

Tobacco sale licensing need anti-poor, says Gzb micro-retailers

Ghaziabad: Paan Club Samiti Ghaziabad, representing the collective voice of more than 40,000 traders, small retailers and panwallas selling tobacco products in Ghaziabad, has raised strong objections on the draft proposal issued by the UP Urban Development Department which mandates separate licences for retailers selling tobacco products like pan, bidi, cigarette, etc.

If the licensing requirement for selling tobacco products is made mandatory, it will drive the families of micro-retailers to starvation as it will severely impact their livelihoods, besides causing likely harassment to poor and mostly uneducated micro-retailers at the hands of enforcement officials, the samiti said.