



# Tobacco Ban in Jharkhand

## Why in News

The Jharkhand Government, in a recent order, has **banned consumption of any form of tobacco products** for all **State Government employees**.

## Key Points

- The State Government has made it **mandatory** for all state government employees to submit an affidavit stating that they **will abstain from consuming any form of tobacco**.
- Tobacco products **include** any cigarettes, bidi, khaini, gutkha, pan masala, zarda or supari as well as hukka, e-hookah, e-cigarettes and tobacco products being used by any name - smoking and smokeless.
- The decision was taken at a meeting of the **National Tobacco Control Programme's state chapter**, with an aim to implement the **Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products Act, 2003 (COTPA)**.
- The decision will be **implemented from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2021**.
- There has been **no clarity over penal provision** in case of violation of the order.
- The government is also taking measures for **bringing behavioural change** by using **panchayat level institutions**.
  - **Zila Parishads, Panchayat Samitis and Gram Panchayats** are asked to organise tobacco control discussions in every gram sabha meeting.
- The Police have been ordered to increase vigil at checkpoints to **stop entry of banned tobacco products**.
- Previously in April 2020, Jharkhand had **banned sale and consumption of tobacco products in public places**, including online sales, in view of an increase in chances of Covid-19 infection.

## Tobacco Control in India

- **International Convention:**
  - India **ratified the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC)** in 2004.
- **Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), 2003:**
  - **Replaced the Cigarettes Act of 1975** (largely limited to statutory warnings- 'Cigarette Smoking is Injurious to Health' to be displayed on cigarette packs and advertisements. It did not include non-cigarettes).
  - The 2003 Act also included cigars, bidis, cheroots, pipe tobacco, hookah, chewing tobacco, pan masala, and gutka.
- **National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP), 2008:**
  - **Objective:** To control tobacco consumption and minimize tobacco consumption related deaths.
  - **Implementation:** NTCP is implemented through a three-tier structure, i.e. (i) National Tobacco Control Cell (NTCC) at Central level (ii) State Tobacco Control Cell (STCC) at State

level & (iii) District Tobacco Control Cell (DTCC) at District level.

- **Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Packaging and Labelling) Amendment Rules, 2020:**
  - These provide for new sets of specified health warnings with enhanced pictorial images to be printed on all tobacco products.
- **mCessation Programme:**
  - It is an initiative using **mobile technology for tobacco cessation.**
  - India launched **mCessation using text messages** in 2016 as part of the government's **Digital India initiative.**
- **Prevention and Control of Pollution Act of 1981:**
  - Recognized smoking as an air pollutant.
- **Cable Television Networks Amendment Act of 2000:**
  - Prohibited the transmission of advertisements on tobacco and liquor in India.
- The Government of India has issued regulations under the **Food Safety and Standards Act 2006** which lay down that tobacco or nicotine cannot be used as ingredients in food products.

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