

## E-Waste Issue in India

### What is the issue?

The extraction from the discarded e-wastes which is usually performed by children, is a crude and hazardous process that goes unregulated in India.

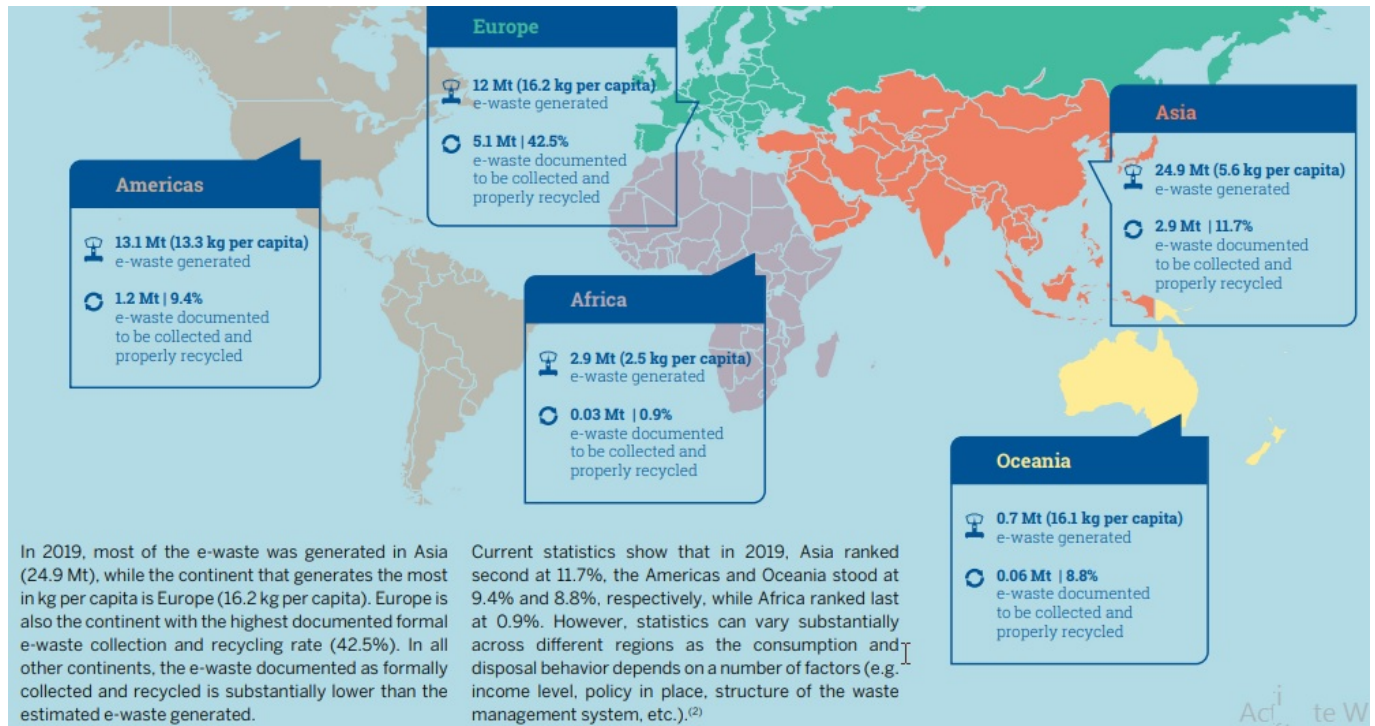
### What is e-waste?

- **E-waste-** E-waste (electronic waste) is used to describe old, end-of-life or discarded electric and electronic appliances.
- This e-waste is comprised of 21 types of electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) notified Under the **E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2016**.
- E-waste includes components, consumables, parts and spares of
  1. Information technology and communication equipment
  2. Consumer electrical and electronics
- It releases toxic elements such as Lead, Mercury, Cadmium, Chromium, Polybrominated biphenyls and Polybrominated diphenyl.
- Many children suffer from serious skin diseases and chronic lung infections due to continuous exposure to chemical-laden toxins found in the metals.

### What is the picture of e-waste production?

*India is the third largest generator of e-wastes in the world after China and the USA*

- According to the **Global E-waste Monitor 2020**, the world dumped 53.6 million metric tons of e-waste in 2019.
- India produced 3.2 million metric tons of e-waste, much of which is dumped for dismantling and recycling with no regulations.
- Only 22.7% of the e-waste generated in 2019-20 in India was collected, dismantled, and recycled or disposed off.



## What efforts were taken in this regard?

### E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2016

- **EPR** - The Rules extend the responsibility to producers to manage a system of e-waste collection, storage, transportation, and environmentally sound dismantling and recycling through Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR).
- **E-waste collection** - The rules also promote and encourage the establishment of an efficient e-waste collection mechanism.
- **Dismantling and recycling**- The dismantlers and recyclers have to obtain authorisation from concerned State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) or Pollution Control Committees (PCCs).
- They grant authorisation after ensuring that the dismantlers and recyclers have the facilities as per the guidelines of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

### Scheme for Promotion of Manufacturing of Electronic Components and Semiconductors (SPECS)

- The amended SPECS provides a financial incentive of 25% on capital expenditure for setting up modern recycling facilities for the extraction of precious metals from e-waste.
- A policy paper on circular economy (CE) in the EEE sector says e-waste mining offers an opportunity to secure the supply of resources needed for manufacturing EEE products.

## What is the need of the hour?

- The lack of a dedicated and robust e-waste collection chain in India is a major bottleneck.
- There is a need for investments in e-waste management systems to promote environment-friendly and sustainable metal recovery processes.

- Beyond its economic value, recycling can shield living beings and the environment from toxic substances.
- As e-waste recycling with primitive methods can damage the environment, the recycling infrastructure should be improved and manufacturers encouraged to set up e-waste drop points.
- Consumers should also get incentives for disposing of their devices properly.

## References

1. [The Indian Express | Impact of e-waste on poor children](#)
2. [Time of India | Why India needs to ramp up e-waste collection now](#)
3. [The Hindu Businessline | India's e-waste](#)

