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15/08/2018

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Considering the fact that combustible cigarettes are freely available across India, do you think an outright ban on e-cigarettes is the right approach to regulate this technology, comment.

E-Cigarettes are hand held device which help to create the feeling of tobacco smoking. The e-liquid heats up when activated and creates an aerosolised vapour which provides a flavour similar to tobacco.

The ban would deprive millions of smokers of safer choices and cause damage to public health. E-Cigarettes are 95% less harmful when compared to tobacco cigarettes. The lives of tobacco users can be positively impacted with harm-reduced alternatives.

The directorate general of health services stated that only certain kind of nicotine preparation is allowed under Drugs and Cosmetic Act. ENDS, e-cigarettes do not fall in these categories. Thus a ban was initiated in this regard.

The idea of banning e-cigarettes is premature, given that no study has been conducted by our health organizations on the impact of vaping. E-cigarettes are

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not only less harmful compared to tobacco cigarettes but also helps smokers wear off the nicotine dependence. And it also has low risk to bystanders than passive smoking.

The reasonable option is to regulate e-cigarettes by creating a standards for aerosols and banning underage and public use.

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