

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

## Taxes on bidis

Publication: [The Indian Express](#), Edition: Pune, Supplement: Pune Newsline, Journalist: Bureau, Page No: 7, Location: Top-Left, Width(cms): 8, Height(cms): 5, Size(sq.cms): 40

### Taxes on *bidis*

Healis - Sekhsaria Institute for Public Health, an anti-tobacco advocacy group, criticised the Union finance ministry of showing preferential treatment to bidi makers by not imposing taxes on bidis but announced an 11 to 18 per cent hike in duties on cigarettes, cigars and cigarillos in the 2010 Budget. According to Dr. Prakash C Gupta, director of the institute says, "Bidi smoke contains high levels of tobacco specific nitrosamines—the two most potent cancer causing agents. It is high time the government took bidi smoking seriously."