Tobacco Regulations

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Polity and Governance

Why in the News?

Recently, Union Government has launched Tobacco Educational Institutions (ToFEI) Application & Released Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Tobacco Product Sample Collection on World No Tobacco Day (WNTD)

About WNTD

Initiated by – WHO

Observed on - May 31 every year.

Theme (2026) – Unmasking the appeal – countering Nicotine & Tobacco Addiction.

Nodal Agency – Union Ministry of Health.

Launched under - the Program of National Tobacco Control Program (NTCP)

- **Objective** - To standardized protocol to tighten the regulatory and enforcement loop around the commercial tobacco trade.
- **ToFEI Application –** Is a Digital surveillance & Monitoring tool designed strictly to enforce tobacco –free norms across Colleges & school in India.

Features: -

- **Monitoring –** Digitally the implementation of government's mandatory ToFEI guidelines.
- **Internal audit –** would allow educational institution to self-report their tobacco – free status & verify their compliances bench Mark.
- **Buffer zones –** To track implementation of the legal restrictions of sale of tobacco products within a 100 – yard radius of any educational institutions.
- **Mandatory -** Tobacco control siganages for e.g. Tobacco free area are properly displayed.
- **Launched –** In 3 states:- Rajasthan, Meghalaya & Maharashtra.
- **Performance Matrices -** Feedback from these visually and demographically distinct states will dictate the nationwide scale-up.

- **Standardized legal -** procedures is provided for handling, collection, storage, transportation & Documentation of Tobacco product samples.
- **Quality Audit –** Aims to reduce challenges in lab testing & to provide proper proof during courts regulatory trails.
- **Bolsters state** - enforcement capacity to check compliance regarding deceptive packaging, illegal flavor additives, and unauthorized nicotine levels.
- **Tobacco cessation centers –** Over 2000 centers are operationalized.

Cigarettes & Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA) 2003
Tobacco Control in India is governed by this act. **Provisions** • **Section 4:** Prohibition of smoking in public places. • **Section 6(a):** Prohibition of sale of tobacco products to persons under 18 years of age. • **Section 6(b):** Prohibition of sale of tobacco products in an area within a radius of **100 yards** of any educational institution.

For Reference: [PIB | IAS Parliament]

