

# New set of pictorial warning on tobacco products

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

The Government on Monday notified new sets of specified health warnings for all tobacco product packs by making an amendment to the Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Packaging and Labelling) Rules, 2008. The amended rules will come into effect from September 1, 2020, to be valid for a year from the date of effect.

The Government issued two images—to be displayed by the tobacco products manufactured or imported or packaged on or after September 1 while the other one will be displayed by the product manufactured or imported or packaged after September 1, the statement said.

"The fresh warnings will be valid for a year from the date of effect," added the statement.

"Any person engaged directly or indirectly in the manufacture, production, supply, import or distribution of cigarettes or any tobacco products shall ensure that all tobacco product packages shall have the specified health warnings exactly as prescribed," said the statement.

Any violation of the rules is a punishable offence with imprisonment or fine as prescribed, it noted.

The Government has already asked the States to prohibit spitting tobacco and guthka in the public places warning that it may help spread infectious Coronavirus.

Subsequently many States like Rajasthan, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh has already banned the spitting and those violating the norms will be fined.

As per the World Health Organisation (WHO), smoking may increase the risk of getting a severe case of coronavirus as it damages the lungs and other body parts. "The act of smoking means that fingers (and possibly contaminated cigarettes) are in contact with lips which increases the possibility of transmission of the virus from hand to mouth. Smokers may also already have lung disease or reduced lung capacity which would greatly increase the risk of serious illness," as per the WHO.