

Important Vocab For the Editorial

1. **vaper** (noun) – a person who vapes.
2. **vape** (verb) – inhale and exhale the vapour produced by an electronic cigarette.
3. **peddle** (verb) – advocate, suggest, urge/recommend.
4. **virtue** (noun) – merit, advantage, benefit; good point.
5. **hookah** (noun) – a pipe with a long flexible tube that draws the smoke through water, traditionally used for smoking tobacco, which is often flavored.
6. **welcome** (adjective) – appreciated, popular, desirable, acceptable.
7. **intolerance** (noun) – sensitivity.
8. **cognisable offence** (noun) – an offence for which, a police officer without any warrant has authority to arrest and to start an investigation with or without the permission of a court.
9. **kick** (verb) – give up, end, quit, abandon.
10. **aerosol** (noun) – mixture, mix, compound (in liquid format in a container).
11. **neuro-degeneration** (noun) – the progressive/continuing loss of structure or function of neurons (of the nervous system, particularly in the human brain).
12. **deleterious** (adjective) – harmful, damaging, adverse.
13. **wane** (verb) – decrease, decline, diminish/dwindle.
14. **dangle** (verb) – offer; entice/lure/temp someone with.
15. **lure** (verb) – tempt, entice, attract.
16. **ironically** (adverb) – paradoxically, unexpectedly, strangely.
17. **chronic** (adjective) – persistent, long-term, continuing (or happening again and again for a long time).
18. **pulmonary** (adjective) – relating to the lungs.
19. **cardiovascular** (adjective) – relating to the heart and blood vessels.
20. **all out** (adverb) – vigorously, intensely, with great effort.
21. **earnestly** (adverb) – seriously, sincerely, resolutely/firmly.
22. **letter and spirit** (phrase) – adhering to /obeying both literal interpretation/wording and the spirit/intent/purpose of the law.
23. **patchy** (adjective) – uneven, irregular; insufficient, inadequate .
24. **go up in smoke** (phrase) – fail, not succeed, go amiss.

Smoke of the vaper: On e-cigarettes ban

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.

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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.