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No breather: Smokers to pay more

Smokers may continue to bear the brunt of the government's quest for boosting tax kitty. Following in the footsteps of former FMs like Pranab Mukherjee, P Chidambaram and Arun Jaitley, Nirmala Sitharaman, too, has picked cigarette and other tobacco products to levy an excise duty in addition to GST. Rates would be Rs 5 per 1,000 for cigarettes up to 75mm, and beyond that it would be Rs 10 per 1,000. TEAM TOI