

## Tobacco warnings to continue

Our Special Correspondent | Mar 28, 2018

**New Delhi:** The Union health ministry on Tuesday said the existing pictorial warnings on tobacco product packs would continue till August 31, extending by five months images that were to be replaced with new ones on April 1 this year.

"The existing specified health warnings on tobacco product packs shall be continued till 31 August 2018," the ministry said in a media release, a day after amending a sub-rule in the Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Packaging and Labelling) Rules, 2008.

The graphic pictorial warnings that cover 85 per cent of the surface area of tobacco product packs had been introduced on April 1, 2016, and were due to be rotated in two years. A health ministry official said the new set of pictorial warnings would be notified after April.

"The extension was necessary because if we notify in April, the industry will get a few months time to prepare for the new warnings on their tobacco packs," the official said.

Health ministry officials said had the new warnings been notified by October last year, the industry could have prepared to release them by April 1, 2018.

"It is our understanding that the health ministry has alternative graphic pictorial warnings to replace the existing ones," said a health activist with a non-government organisation that has been tracking India's tobacco control efforts for over two decades. "This extension gives industry some extra time to delay the new warnings."

**Source:** <https://www.telegraphindia.com/india/tobacco-warnings-to-continue-218983>