

SMOKE OF THE VAPER
The ban on e-cigarettes will require rigorous implementation to be effective

When alternatives are peddled as ‘the lesser evil’, virtue is artificially added as a measure of degrees. The evil is often clear and present, as in the case of electronic cigarettes, in all forms — Electronic Nicotine Delivery System (ENDS), vapes, and e-hookahs. The Centre’s move to ban these products shows a welcome intolerance of anything that impacts negatively on the health and wellness of the people of the country. The Cabinet recently cleared the Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes Ordinance, 2019. Now, any production, import, export, sale (including online), distribution or advertisement, and storage of e-cigarettes is a cognisable offence punishable with imprisonment or fine, or both. E-cigarettes, which were to aid smokers kick their habit, do not burn tobacco leaves. Instead these battery-operated devices produce aerosol by heating a solution containing among other things, nicotine. Nicotine is an addictive substance that may, according to studies, function as a “tumour promoter” and aid neuro-degeneration. Some other compounds in the aerosol are toxic substances that have known deleterious effects, and might just be less harmful than cigarettes, not harmless. Seven deaths have been recorded in the U.S. — the largest consumer of e-cigarettes in the world — where, New York recently banned the sale of flavoured e-cigarettes.

There is ample evidence on the harm of nicotine addiction — the reason that it is only approved under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act for use only in nicotine gums and patches. As the WHO’s Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) outlines, these devices can only be believed to succeed if smokers have moved on to an alternative nicotine source, and then stopped using that too; and the recruitment of minors into nicotine dependence eventually wanes to zero. There is evidence now that vaping, dangled as a cool, fun, activity, lures youngsters, and ironically, serves to introduce them to smoking. The FCTC also records that e-cigarettes are unlikely to be harmless, and long-term use is expected to increase the risk of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, lung cancer, and possibly cardiovascular disease and other diseases also associated with smoking. The urgency to act on this front is also justified by the number of users. As per figures submitted to Parliament earlier this year, e-cigarettes and accessories valued at about \$1,91,780 were imported to India between 2016 and 2019. The government, already on the right path, must go all out to ensure that its ban is implemented earnestly in letter and spirit, unlike the patchy execution of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act. It is essential to ensure this progressive ordinance does not go up in smoke.

<u>Words</u>	<u>Kind</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
Ban	Noun	Prohibition, veto, forbid, embargo, proscription, Interdict, moratorium
Rigorous	Adj.	Strict, severe, stern, stingent, austere
Vaper	Noun	Tobacco and smoking
Implementation	Noun	Execution, application, performance, contrivance

Effective	Adj.	Successful, effectual, efficacious, productive
Artificial	Adj.	Feigned, insincere, false, affected, mannered
Clear	Adj.	Transparent, explicit, lucid, pellucid, limpid, coherent unequivocal
Intolerance	Noun	Bigotry, parochialism, insularity, bias
Prohibition	Noun	Banning, forbidden, prohibiting, debarment, proscription, embargo, moratorium
Distribution	Noun	Giving out, issuance, dispensation, allocation
Cognisable	Adj.	Perceptible, clearly, identifiable
Punishable	Adj.	Illegal, unlawful, illegitimate, indictable
Imprisonment	Noun	Incarceration, internment, confinement, detention custody, captivity
Deleterious	Adj.	Perilous, dangerous, vicious, precarious, noxious obnoxious
Flavour	Noun	Impression, indication, suggestion, nuance
Consumer	Noun	Purchaser, buyer, customer, end user, patron
Ample	Adj.	Enough, copious, profuse, prolific, bountiful, prolific superabundant, plethora
Evidence	Noun	Proof, confirmation, verification, attestation, Affirmation, authentication
Addiction	Noun	Fixation, enslavement, craving, habit
Convention	Noun	Agreement, accord, protocol, compact, concord, entete, arrangement
Succeed	Verb	Pull off, carry off, come off, make it, make good go far
Alternation	Noun	Change, mutation, metamorphosis, revamping
Eventually	Adj.	In the end, in fine, by and by, at last
Wane	Verb	Decrease, decline, dwindle, shrink, tail off
Dangle	Verb	Hang (down), droop, sag, swing, sway, wave
Lure	Verb	Tempt, entice, attract, induce, coax, persuade
Obstructive	Adj.	Unhelpful, un-cooperative, disobliging
Pulmonary	Adj.	Relating to the lungs
Earnest	Adj.	Serious, solemn, grave, humourless, steady
In letter and spirit		Obey the letter of the law not the spirit
Progressive	Adj.	Continuing, continuous, increasing, growing, on going escalating
Fiasco	Noun	Cinders, embers, ashes, fizzle
Degeneration	Noun	Deterioration, decline, decay, debasement, degradation, regression
Array	Verb	Display, show, manifest
Toxic	Adj.	Harmful, noxious, venomous, chancy, dicey, Detrimental, obnoxious

ISRAEL UNDECIDED

Netanyahu must step aside to allow the country to get a new stable government

Once again, Israel is poised for protracted coalition talks between the country's two main parties. Tuesday's election, the second this year, is shaping to be as inconclusive as the poll in April. The ambition to win a fifth term in office could elude Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of the conservative Likud party. If anything, his appeal to hard-line Jewish parties to the right helped Israeli

Arabs, under the rubric of the Arab Joint List, to coalesce as a more cohesive force ahead of the polls. Mr. Netanyahu also burned his bridges with potential centrist allies in recent months. With about 96.5% of the ballots counted, Israeli media says the Likud party has won 31 seats. Blue and White, the Opposition of former Army chief Benny Gantz, has reportedly won 33 seats. In the 120-seat Knesset, neither is thus anywhere near securing a clean majority. Between the two of them, Mr. Netanyahu's position appears more precarious. Having failed to forge a right-wing coalition after the inconclusive April election, he opted to return to the people rather than allow Mr. Gantz to try and break the deadlock. Predictably, the latter has offered to establish a unity government with Likud, but without Mr. Netanyahu at the helm. Israel's longest serving Prime Minister could not even contemplate such a scenario, as the country's chief prosecutor is scheduled to begin a probe within weeks into bribery and fraud against him.

Reports indicate that given Mr. Gantz's openness to work with other parties, Israel's President Reuven Rivlin may be inclined to invite him first to form a government. The other dilemma Mr. Netanyahu faces is from the Israel Our Home party, headed by his former Defence Minister, Avigdor Lieberman, who has relentlessly campaigned to remove the exemption of ultraorthodox Jewish communities from enlisting in the armed forces. The issue was a major obstacle to the two parties coming together earlier this year. Israel Our Home and the Arab Joint List are expected to improve on their tally in this election. But to anticipate a working arrangement between them and the Blue and White Opposition may be stretching optimism too far. After all, Mr. Gantz has resorted no less to the rhetoric about expanding Israel's borders deep into the Palestinian territory. But in Israel's increasingly fragmented polity, the imperatives of forming a government oblige parties to strike compromises. That endeavour ought to be underpinned by a recognition of the two-state solution as the only viable course to accord dignity and sovereignty to the Palestinian people. Foremost, Tel Aviv needs a government. Mr. Netanyahu could facilitate the process by stepping aside. That would be the statesmanly act.

<u>Words</u>	<u>Kind</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
Step aside	Verb	Withdraw, resign
Stable	Adj.	Firm, solid, steady, secure, fixed, sturdy
Protracted	Adj.	Prolonged, extended, lengthened, over long
Coalition	Noun	Alliance, union, federation, league, association
Ambition	Noun	Aspiration, intention, goal, aim, objective
Conservative	Ajd.	Traditional, conventional, right wing, conformist orthodox
Appeal	Verb	Plead, beg, sue, make a plea
Rubric	Noun	Set of instructions / rules
Cohesive	Adj.	Clear, cohesive, lucid, pellucid, limpid
Coalesce	Verb	Unite, combine, enjoin, intermingle, amalgamate Consolidate
Allies	Noun	Associate, collage, confederate
Precarious	Adj.	Dangerous, detrimental, perilous, chancy, dicey

		deleterious, noxious, vicious
Forge	Verb	Build, construct, create, establish, set up
Deadlock	Noun	Stalemate, impasse, checkmate, standstill, halt, Cessation, full stop
Predictable	Adj.	Foreseeable, expected, prable, on the cards
At the helm		In charge of / in command of
Contemplate	Verb	Think about, meditate on / over, ponder, mull over muse on, chew over, brood on
Prosecute	Verb	Sue, try, bring to trial, bring legal, proceeding against
Probe	Noun	Investigation, inquiry, examination, inquest, exploration
Bribe	Noun	Hush money, inducement, incentive, backhander kick back
Fraud	Noun	Imposter, fake, sham, pretender, hoodwinker mountebank, swindler, cheat
Dilemma	Noun	Difficulty, fix, quandary, quagmire, predicament plight, mis-mash, confusion
Campaign	Verb	Work, push, strive, struggle, promote
Exemption	Noun	Immunity, exception, indemnity, exclusion
Obstacle	Noun	Barrier, hurdle, impediment, deterrent, complication block, curb
Resort	Verb	Have recourse to, fall back on, call on, utilize, adopt descend to
Rhetoric	Noun	Oratory, articulation, eloquence, expression
Fragmented	Adj.	Incomplete, splinter, fracture, break up, shatter
Endeavour	Noun	Attempt, effort, bid, try, venture, whack
Underpin	Verb	Promote, nurture, encourage, stimulate
Dignity	Noun	Stateliness, regaleness, nobility, regality
Recognition	Noun	Identification, recollection, recall, remembrance
Facilitate	Verb	Make easy, ease, smooth, assist, enable, aid, expedite