



Nicotine as Class A Poison

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Karnataka has amended Poisons (Possessions and Sale) Rules 2015 by notifying nicotine as **Class A** poison.

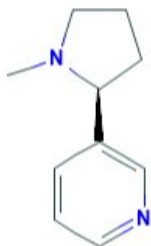
The move aims at strengthening the enforcement of the ban on production and sale of electronic cigarettes.

Background

- In August 2018, **the Union Health Ministry** had instructed all the States to put a ban on the sale of e-cigarettes and other **Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS)** under their jurisdiction.
- Though Karnataka had banned the sale and production of e-cigarettes in June 2016, but illegal sale and smuggling of nicotine cartridges and **e-cigarettes** is rampant in the State.

Nicotine

- Nicotine is a **plant alkaloid** that contains nitrogen, which is found in several types of plants, including the tobacco plant and can also be produced synthetically.



- Nicotine is both a **sedative** and a **stimulant**.
- Nicotine is used as a direct substance in e-cigarettes and the content ranges up to **36 mg/mL**. Although regular cigarettes too have nicotine, but it ranges between **1.2 to 1.4 mg/mL**.
- Chewing or snorting tobacco products usually releases more nicotine into the body

than smoking.

Harmful Effect of Nicotine

- Nicotine on direct application in humans causes irritation and burning sensation in the mouth and throat, increased salivation, nausea, abdominal pain, vomiting and diarrhea.
- It also increases pulse rate and blood pressure.

Classification of Poison

US Department of Transport divides poisons in two classes

- **Class-A:** Highly toxic chemicals which even in very small quantities as gas or vapor in air are dangerous to life such as cyanogen, hydrocyanic acid, nitrogen peroxide, and phosgene.
- **Class-B:** Chemicals other than those included in Class-A and comparatively less toxic but considered dangerous.

Source: The Hindu