Progress in Tobacco control

Why in News?


What are the highlights of the report?

The report tracks the progress between two rounds of the Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS) in 2009-10 and 2016-17.

- More than half of the top national performers on tobacco control are low- and middle-income countries, showing that progress is possible regardless of economic situation.
- India, Bangladesh and Bhutan are on top of the list of South East Asian countries in terms of positive outcome of tobacco control.
- The prevalence of tobacco use in India has fallen from 34.1% to 28.6% from GATS-1 to GATS-2.
- 11 Indian cities are in the list of 100 best performers globally.

What were the notable measures in this regard?

- MPOWER measures were introduced by WHO in 2007 to assist in the
country-level implementation of measures to reduce the demand for tobacco.

- A few countries have adopted new laws making all indoor public places and workplaces smoke-free.
- A few countries have advanced to best-practice level with their tobacco use cessation services including India.
- Adoption of pictorial warning labels on tobacco packaging has yielded positive results.

- With increase in the size of pack warnings to 85% of both front and back panels on all tobacco products, India now has the third largest pack warning label among all countries.

- The National Health Policy, 2017 has set a target of “relative reduction in prevalence of current tobacco use by 15% in 2020 and 30% by 2025”.
- Raising taxes to increase tobacco product prices is one of the most effective and cost-effective means to take forward the progress.

Quick Facts

mCessation programme

- The programme commenced in India in 2015, providing personalised tobacco cessation advice including support using mobile phones.
- It was a joint WHO-International Telecommunication Union initiative with the support of Ministries of Health and Family Welfare and Communication and Information Technology.
Reports and conventions

- The WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC), the first international treaty negotiated under the auspices of WHO, was adopted by the World Health Assembly in 2003.
- The WHO produces two key, complementary reports on global tobacco control

1. the **Global Progress Report** on the Implementation of the WHO FCTC, which uses self-reported data from member states.
2. the biennial **Report on the Global Tobacco Epidemic**.

Source: The Indian Express