

India

Tobacco Control Policies

India became a Party to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control on February 27, 2005.

Smoke Free Places: Smoking is completely banned in many public places and workplaces such as healthcare, educational, and government facilities and on public transport. The law, however, permits the establishment of smoking areas or spaces in airports, hotels having 30 or more rooms, and restaurants having seating capacity for 30 or more. With respect to outdoor places, open auditoriums, stadiums, railway stations, bus stops/stands are smoke free. Sub-national jurisdictions may enact smoke free laws that are more stringent than the national law.

Tobacco Advertising, Promotion and Sponsorship: Advertising through most forms of mass media, including online curated content, is prohibited. There are some restrictions on tobacco sponsorship and the publicity of such sponsorship.

Tobacco Packaging and Labeling: Health warning labels are pictorial and text; cover 85 percent of the front and back panels of the tobacco product package parallel to the top edge; and are rotated every 12 months. Misleading packaging and labeling, including terms such as “light,” and “low-tar” and other signs, is prohibited.

Tobacco Taxation and Prices: The World Health Organization recommends raising tobacco excise taxes so that they account for at least 70 percent of retail prices. Tobacco excise taxes in India are well below these recommendations.

SMOKE FREE ENVIRONMENTS COMPLETE SMOKING BAN			
Health-care facilities	Yes	Private offices	Yes
Primary and secondary schools	Yes	Public transport	Yes
Universities	Yes	Restaurants	No
Governmental facilities	Yes	Bars and Pubs	No
Can subnational jurisdictions enact more stringent smoking restrictions?	Yes		
BANS ON TOBACCO ADVERTISING, PROMOTION, AND SPONSORSHIP			
Domestic TV and radio	Yes	Promotional discounts	Yes
Domestic magazines and newspapers	Yes	Non-tobacco products or services with tobacco brand names	Yes
Outdoor advertising	Yes	Tobacco products with non-tobacco brand names	Yes
Outdoor advertising (e.g., billboards, posters)	Yes	Paid placement in media	Yes
Retail product display	Uncertain	Financial sponsorship, including corporate social responsibility	Yes
Internet advertising	Yes	Publicity of sponsorships	Yes
Free distribution	Yes		
HEALTH WARNINGS ON SMOKED TOBACCO PRODUCTS			
Text warnings describe health impacts	Yes	Number of published warnings at any given time	1
Warnings include a picture or graphic	Yes	Warnings required to rotate	Required
% of principal display areas covered (front and back)	85%	Warnings are written in the principal language(s)	Yes
Front	85%	Ban on misleading packaging and labeling	Yes
Back	85%	Health warnings on smokeless tobacco products	Yes
TOBACCO TAXATION AND PRICE			
PRICE OF MOST SOLD BRAND, PACK OF 20 CIGARETTES		TAXES ON MOST SOLD BRAND (% OF RETAIL PRICE)	
In country currency	190.00 INR	Total taxes	58%
In US dollars	2.54 USD	Total excise	31%

Sources:

SF, APS, PL: Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids Legal Website. Available at: www.tobaccocontrolaws.org

Tax: WHO Report on the Global Tobacco Epidemic, 2021. Available at: www.who.int/tobacco/global_report/en/

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