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# E-Waste

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**Why is in news?** PM Modi calls for creating awareness about proper disposal of Electronic-Waste to save environment

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has stressed on the **need to dispose of E-Waste properly**, as it can harm the environment.

Addressing the nation through the **97th episode of his Mann Ki Baat programme** on All India Radio, he observed that **today's latest devices are the future's E-Waste**.

He pointed out that **E-Waste can become a great force in the Circular Economy of recycling and reusing**. He stressed that if E-Waste is not disposed off properly, it can harm the environment.

A **United Nations report** mentioned that **50 million tonnes of E-Waste are thrown every year**. He told listeners that about **17 types of Precious Metals can be extracted from this E-Waste** through different processes. This includes Gold, Silver, Copper and Nickel.

The Prime Minister said that utilising E-Waste is no less than making '**Kachre Ko Kanchan**'.

He said, there is no dearth of start-ups that are doing innovative work in this direction. At present, around 500 E-Waste Recyclers are associated with this sector and many new entrepreneurs are also being associated with it. This sector has also **given direct employment** to thousands of people.

He gave the example of **E-Parisaraa of Bengaluru** which is engaged in one such effort. It has developed indigenous technology for **extracting precious metals from Printed Circuit Boards**.

The Prime Minister also made note of **Ecoreco in Mumbai** which has developed a system to **collect E-Waste through a Mobile App**.

**Attero Recycling of Roorkee**, Uttarakhand has obtained many patents in this field worldwide. It has also earned a lot of awards by preparing its own E-Waste Recycling Technology.

Tonnes of E-Waste is being collected in Bhopal through a **Mobile App and the Website 'Kabadiwala'**.

Prime Minister lauded these initiatives saying all these are helping to **make India a Global Recycling Hub**. He also stressed the need for awareness among people about safe, useful methods of disposal of E-Waste. **At present, only 15 to 17 per cent of E-Waste is recycled every year**.

## E- Waste:

**E-waste or electronic waste** is created when an electronic product is discarded after the end of its useful life. The rapid expansion of technology and the consumption driven society results in the creation of a very large amount of e-waste.

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Laws to manage e-waste have been in place in India since 2011, mandating that only authorised dismantlers and recyclers collect e-waste. **E-waste (Management) Rules, 2016** was enacted in 2017.

**India's first e-waste clinic** for segregating, processing and disposal of waste from household and commercial units has been set-up in **Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh**.

Originally, the **Basel Convention (1992)** did not mention e-waste but later it **addressed the issues of e-waste in 2006 (COP8)**.

The **Nairobi Declaration** was adopted at **COP9 of the Basel Convention on the Control of the Trans-boundary Movement of Hazardous Waste**. It aimed at creating innovative solutions for the environmentally sound management of electronic wastes.

According to the **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)**, India **generated more than 10 lakh tonnes of e-waste in 2019-20**, an increase from 7 lakh tonnes in 2017-18. Against this, the e-waste dismantling capacity has not been increased from 82 lakh tonnes since 2017-18.

In 2018, the Ministry of Environment had told the tribunal that **95% of e-waste in India is recycled by the informal sector and scrap dealers unscientifically dispose** of it by burning or dissolving it in acids