



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
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India's rising e - waste – the need to recast its management

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Context

- Ranking among the **world's top e-waste generators** (**China, the United States, India**, Japan, and Germany) India confronts a formidable challenge of managing e-waste.

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

- **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)** mandates producers, importers and brand owners to manage waste from their products' end-of-life.
- **It holds them accountable** for environmental impacts throughout the product lifecycle, promotes sustainable design, integrates environmental costs into pricing, and supports efficient waste management, reducing the burden on municipalities.
- The **E-waste (Management) Rules, 2022** introduced a **floor price for EPR certificates**, a game-changer for India's e-waste management.
- **To comply with EPR rules, producers must obtain EPR certificates from registered recyclers** to show that they have recycled a specified quantity of waste.
- This provision **ensures fair returns for registered recyclers, curbing informal, hazardous recycling** (practices that dominate 95% of the sector).
- **Stable pricing incentivises formal recyclers to adopt safe, advanced technologies, unlocking e-waste's valuable materials such as gold and copper.**
- It prevents chaos seen in sectors such as plastic waste and drives investment in infrastructure, turning e-waste into a resource and supporting a circular economy

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