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Cancer Specialist Call For Higher Taxation On Tobacco Products

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 THIS STORY IS FROM NOVEMBER 25, 2017

Cancer specialist call for higher taxation on tobacco products

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PANAJI: With 30-40% of [cancer](#) cases in the country being attributed to tobacco consumption, director at [Tata Memorial Hospital](#), Mumbai, Dr Anil D'Cruz said increased taxation on tobacco and tobacco products would act as a deterrent to their consumption and thus help reduce the incidence of the disease in India. With a large section of people in the lower socio-economic strata and rural sector smoke beedies besides other tobacco products, joint secretary, [Goa Cancer Society](#) (GCS), Dr Shekhar Salkar said that beedies too have to be brought under the higher taxation net. Salkar was addressing a press conference along with D'Cruz. Taxation was increased on cigarettes after the new GST regime came into force. D'Cruz, who also heads the department of head and neck surgery at the Tata Memorial Hospital, said a decline in the sale of cigarettes was observed after tax on cigarettes was hiked. "Sensitizing people to the ill effects of tobacco consumption is one of the means of dissuading them (from consuming the products), but it will take a long. We don't that much of time," D'Cruz said, adding that more than 50% of India's population is below 30 years of age. Stating that at present developed countries have a high rate of cancer, D'Cruz said the trend would reverse in a few years to

see the rate of cancer incidence picking up in developing countries. With cancer being linked to lifestyle, Dr Cruz said the incidence of the disease among the urban population is 60-100 cases for a population of 1,200. However, this statistic did not hold true for rural Punjab. This is because “there’s wasn’t much difference between the lifestyle of rich Punjab farmers living in villages and their counter parts in the urban areas” D’Cruz said. With regards to the cancer mortality rate, D’Cruz said socio economic factor is deciding. High mortality will be seen in a populace with less access to better cancer treatment facility as against among those who can afford it. Salkar said Goa’s status with respect to cancer has not changed much with a close to 1,200 new cases being reported every year and breast cancer among women comprising the majority of cases. Lifestyle-related cases of [gastrointestinal cancer](#) are also high in the state, Salkar added.

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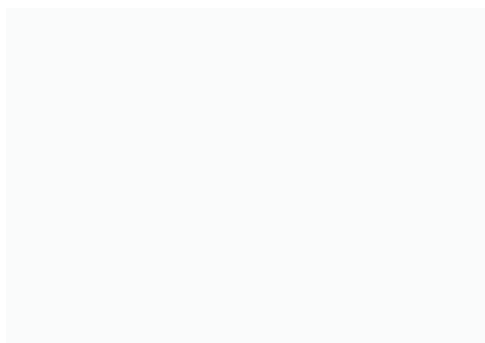
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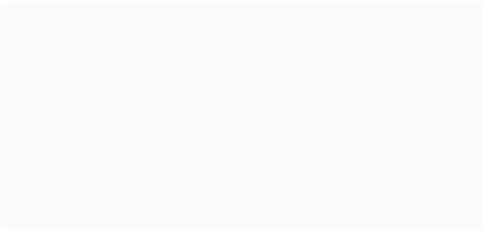
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