



E-RCTC: A storehouse of information



*Data available as on 30th June 2019

The E-Resource Centre for Tobacco Control (E-RCTC), a joint initiative of PGIMER Chandigarh and The International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union), is making its stride among a cross section of policy makers, implementers, academicians & other stakeholders for its diverse and informative content catering to people from varied backgrounds.

The E-RCTC is nothing less than a storehouse of knowledge as it showcases contents that are immensely helpful for the tobacco control community. On the portal (<http://rctcpgi.org>) these contents have been assorted in a way that enables the visitor fetch the necessary information within no time.

Be it Policies or Legislations, Circulars or Notifications, Publications or IEC material, the Resource Centre houses them all. Presently, one will find over 371 circulars/notifications from 23 states and other resource materials linked to tobacco control on the portal.

EXPERTS SPEAK



I am pleased to see that the E-Resource Centre for Tobacco Control (E-RCTC) is progressing very well. There is a need in India to identify the gaps in knowledge and capacity for implementing and enforcing tobacco control policies. The E-RCTC is addressing that need; providing the best possible information and resources to help establish and strengthen WHO FCTC and MPOWER implementation in India. It is The Union's hope that the E-RCTC will also be useful for other countries of the region with high rates of tobacco use.

Dr Gan Quan

Director-Tobacco Control Department
International Union against Tuberculosis
and Lung Disease (The Union)

PGIMER's E-Resource Centre is a storehouse of knowledge about tobacco control. To see it being used so broadly is a testimony to that. Its website is a great boon to professionals, offering a quick and easy way to find information on all aspects of tobacco control.



Dr Mira B Aghi

Behavioural Scientist, Communication Expert



The need for a resource centre for tobacco control is very essential, especially for states like Meghalaya where tobacco control initiatives are at a very initial stage. Through RCTC we will be fed with valuable information / updates which will help us in the effective implementation of tobacco control in our state.

Dr. Lana E Nongbri Lyngdoh

State Nodal Officer, NTCP, Meghalaya

The website www.rctcpgi.org is going to be one stop destination for health practitioners, academia and researcher working in the field of tobacco control. The unique initiative should be gainfully utilized and shared without any hesitation among all stakeholders for optimal use. I am sure students, researchers and practitioners shall find the resources available resources handy.



Dr Binod K. Patro

Additional Professor Department of
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AIIMS, Bhubaneswar

TFT's second edition released at AIIMS, Bhubaneswar



The second edition of Tobacco Free Times (TFT) was released during a regional-level capacity building workshop held at AIIMS, Bhubaneswar, from 25-27 April. TFT is a bi-monthly publication of School of Public Health, PGIMER Chandigarh that reports on tobacco control initiatives and updates from across India. Dr Gitanjali Batmanabane, Director- AIIMS, Bhubaneswar; Dr Vikas Bhatia, Dean and Head of Department of CM & FM; Dr Rana J Singh, Deputy Regional Director- The Union South East Asia and others were present during the release function.

Workshop on NTCP held at AIIMS, Bhubaneswar

A regional-level capacity building workshop on NTCP for key stakeholders/ Programme implementers was held at AIIMS, Bhubaneswar



from 25-27 April 2019. Participants from all 4 project states attended the event and presented their action plans. The workshop was inaugurated by Dr Gitanjali Batmanabane, Director- AIIMS, Bhubaneswar; Dr Vikas Bhatia, Dean and Head of Department of CM & FM and Dr Rana J Singh, Deputy Regional Director- The Union South East Asia. The participants were sensitised about epidemiology of tobacco use, important components of NTCP, provisions of COPTA, international treaties like MPOWER and FCTC, guidelines of Article 5.3 (Tobacco Industry Interference) etc.

PGIMER Chandigarh observes World No Tobacco Day

The Department of Community and School of Public Health, PGIMER Chandigarh in collaboration with The Union observed World No Tobacco Day on 31st May 2019. A total of 300 participants from various schools and colleges,

NGOs, faculty and residents of PGIMER and Punjab University attended the event. Dr Rana J Singh, Deputy Director, The Union, was the key note



speaker who sensitised the youth about the ill-effects of consuming tobacco. Dr Rajesh Kumar, Dean Academics and Head of Department, School of Public Health, PGIMER and



Dr Arvind Rajwanshi, Dean Research, PGIMER, along with members from various NGOs released the official poster and website

of the 5th National Conference on Tobacco or Health (NCTOH). The conference will be held at PGIMER Chandigarh from 25-27th September 2020.

DLCC in Meghalaya's all districts

A District level Coordination Committee (DLCC) has been constituted in all districts of Meghalaya for implementation of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act or COTPA 2003. As part of an aspiring project to strengthen NTCP, PGIMER Chandigarh in collaboration with The Union has been striving to facilitate constitution of this committee in several states.

ENDS ban in Meghalaya

The Meghalaya government has issued a notification to ban the sale of Electronic Nicotine Delivery System (ENDS) in the state. With this, Meghalaya becomes the 14th state in the country that has issued a notification to ban ENDS. Other states that have already issued circulars/notifications in this regard include Punjab, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Mizoram, Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Jharkhand and Rajasthan.

Meghalaya's special committee to implement Article 5.3 of WHO FCTC

The Meghalaya government has called for constitution of a special committee focusing on the implementation of section 5.3 of WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. As part of a project to support NTCP, PGIMER Chandigarh has been working in close coordination with the State Tobacco Cell Meghalaya to facilitate the formation of this high-powered committee.

IMPLEMENTATION OF TOBACCO CONTROL POLICY IN INDIA

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India has made huge strides in enactment and implementation of tobacco control policy. Government of India enacted Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA) in the year 2003 and smoke free rules in 2008. In 2004, the government ratified WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) which enlisted key demand and supply reduction strategy of tobacco. The table below depicts the progress of Indian government towards development of guidelines (sections under COTPA) in line with FCTC.

India's Progress of Tobacco Control Act towards FCTC Implementation:

WHO FCTC (Articles)	COTPA Act. 2003 (Sections)	INDIA PROGRESS
<p>Article 5: General Obligation; Develop, implement and review multisectoral tobacco control policies Establish a national coordinating mechanism Protect tobacco control policies from commercial and vested interests</p> <p>Article 5.3: Protect public health policies from commercial and other vested interests of the tobacco industry</p>	<p>Section 2: Declaration as to expediency in the public interest that the Union should take under its control the tobacco industry</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ National Coordinating mechanism in form of Inter-Ministerial Coordination Committee constituted under the chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary. ✓ National Focal Points have been identified in the Ministry of Health & FW and dedicated National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) launched in 2007-08. ✓ "Every state/district to have a state/ district level coordination committee for tobacco control under NTCP. Once fully implemented in 650 district there will be over 1700 people exclusively working for the programme. ✓ 12 Indian states viz Bihar, Chandigarh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Mizoram, Jharkhand, Punjab, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Tamil Nadu and 03 districts of West Bengal prohibits partnership with TI ✓ "Ministry of Corporate Affairs mandates TI to comply with COTPA regulation while doing any CSR activity ✓ "Ministry of Health and Family welfare issues an advisory to state governments not to collaborate with The Foundation for Smoke Free World (FSFW)
<p>Article 6: Price and tax measures to reduce the demand for tobacco</p>	<p>Not covered</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The Govt has implemented the Goods and Services Tax (GST) from July, 2017 and all tobacco products have been listed as 'Demerit goods' and placed in the highest tax bracket category of 28%. Over and above GST a cess has been imposed on all demerit goods, except Bidis <p>Current tobacco tax on tobacco products are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cigarettes – 28% GST + 5% to 36% CESS + National Calamity Contingent duty (NCCD) • Bidis – 28% • Smokeless – 28% GST + 0 to 204% CESS
<p>Article 7: Non-price measures to reduce the demand for tobacco (obligations pursuant to Articles 8 to 13)</p>	<p>Section 4, 5, 6, 7</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Details are as below

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WHO FCTC (Articles)	COTPA Act. 2003 (Sections)	INDIA PROGRESS
Article 8: Protection from exposure to tobacco smoke, that requires 100% smoke-free environments in all indoor public & work places, indoor workplaces, on all means of public transport, and, as appropriate, other public places.	Section 4: No person shall smoke in any public place However, the legislation exempts hotel having thirty or more rooms or restaurant having seating capacity of thirty persons or more and the airports which may provide for a smoking area or space.	✓ More than 150 jurisdictions (City, Districts & States) achieved high level compliance to smoke-free laws through robust compliance surveys & declared smoke free by government authorities
Article 9: Regulation of the contents & emissions of tobacco products	Section 7: Restrictions on trade and commerce in and production, supply and distribution of cigarettes and other tobacco products. Section 11: Testing laboratory for nicotine and tar contents.	Three tobacco testing laboratories have been set up at: ✓ National Institute of Cancer Prevention and Research (NICPR), Noida, U.P ✓ Central Drug Testing Laboratory, Mumbai ✓ Regional Drug Testing Laboratory, Guwahati Operational Guidelines for tobacco testing developed and stakeholders training undertaken.
Article 10: Regulation of tobacco product disclosures & their method of testing.	Section 7: ...nicotine and tar contents shall not exceed the maximum permissible quantity thereof as may be prescribed by rules made under this Act. Section 10 : No specified warning or indication of nicotine and tar contents in cigarettes and any other tobacco products shall be deemed to be in accordance with the provisions of this Act if the height of each letter or figure, or both used on such warning and indication is less than the height as may be prescribed by rules made under this Act	Yet to be notified
Article 11: Adoption and implementation of effective measures to prohibit misleading tobacco packaging and labelling.	Section 7: Display of pictorial health warning on tobacco products packs	India mandates to print/affix 85% pack warning on principle display area of tobacco product package both sides along with national Quitline number. India ranks fifth, jointly with Hong Kong and Thailand, in terms of the largest pictorial warning on tobacco packs.
Article 12: Provides for education, communication, training, and public awareness measures.	Not covered	Many impactful anti-tobacco audio and video spots (viz: Dhuan, Sponge, Mukesh, Sunita etc), mass media campaigns, IEC activities, school programmes, trainings and sensitization workshops at national & sub national level under NTCP on harms of tobacco and tobacco control conducted for various stakeholders. Under the tobacco free film policy huge free airtime is generated (100 seconds per film/TV program) through films and TV programs that display tobacco products or their use.

IMPLEMENTATION OF TOBACCO CONTROL POLICY IN INDIA

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WHO FCTC (Articles)	COTPA Act. 2003 (Sections)	INDIA PROGRESS
Article 13: Comprehensively ban Tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship	Section 5: Prohibition of advertisement of cigarettes and other tobacco products However, act allows advertisement of cigarettes or any other tobacco products in or on packages and also at the entrance or inside a warehouse or a shop where cigarettes or any other tobacco products are offered for distribution or sale. Moreover, web-based content is yet to be covered under the law.	Steering Committee constituted for monitoring the violations under Section 5 of the Tobacco Control Act at national, state and district level. Any kind of direct or indirect advertisement, promotion and sponsorship of tobacco product is prohibited; It also restricts tobacco advertisement and promotion in films and televisions programmes.
Article 14: Demand reduction measures to promote cessation and treatment for tobacco dependence.	Not covered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ MoHFW has developed tobacco dependence treatment guidelines, health worker guide and guidelines for medical officers. The training module for NTCP officials is about to be rolled out. ✓ Over 400 tobacco cessation centers have been set up in district hospitals along with provision of free NRT services at District level; a Toll-free National Tobacco Quit Line (1800112356) is operational from four regional centres based in Delhi, Guwahati, Bangalore and Mumbai; and web-based tobacco cessation services i.e. M-cessation (011-22901701) has also been launched by MoHFW. ✓ NTCP is also been integrated with other health programmes, like: RNTCP, AYUSH, NOHP etc. The TB-Tobacco collaborative framework has been prepared, Dental Council of India has directed all 300+ dental colleges to establish a tobacco cessation centre in dental colleges.
Article 15: Elimination of the illicit trade of tobacco products	Not covered	India has officially accorded WHO protocol to eliminate Illicit trade in tobacco products (ITP) in the year 2018. Govt of India has reduced by 50% duty-free allowance of tobacco products through amendment of the Baggage Rules - 100 cigarettes, 50 cigars or 125 grams of tobacco can be purchased / brought without payment of customs duty.
Article 16: Prohibition of sales to and by minors	Section 6 (a) : Prohibition of sale of tobacco products to minors Section 6 (b) – Prohibition on sale of tobacco products in 100 yards of any educational institution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ All Points of Sale (POS) are covered under section 6 (a), wherein signage "Sale of tobacco product to the person below the age of 18 years is punishable offence" is to be placed. ✓ MOHFW has released Guidelines for Tobacco-Free Educational Institutions (Revised) ✓ Central Board of Secondary Education and Kendriya Vidyalaya board adopts tobacco-free Educational Institution guidelines for schools. ✓ Further, under section 77 of Juvenile Justice act, sale or offering tobacco to the person below the age of 18 years is punishable with Rs 1 Lac fine and /or up to 07 years of imprisonment

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WHO FCTC (Articles)	COTPA Act. 2003 (Sections)	INDIA PROGRESS
Article 17: Provision of support for economically viable alternative activities for tobacco workers, growers, and possibly individual sellers	Not covered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Ministry of Labour started a scheme to provide training on alternate livelihood options for bidi rollers ✓ Ministry of Agriculture is working on research for alternate crop or crop pattern to reduce tobacco cultivation. ✓ The allocation of Rs.25.00 crore (4 mn USD) as a Central Share was additionally approved to diversify tobacco in 10 States (Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal) during 2015-16 on 60:40 sharing basis between Centre and State Governments.
Article 18: Protection of the environment and health with respect to tobacco cultivation and manufacture.	Partially covered under Section 4	As per description provided above under Article 8 and Section 4.
Article 19: Considering taking action to deal with criminal and civil liability, including compensation.	Enactment of COTPA and its subsequent regulation	<p>Under Section 5 and 7 of COTPA, violation of provisions is punishable with fine or imprisonment or both</p> <p>Under section 77 of Juvenile Justice act, Sale or offer tobacco to the minor is punishable with fine and /or imprisonment</p> <p>Under FSSA 2006, addition of tobacco or nicotine in any food item is also punishable</p>
Article 20: Establish national, regional and global health surveillance programs, promote Research and exchange of information	Not covered	<p>NTCP has a dedicated budget for research and surveillance. The following surveys have been conducted by the government.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS) was conducted in 2003, 2006 and 2009. ✓ Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS-1) was conducted in 2009-10. ✓ Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS- 2) was has been conducted in 2016-17. ✓ Key Tobacco Control Questions mainstreamed in the National Family Health Survey (Prevalence, SHS, Cessation – from TQS). ✓ Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS) 4 is underway.
Article 21: Reporting and exchange of information	Not covered	India share yearly progress report with FCTC secretariat. Also during Conference of Parties meet and its related meetings, India discuss and exchange information on various important topics
Article 22: Cooperation in the scientific, technical, and legal fields and provision of related expertise	Not covered	MOHFW's National Institute of Cancer prevention and Research houses WHO Global hub on smokeless tobacco in India. India is also taking lead to share information with many other countries on diverse issues including South-south and triangular cooperation project on the enforcement of the tobacco control legislation and illicit trade.

EXPERTS SPEAK



In order to have a sustainable approach to implementation of tobacco control laws, we need to have a “whole of government” approach and work in a coordinated manner with multiple ministries /agencies supported by the non-governmental sector to reinforce the message and enforce the law.

Ms Vandana Shah,
Regional Director, South Asia
Programs, Campaign for Tobacco
Free Kids, Washington DC



The obvious gaps in India's Tobacco Control Law, coupled with its poor enforcement has achieved little in discouraging tobacco use. Further the conflicting policies of the Government in supporting tobacco industry interest through partnership, investment and grant of subsidies is a major dent to tobacco control policies. Thus the need of the hour is for the Government to develop a comprehensive inter-department policy moving from control to eradication of tobacco use, in consonance with its constitutional duty to improve and protect public health.

Mr. Ranjit Singh,
Legal Expert, India

The ban on ENDS gained momentum after the Voice of Tobacco Victims (VOTV) facilitated pledge from 1000 doctors across the country for ending this public health menace from the country. The signed pledge was later sent to PMO for appropriate action.

TOBACCO REPORTER

Health Ministry asks states not to partner with Foundation of Smoke Free World:

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has called upon all states and Union Territories to not collaborate with the Foundation of Smoke Free World as it has been

funded by Philip Morris International, world's largest tobacco company. The advisory issued by the government is in accordance with Article 5.3 of WHO FCTC that intends to protect public health policies from tobacco industry interference.

Tobacco-free Amarnath Yatra:

The Jammu and Kashmir government has prohibited the sale of tobacco products during Amarnath Yatra. The government has directed Yatra officers/nodal officers to enforce the implementation of COTPA.



A white paper on ENDS released at ICMR:

A white paper on ENDS was released at ICMR; It's calls for complete ban on ENDS, E-Cigarette based upon robust scientific evidence.

Legal age to buy tobacco should be increased: Experts

A symposium on “Why legal age to buy tobacco and legal nicotine products should be increased beyond 18 years?” was organized jointly by department of community medicine and school of public health, PGIMER, Chandigarh, state tobacco control cell (STCC), Punjab and Strategic Institute for Public health, Education and Research (SIPHER) on 30th June. Experts expressed concern about danger to the health of youth because of the impending epidemic of tobacco use, hukkah bars and e-cigarettes. The Punjab health minister assured that existing anti-tobacco laws will be implemented strongly and strictly. He also agreed with the proposal that the legal age to buy tobacco shall be increased beyond the present limit of 18 years.



San Francisco become the first US city to ban e-cigarette sales:

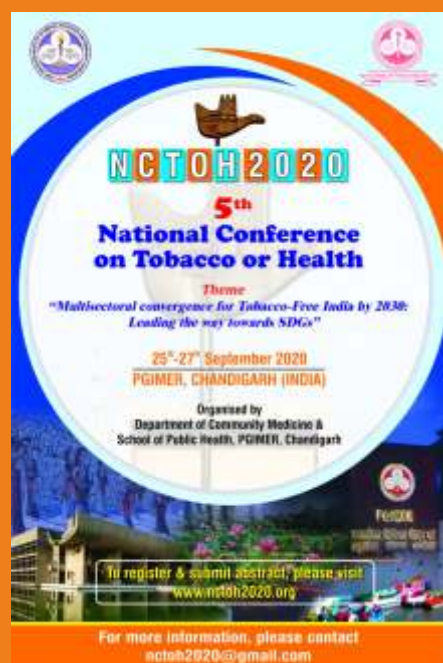
San Francisco officially banned nicotine vaporizers this week, including the ubiquitous Juul. San Francisco is now the first major U.S. city to outlaw the sale of Juuls, along with other e-cigarettes and vapes.



World No Tobacco Day'19: In Pictures

Awareness rallies, signature campaigns, camps and meetings to highlight the ill-effects of smoking and chewing tobacco, were conducted by various medical institutions, colleges, individuals and organisations across India on the occasion of World No Tobacco Day (WNTD) on May 31.

The World Health Organization (WHO) and its global partners observe WNTD every year on May 31. The theme for this year's WNTD was "Tobacco and Lung Health".



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DON'T LET TOBACCO TAKE YOUR BREATH AWAY



CHOOSE HEALTH NOT TOBACCO

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