

**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.

| <b><u>Words</u></b> | <b><u>Kind</u></b> | <b><u>Meaning</u></b>   |
|---------------------|--------------------|---|
| 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.

| <b><u>Words</u></b> | <b><u>Kind</u></b> | <b><u>Meaning</u></b>  |
|---------------------|--------------------|--|
| 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<br>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<br>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<br>kick back                         |
| Fraud       | Noun | Imposter, fake, sham, pretender, hoodwinker<br>mountebank, swindler, cheat         |
| Dilemma     | Noun | Difficulty, fix, quandary, quagmire, predicament<br>plight, mis-mash, confusion    |
| Campaign    | Verb | Work, push, strive, struggle, promote  |
| Exemption   | Noun | Immunity, exception, indemnity, exclusion  |
| Obstacle    | Noun | Barrier, hurdle, impediment, deterrent, complication<br>block, curb                |
| Resort      | Verb | Have recourse to, fall back on, call on, utilize, adopt<br>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                             |