagar; Ms. Vandana, Professor SPM, AIIMS, Bibinagar; and Dr. Shravan Kumar, State Program Officer, PGIMER Chandigarh.

State level sensitization workshop for policymakers and officials of different stakeholder departments: Meghalaya

A state-level sensitization workshop for policymakers and officials of different stakeholder departments was successfully held virtually on January 28 2022 with a total of 35 participants. Dr. Star Pala, Associate Professor, Dept. of Community Medicine, NEIGRIHMS; Dr. Lana E.Lyngdoh State Nodal Officer NTCP, Meghalaya; Dr. Sonu Goel, Professor, SPH, PGIMER; and Mr. Rajeev Choudhury Project Coordinator, PGIMER Chandigarh were the key speakers in the workshop. Dr Rana J Singh, Deputy Regional Director South East Asia, The Union; and Sri Ram Kumar, IAS, Mission Director, NHM, Meghalaya, graced the occasion by being the Guest of Honor and the Chief Guest, respectively.

National Webinar on Tobacco-Free Generation: A Step Towards Tobacco Endgame



A national webinar on "Tobacco-Free Generation: A Step Towards Tobacco Endgame" was successfully organized by the Resource Center for Tobacco Control supported by the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases (The SEA) on February 15, 2022 with a participation of 102 candidates. Dr. Mira B Aghi, Behavioral Scientist and Communication Expert; Dr. Rana J Singh, Deputy Regional Director, International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease, South East Asia; Dr. P.C. Gupta, Director, Healis Sekhsaria Institute of Public Health, Navi Mumbai and Dr. L Swasticharan, Addl. DDG, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, GOI, New Delhi graced the occasion by being the Guest of Honors. The speakers of the webinar included Dr. Rakesh Gupta, President, Rajasthan Cancer Foundation; Ms. Opinder Preet Gill, Director Programs, Generation Saviour Association, Mohali Punjab; Dr. Sonu Goel, Professor DCM & SPH PGIMER Chandigarh and Mr. Prabhakara, State Consultant, Karnataka, International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases, South-East Asia. Key recommendations concerning Tobacco Free Generation were discussed and finalized during the webinar.

Raise Taxes On Tobacco

Taxes are a proven and effective measure.

- ✓ 10% increase in price reduces demand by –
 - 4% in high-income countries
 - 8% in low or middle-income countries

Implementation in India:

- GST was introduced in 2017
- Cigarettes – 28% GST + 15% Cess
- Bidis – 28% GST
- Smokeless – 28% GST + 15% Cess

Young people and the poor are the most price responsive

FCTC WHO FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON TOBACCO CONTROL

Article 5.3: Recommendations

1. Raise awareness about the addictive and harmful nature of tobacco products and about tobacco industry interference with Parties' tobacco control policies.
2. Establish measures to limit interactions with the tobacco industry and ensure the transparency of those interactions that occur.
3. Reject partnerships and non-binding or non-enforceable agreements with the tobacco industry.
4. Avoid conflicts of interest for government officials and employees.



Official Launch of 6-Months online “Advanced Course on Tobacco Control”

The official launch ceremony of a 6 month online “Advanced Course on Tobacco Control” was organized by the Resource Centre for Tobacco Control on February 28, 2022. The participants comprised of the key dignitaries, faculty members, and 45 participants from around 20 states of the country who have enrolled for the course. Ms. Preeti Sudan, Ex-Health Secretary, Govt. of India joined the ceremony as the Chief Guest along with Dr. L Swasticharan, Addl. DDG, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, GOI, New Delhi; Dr P C Gupta, Director, Healix Seksharia Institute of Public Health, Navi Mumbai; and Dr. Rana J Singh, Deputy Regional Director, The Union who graced the occasion as the Guest of Honors. The senior faculty members shared their experiences of the previous course and elucidated the needs and benefits of the course to the participants. In addition to this, few course participants enumerated their expectations from the course.



IEC materials prepared

Posters on “Tobacco Free Premises”, COTPA, and COVID-tobacco both in English and Odia languages were handed over to the Drugs Control Office in the state of Odisha for sending to all offices across the 30 districts. In addition to this, posters on “Prohibition of Tobacco in Public Places” and “Prohibition of Tobacco sale within 100 yards of Educational Institutions” have been finalized in consultation with NTCP Cell, Odisha. Also, two awareness posters were designed and shared with the Telangana State Transport Corporation (TSRTC), in collaboration with the state health department. Along with this, guidelines to declare smoke free bus stations and buses were also provided. In addition to this, an IEC poster on ‘Tobacco Free School Guidelines’ was also designed and shared with the state of Telangana.



One-to-One Meetings

A total of twenty-five (25) meetings were held during the month with State Nodal Officer and State Consultant-NTCP of all project states, SNO-cum-Deputy Secretary, Higher Education Department, Odisha, State Drugs Controller / Additional Drugs Controller, Odisha; Team Leader, SHSRC, NHM, Odisha; State Consultant-IEC/ Communication, NHM, Odisha; Key Officials of Food Safety Department, Odisha; District Incharge of NTCP / Officials (5 districts) and few other stakeholders; Commissioner of Health; Director AIIMS Bhubneswar; Dr. R. Pushpa, Additional Director, NCD, NHM; Director Food Safety; IPS Commissioner of Police; M.D. TSRTC regarding NTCP activities in the districts, preparation and submission of IEC materials, issuing of FCTC Article 5.3, advancing activities under the programme, focusing more on strengthening the enforcement of COTPA sections in the states, organization of DLCC and SLCC meetings, and future scheduled project activities.



Two Workshops Proposed under the Project

Two workshops viz. “Advancing Tobacco Control by Academic and Research Institutions of India” at 49th Annual National Conference of IAPSM-2022 on March 6 2022 (10 AM to 1 PM) and 76th National Conference of TB and Chest Diseases (11th to 13th April, 2022) have been proposed under the project.



Tobacco Free Generation



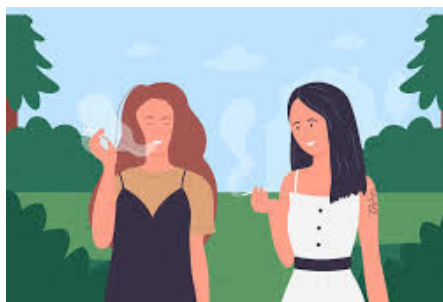
What is tobacco free generation?

The Tobacco-Free Generation (TFG) proposal advocates a legislation which precludes the sale and supply of tobacco to individuals born after a certain year. The measure is aimed at substantiating existing tobacco control Act and overcoming defects with current youth access laws. TFG is designed to end the vicious cycle of experimentation, addiction, disease and death by phasing out sales of tobacco products to youth.



What is the need for tobacco free generation?

As per recently conducted GYTS-India 2019-2020, nearly one-fifth of students aged 13-15 years used any form of tobacco products in their life and almost 8.5% use tobacco currently. Further, median age of the initiation of cigarette, bidi and smokeless tobacco was 11.5 years, 10.5 years and 9.9 years respectively. More than three fourth of tobacco users bought it from store/pan shop/ street vendors and half of them were not refused because of their age. This is despite the fact that four-fifth of schools were aware of tobacco control act and policy regarding display of "tobacco free schools" board. In United States, 9 out of 10 adults who smoke cigarette daily first try smoking by the age of 18 years and virtually everyday by 26 years. Therefore, preventing youth initiation is a key to end tobacco epidemic. Various studies have shown that the reduction in retail sales induced only by instrumental measures (such as from FCTC Article 16) reduces cigarette consumption but not initiation, because peer sharing of cigarettes continues despite packets being purchased less



frequently. In recognizing both the difficulty of forcing tobacco addicts to quit along with importance of preventing initiation among teenagers, many jurisdictions have introduced restrictions on supply (including sale) of tobacco to those under a certain age. Although people in many countries adhere to these laws, evidence supporting their effectiveness is very limited. Furthermore, tobacco being a legal product is always available in the market encouraging youth access to it. There are two important

drawbacks to an 'underage' restriction (i.e. 15-17 year olds) if done alone. First, it creates a "rite-of-passage" effect. The underage may proudly feel that by smoking they appear 18, which shall incite them to smoke at early age. Secondly, it has an adverse signaling effect which is why they might feel that if the government says that smoking is acceptable for an 18-year-old, then can it really be dangerous for a 16- or 17-year-old? Under the above typology, laws for underage restrictions of smoking attempt to rely upon the legal aspects of compliance, but overlook personal, social and environmental influences.



What is tobacco free generation proposal?

To avoid expecting existing smokers to quit and denying that smoking is acceptable from a particular age, the tobacco-free generation propose a future date/year (eg 1.1.2024) after which there are to be no new recipients of tobacco products to the person born on/ after certain date (eg. 1.1.2006).



With the implementation of TFG, the age gap between teenagers and the visible tobacco users steadily widens over a period of time, which shall facilitate a favorable 'norm cascade' of gradually reduction of tobacco use prevalence among teenage cohorts. In this way, enforcement of existing laws becomes

For e.g. in a country with an existing under-18 law, a suitable effective date can be 1/1/2024. So, the people born on/after 1/1/2006 may not be able to purchase tobacco products. People born before the birth date are still able to be supplied with tobacco. For them, existing laws apply.

progressively easier and self enforcing as it shapes upon the norms of society. Thus, we shall gradually reduce the supply of all tobacco products to the individuals by the end of the century and it becomes a 'last century' phenomena.

What are the limitations of TFG?

Although, TFG is a widely accepted concept, there are few concerns for its effective implementation.

Retailer compliance: Retailers may feel threatened by the proposal as it may restrict their supplies and profits. Because retailers can be important enablers of the proposal's success, supporting policies should recognise their motivations like the retailers may be benefitted with some kind of compensation or making available emerging teenage products (clothing, IT, entertainment et) for not losing their current customers. They should be provided with an adequate window to shift to the alternative livelihood for better adjustment and thus decreasing the sale of tobacco products.

Alternative Supply: One of the concern of TFG is regarding alternative supply of tobacco products to youth i.e. either parents, older siblings or older friends introduce tobacco consumption to the children. For this, these alternative suppliers should be educated and made aware about the tobacco addiction among children and keep the tobacco products out of reach from them.

We need to clarify the role of a "good parent" or a "good friend/ sibling" to them, similar to mandatory car seats for infant/young children.

Avoiding addiction from other sources: There is a concern about children who were denied tobacco products may take nicotine/tobacco from other sources like opium smoking etc. Thus government need to make stringent law for other alternatives like opium, heroine (supply control, licensing control program) where it will become very difficult for young children to obtain it in the market.

Denial of Choice: The addictiveness of tobacco is important in relation to the issue of choice. The "free to choose" approach is unconvincing with a drug as highly addictive as tobacco and even more dubious when it is known that most smokers take this habit as teenagers and later want to quit which is very different. The change of choices in the children is the key towards tobacco free generation which can be achieved by making them aware about the ill and irreversible effects of tobacco consumption.

What is the status of tobacco free generation in the world?

1. Tobacco Free Generation Campaign: Balanga City, 2015



The Balanga city government initiated a "Tobacco-Free Generation" (TFG) campaign in 2015 with an aim to eliminate tobacco smoking among those born after the year 2000. Various programs were

conducted under this campaign viz a programme to promote healthy lifestyles during adolescence, "Say no to Cigarettes" program to involve youth in promoting smoke-free homes by writing letters to relatives to encourage them to pledge to quit smoking. Also, the city council expanded the coverage of the smoking ban in the University Town to cover a further 3 km radius in 2016.

2. Tobacco-free generation proposal: Singapore, 2010

Singapore published the tobacco free generation proposal in 2010, suggesting that tobacco sales must be denied to a person below the age of 18 years or a citizen born on or after 1 January 2000. Since then, advocacy movements in Singapore have been working on the promotion of a positive social movement towards a tobacco-free generation, engaging children in the initiative and gaining public support.



3. Tobacco-Free Generation Bill: Tasmania, 2014

The Public Health Amendment (Tobacco free Generation) Bill 2014 was tabled in the Tasmanian Parliament in November 2014. The Bill proposed to phase out the sale of tobacco products to any person born after the year 2000 and progressively reducing the availability of tobacco products in Tasmania.



4. Denmark Tobacco Free Generation: Action Plan, 2022

To achieve tobacco free generation, the Denmark government planned for a ban that prevents young people born in and after 2010 from buying cigarettes and other nicotine products. The government assured that they are ready to ban sale of these products to this generation by progressively raising the age limit. To do so, it will also promote the operations of smoking cessation centres and courses to help over 70% of smokers who want to adopt healthier lifestyles.



5. Tobacco Free Generation: WHO European Region

Various member states in WHO European region are moving towards becoming tobacco free, a smoking prevalence of 5% or less. Ireland and New Zealand aim to be tobacco free by 2025, UK (Scotland) by 2034 and Finland by 2040.



Tobacco denormalization in Ireland: 2019

Tobacco denormalization in Ireland was started in 2019 with a aim to imply that smoking is not – and should not be – a normal activity in society. It is an important aspect of many tobacco-free initiatives, including those in Finland, Ireland and United Kingdom (Scotland). Making smoking less attractive to children and young people and increasing its social unacceptability are key elements in the denormalization of tobacco.

Scotland's tobacco-free generation: 2013

An ambitious target to achieve TFG by 2034 was proposed by Scotland in the year 2013. The aim of this plan is to protect children born since 2013 from indulging in tobacco practices so that when they start to turn 21 (from 2034), they will truly be tobacco-free and will come of age in a Scotland that will remain tobacco-free for generations. It means by 2034 less than 5% of adults will smoke.

Tobacco Free Generation: Finland, 2014

Finland was the first country to move from talking about tobacco control to using legislation to try to put an end to tobacco use. Its vision is for children and adolescents to grow up in a society where smoking is not part of the norm. The current goal is for 2% or less of the adult population to be smokers by 2040.

6. Tobacco Free Generation Plan: New Zealand, 2022

New Zealand has announced a suite of proposals aimed at outlawing smoking for the next generation and moving the country closer to its goal of being smoke-free by 2025. The plans include the gradual increase of the legal smoking age, which could extend to a ban on the sale of cigarettes and tobacco products to anyone born after 2004, making smoking effectively illegal for that generation.





7. Tobacco free generation strategy: Canada, 2021

To achieve its stated goal of under five per cent prevalence by 2035, Canada has been a laggard with respect to raising age of purchase. Also, the national polls have consistently shown 70 to 80 per cent support for raising it. In addition to this, the government of Canada announced two important and potentially life-saving measures that would help protect young people from the harms of vaping in 2021 viz. the regulations of decreasing nicotine content and a ban on flavours with an exemption of mint, menthol and tobacco flavours which remains one of the most powerful marketing tools to attract young users.



Conclusions:

Tobacco smoking is and remains an important issue that affects children as a vast majority of children are also exposed to tobacco industry marketing. The existing underage restraints on tobacco access could partly achieve their objectives because of the rite-of-passage effect and adverse health signalling effect. These problems can be overcome by the tobacco-free generation measure by ending the legal provision of tobacco products to the generations that have not yet commenced consumption. A better investment in children's health, which includes as an essential component for their complete protection from tobacco, is therefore key to a healthy, productive population. It is a surer path to the ultimate eradication of tobacco from the society as it laid on personal, social and environmental aspects (rather than merely on legal aspects) pertaining to future generations. So, it is the time to step up efforts to protect children from tobacco in view of a healthy, tobacco-free younger generation.

Check out some articles related to tobacco free generation

Assessing how a tobacco-free campus leads to attitude change and support among students, faculty, and staff. Glasgow TE, Miller CA, Barsell DJ, Do EK, Fuemmeler BF. 2021. 2021.

European progress in working towards a tobacco-free generation. Been JV, Laverty AA, Tsampi A, Filippidis FT. 2021. 2021, PubMed.

The tobacco-free generation proposal. AJ., Berrick. 2013. 2013.

Tobacco-free homes for tobacco-free generations: establishing positive smoke-free role models for youth. MS., Cattaruzza. 2015. 2015.



EXPERTS COMMENTS



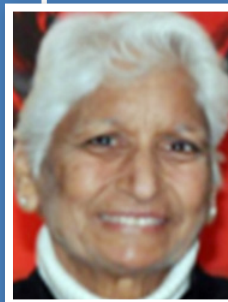
“In order to achieve tobacco free generation, we need to fix tobacco endgame timelines and targets. The roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders should also be defined. Working in collaborations and partnerships could help in achieving this target.

*Dr Rana J Singh,
Deputy Regional Director, The Union SEA*



“There is a need to intervene for reduction in the pace of tobacco industry interference, which is, in fact, multiplying its efforts in luring the younger audience for tobacco use. The already existing policies viz. demand reduction, tobacco free youth, cessation services and supply side should be strengthened which will surely pave a road towards tobacco endgame.

*Dr. P.C. Gupta,
Director, Healis Sekhsaria Institute for Public Health,
Navi Mumbai*



“The approach towards tobacco control in the country should be changed. There is a need to involve and communicate with the young people while planning strategies and framing policies for tobacco control and thus determining the next course of action.

*Dr. Mira B Aghi,
Behavioural Scientist and Communication Expert*



“Tobacco control professionals are going deeper in the area of tobacco control and “Tobacco Free Generation” is one of the steps to achieve it. Govt. of India is taking various initiatives to make India tobacco free by 2047. We should strategize and list the objectives for tobacco endgame, for which a collaborative work can be done.

*Dr. L Swasticharan,
Addl DDG, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, GOI*



Glimpses of the state-wise activities



Covid vaccination camp was organised by the volunteers of Uttrakhand Tobacco free Coalition (UTFC) and BSS



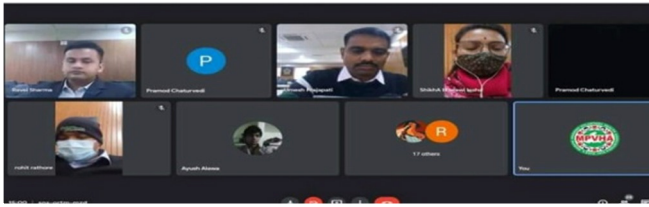
NTCP IEC Hoardings in public and private schools: Kaithal



Signage campaign in Katni: Madhya Pradesh



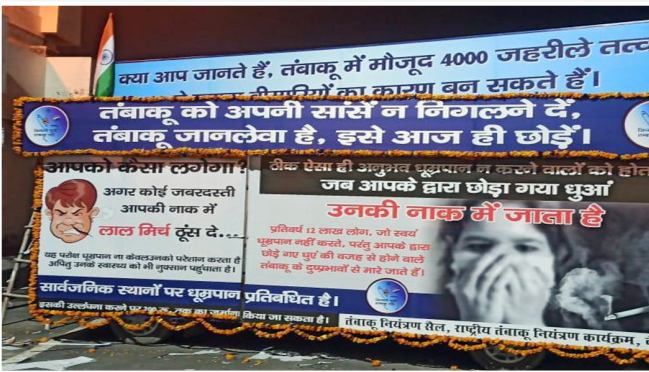
Orientation of Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSPs) on Indian Tobacco Control Act-COTPA 2003 in 108th Basic Training Course organized by RCVP Noronha Academy of Administration, Madhya Pradesh.



Orientation of DSPs on Indian Tobacco Control Act-COTPA 2003: Madhya Pradesh



Reformation of policy on generating awareness on tobacco use. (amendment in COTPA, Chattisgarh)



Anti-tobacco awareness on Republic Day Jhanki, Chattisgarh on 26th January, 2022



Tobacco Control Awareness Rath :Indore



Enforcement drive of the violations of COTPA: Maharashtra



Signage campaign in Jabalpur: Madhya Pradesh



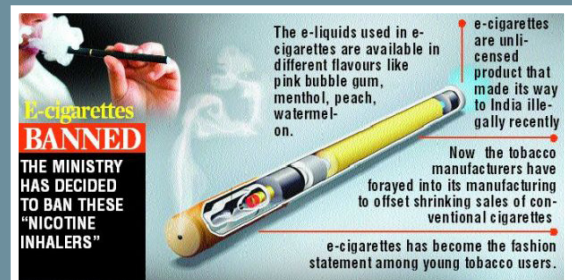
DLCC meeting organized to implement 100 days plan for Tobacco Free Rajasthan Abhiyan: Ajmer



94% Indians ditch e-cigarettes after ban

A national online survey designed by the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids and conducted in collaboration with National Law School of India University, Bengaluru has found that over 94 per cent of the people have not indulged in smoking e-cigarettes or other Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS) products after ban in 2019. This survey was conducted in the state of Karnataka with maximum respondents belonging to the age group of 18-34 years.

<https://bangaloremirror.indiatimes.com/bangalore/others/94-indians-ditch-e-cigarettes-after-ban/articleshow/89954761.cms>



Tobacco taxation needs a significant overhaul in the interest of public health: Hyderabad

Given the increasing tobacco consumption in the country, Mr. V.S. Sudheer, Chairman of the indirect tax committee of the federation of Telanagana and an expert in GST has asserted that tobacco taxation needs a significant overhaul in the interest of public health.



<https://www.thehansindia.com/news/cities/hyderabad/hyderabad-tobacco-taxation-needs-a-significant-overhaul-in-interest-of-public-health-725753>

Delhi high court dismisses plea against ban on sale & service of herbal hookah in restaurants amid covid-19

The Delhi High Court dismissed a plea against the ban on sale and service of herbal hookahs in restaurants and bars in the national capital, on account of the surge in COVID-19 cases. Justice V Kameswar Rao took note of the recent order issued by the Delhi Disaster Management Authority dated January 11, 2022 wherein the sale and service of such herbal hookahs has been banned in view.



<https://www.livelaw.in/news-updates/delhi-high-court-denies-permission-herbal-hookah-covid-19-189777>

Health Minister to hold panel discussion with FSSAI on prohibition of betel nuts

Union Health Minister, Sh. Mansukh Mandaviya informed to hold a panel discussion on the ill effects and complete ban on human consumption of betel nuts with the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) in the 24th meeting of the Scientific Panel on Fruits and Vegetables and their Products.



<https://www.republicworld.com/india-news/general-news/mansukh-mandaviya-to-hold-panel-discussion-with-fssai-on-prohibition-of-betel-nuts-articleshow.html>

Youth urge PM to increase taxes on tobacco products on National Youth Day

Over 500 youths including youth associations across the country have urged the Hon'ble Prime Minister and Finance Minister to increase taxes on all tobacco products in the upcoming budget of 2022-23. In their appeals, they urged to increase excise duty on cigarettes, beedis and smokeless tobacco.

<https://telanganatoday.com/youth-urge-pm-to-increase-taxes-on-tobacco-products-on-national-youth-day>



Karnataka HC junks petitions against laws levying GST on tobacco

The Karnataka High Court dismissed a batch of petitions filed by VS Products and other manufacturers of tobacco and tobacco products, challenging the constitutional validity of Section 174 of the Goods and Service Tax Act, 2017, which allowed continuation of basic excise duty on tobacco and tobacco products, along with GST.

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/karnataka/2022/jan/09/karnataka-hc-junks-petitions-against-laws-levying-gst-on-tobacco-2404799.html>



Kids Shun Tobacco: Himachal Pradesh

Himachal Pradesh has been ranked the best in the country in tobacco control among children aged 13-15 years by Global Youth Tobacco Survey as only 1 per cent children use tobacco products in the state. Besides, the state has witnessed a significant decline of 24 per cent in the use of tobacco among adults too from 2010.

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/editorials/hp-kids-shun-tobacco-359724>



NCPCR chief calls for more taxes on tobacco products, OTT, films displaying their use

Priyank Kanoongo, Chairperson, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has advocated increasing taxes on tobacco products as well on films, OTT platforms and other media that display use of such items in any form.

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/88933410.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst



Tobacco-free office: Karnataka

Dharwad's (a city in Karnataka) Deputy commissioner, Nitesh Patil, IAS has asked officials to prioritize making government offices tobacco-free. The department heads have been given powers to impose fines on staff or people found chewing tobacco or smoking in the office premises.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/hubballi/tobacco-free-office/articleshow/88722022.cms>



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

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