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News: Portal launched to report violation of ban on e–cigarettes

- Despite the ban imposed by the Union government in 2019, e–cigarettes continue to be sold on e–commerce sites, even to children below 18, warn experts working in the area of tobacco control.
- Now to curb this, the Health Ministry has launched an online portal to facilitate reporting of violations under the Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes (Production, Manufacture, Import, Export, Transport, Sale, Distribution, Storage and Advertisement) Act (PECA).
- The portal, www.violationreporting.in, will allow faster action against any reported violations.
- The Ministry had earlier cautioned all States and Union Territories about the weak implementation of PECA, leading to easy availability of e–cigarettes through online, retail, convenient stores, and stationery shops and near educational institutions.
- The States were also directed to review the compliance of PECA and issue necessary instructions for effective implementation of the provisions of the Act, through special drives and random checking.