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## Ban food articles containing nicotine, tobacco from I-day

Chandigarh | Sunday, Aug 12 2012 IST

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The Haryana Government has decided to clamp a complete ban on food articles containing nicotine and tobacco in public interest with effect from August 15 all over the state. The ban, covers all food products that contains tobacco and nicotine, such as gutkha, pan Masala. It is being imposed in the interest of public health. The Food Safety and Standards (FSS) Act 2006, enacted by the Central Government, prohibits the sale and manufacture of such products which are injurious to health. This was stated by Haryana Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration Rakesh Gupta while inaugurating an orientation-cum-sensitization workshop on 'Prohibition of food articles containing tobacco and nicotine', in Panchkula today. Dr Gupta said, "Tobacco smoke is a toxic deadly mix of more than 7,000 chemicals many of which are poisonous and injurious to health. Tobacco is the foremost preventable cause of death and disease in the world today. More than one-third of Indian population uses tobacco in one form or other". "Haryana is the first state in the country to go hookah bar free' after shutting down more than 60 bars offering hookah, or water pipes, with nicotine. Laws to ban smoking in public places did not have the desired effect for want of public awareness. Shunning tobacco products reduces the risk of heart attacks by 27 per cent", he added. Among the lower income groups, smokeless tobacco like khaini, mishri

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or smoking beedis are common. In rural areas, smoking by hooka and tobacco chewing are common. During the past two to three decades, chewable tobacco promoted for sale, and their use is being linked with the society's upper-class business-community in order to popularise them among the masses. Dr Gupta said that smoking in public places exposed non-smokers to second-hand smoke and caused them health hassles. Smoking in public places posed the possibility of influencing the minds of impressionable children. Addressing the workshop, state Drug Controller General Singhla appealed to the people not to use such products as could cause deadly diseases like cancer. Manufacturers, distributors, retailers and hotel owners from all over Haryana attended the workshop. UNI MA DB DJK VC1900 NNNN NNNN

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