



**KING GEORGE'S MEDICAL UNIVERSITY U.P., LUCKNOW.**  
**DEPARTMENT OF RESPIRATORY MEDICINE**

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- President, Indian College of Allergy Asthma and Applied Immunology
- President, National College of Chest Physicians (India)
- President, Indian Chest Society (2016-17)
- Member, Central and Executive Committee, TB Association of India
- Member, National Task Force for TB Control in India, RNTCP
- Chairman, Operational Research, RNTCP (North Zone)
- Chairman, State Task Force for TB Control, UP, RNTCP
- Member, State Tobacco Control Cell, UP
- Founder In-charge, Tobacco Cessation Clinic, KGMU, Lucknow
- Convener, TB, Tobacco and Pollution Free Lucknow Campaign

Ref.No: 6260/19

Date: 30-05-2019

To

Shri Narendra Modi Ji  
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

**Subject:** Suggestions regarding tobacco control in India and relief for sufferers of tobacco related ailments.

Dear Sir,

My heartiest congratulations to you for being second time Prime Minister of the largest democracy in the world. Under your distinguished leadership the country has progressed by leaps and bounds and it is my sincere belief that it will continue to do so in the future.

Tobacco was introduced in India about 450 years ago during the reign of Emperor Akbar by Portugese sailors and later it became a commercial product when Jahangir introduced taxation on tobacco. It has been proven by thousand and thousand of researches that tobacco and its products can cause 40 type of cancers and 25 types of other health problems. Globally, it kills about 70 Lakhs people per year and in India about 10 lakhs/year.

Combined tax revenue collected annually from tobacco products is Rs. 31000 crores (Ministry of Finance, Govt. of India and Industry estimates, 2015-2016 ), while annual medical cost for tobacco related ailments is around 1,04,500 crores. So it is not economical beneficial.

According to the results of the Global Adult Tobacco Survey published in 2017, 34.6 % of the total adult population (> 15 years) are tobacco users. Out of these 8.7% use smoked tobacco (Bidi, Cigarette), 20.6% use smokeless tobacco ( Khaini, Zarda) and 5.3% use both.





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Hence, I propose the following steps to curb the menace of tobacco in our country.

1. To consider complete ban on tobacco, its farming, processing and sale. To accommodate about 30 million workers working in tobacco industry other alternatives can be created. For example, Agriculture of flowers (Amrit), In place of tobacco (Zahar), as once said by former Prime Minister of India Late Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ji.
2. Strict Implementation of Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Acts (COTPA Act 2003)
3. As it is the proven fact that tobacco and its products can lead to 40 type of cancer and 25 type of other diseases, so, Tobacco industry should give some percentage of treatment cost of these diseases as anticipated compensation to health sector of the country.

I have already requested you last year also by my letter **dated: 26-05-2018 number: 4997/Res./18** (attached). Kindly consider my humble request and Suggestions in the interest of health of Indians.

Thanking you  
With Regards

Your Sincerely

Dr. Surya Kant

**Head of Department**  
**Department of Respiratory Medicine**  
King George's Medical University, U.P. Lucknow

Copy To:

1. Sri Ram Naik Ji, Hon'ble Governor Uttar Pradesh
2. Sri Yogi Aditya Nath, Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh