

Ban on pan masala and gutkha: FSSAI issues directive to comply with Supreme Court's order

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The number of tobacco users have gone down by 81 lakh after several initiatives by the government like ban on certain forms of smokeless tobacco products. (PTI)

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Enforcing Supreme court's ban on October 9, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) issued a directive banning the manufacture, sale and distribution of gutka and pan masala. The directive was issued to Commissioners/Offices In-charge of Food Safety of all states and union territories in the country. The Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on sales) Regulations, 2.3.4 prohibits the use of tobacco and nicotine as an ingredient in any food product and also bans the sale of food products where tobacco has been used as ingredient in things like gutka and pan masala, Indian Express reported.

Dr Pankaj Chaturvedi, Head and Neck surgeon at [Tata Memorial Hospital](#) said, the FSSAI's ban on gutka and pan masala which has been supported by the apex court is a pleasant move since only state governments/UTs were issuing orders for banning manufacturing and sale of these items. In the Global Adult Tobacco Survey done in 2016-17 it was found out that 29.6 per cent of men, 12.8 per cent of women and 21.4 per cent of all adults currently use smokeless tobacco. The number of tobacco users have gone down by 81 lakh after several initiatives by the government like ban on certain forms of smokeless tobacco products.