



## e-Cigarettes

**For Prelims:** [e-Cigarettes](#), [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#), Tobacco, Nicotine Addiction, Carcinogenic Substances.

**For Mains:** e-Cigarettes, Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

**Source:** [TH](#)

### Why in News?

Recently, the [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#) has urged governments to treat [e-cigarettes](#) **similarly to tobacco and ban all flavors**, threatening cigarette companies' bets on smoking alternatives.

- Some researchers, campaigners and governments see e-cigarettes, or vapes, as a key tool in reducing the **death and disease caused by smoking**. But the WHO said "urgent measures" are needed to control them.

### What are e-Cigarettes?

- e-Cigarettes** are **battery powered devices** that work by heating a liquid into an aerosol that the user inhales and exhales.
- The e-cigarette liquid **typically contains nicotine, propylene glycol, glycerin**, flavorings, and other chemicals.
- There are many different types of e-cigarettes in use, also known as electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS) and sometimes electronic non-nicotine delivery systems (ENNDS).

### What are the Concerns Raised by WHO Regarding e-Cigarettes?

- Ineffectiveness for Smoking Cessation:**
  - E-cigarettes as consumer products **are not shown to be effective for quitting tobacco** use at the population level. Instead, alarming evidence has emerged on adverse population health effects.
  - E-cigarettes have been **allowed on the open market** and aggressively marketed to young people.
    - Thirty-four countries ban the sale of e-cigarettes, 88 countries have no minimum age at which e-cigarettes can be bought and 74 countries have no regulations in place for these harmful products.
- Impact on Youth:**
  - The recruitment and **potential trapping of children and young people** at an early age into using e-cigarettes, potentially leading to **nicotine addiction**.
  - The aggressive marketing of e-cigarettes, **along with insufficient regulations in many countries**, contributes to this issue.
- Rising Usage among Youth:**

- Children **13-15-years old are using e-cigarettes** at rates higher than adults in all WHO regions.
- In Canada, the rate of e-cigarette use among 16-19-year-olds has doubled between 2017-2022, and in England (the United Kingdom) the number of young users has tripled in the past three years.
- **Health Risks:**
  - Although the long-term health effects of e-cigarettes are not fully understood, these devices generate toxic substances, some of which are known to cause cancer and increase the risk of heart and lung disorders.
  - E-cigarette use can also **affect brain development, cause learning disorders** in young people, and adversely affect fetal development in pregnant women.
- **Nicotine Addiction and Addictive Nature:**
  - E-cigarettes containing nicotine are noted to be highly addictive, posing health risks to both users and bystanders. The addictive nature of nicotine in e-cigarettes raises concerns about countering nicotine addiction, especially among young users.

## Note

In India, the possession of e-cigarettes and similar devices is a violation of the Prohibition of Electronic Cigarette Act (PECA) 2019.

## What are the Arguments in Favour of e-Cigarettes?

- **Harm Reduction:**
  - Proponents argue that e-cigarettes offer a harm reduction strategy compared to traditional tobacco products.
  - They contain nicotine but **lack many of the harmful carcinogens present in conventional cigarettes**. As a result, they are often seen as a safer alternative for adult smokers who are unable or unwilling to quit using nicotine altogether.
- **Economic Revenue:**
  - There's an economic argument suggesting that legalizing and regulating e-cigarettes could generate substantial tax revenue for governments. By taxing e-cigarettes, authorities could benefit from revenues while also controlling and monitoring their use.
- **Consumer Choice:**
  - Supporters argue for the importance of consumer choice and access to alternatives. They believe that adult smokers should have the option **to choose less harmful nicotine delivery systems** if they find traditional smoking cessation methods ineffective.

## What is Nicotine?

- **Nicotine** is a plant alkaloid that contains nitrogen, which is found in several types of plants, including the tobacco plant and can also be produced synthetically.
- Nicotine is both a sedative and a stimulant.
- Nicotine is used as a direct substance in e-cigarettes and the content ranges up to 36 mg/mL. Although regular cigarettes too have nicotine, but it ranges between 1.2 to 1.4 mg/mL.
- Karnataka has notified nicotine as Class A poison.

## What are the Government Initiatives Related to Tobacco Consumption?

- **National Tobacco Control Programme**
- Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Amendment Rules, 2023.
- **National Tobacco Quitline Services (NTOLS)**
- The Union Finance Minister of India announced a 16% increase in National Calamity Contingent Duty (NCCD) on cigarettes in the **Budget 2023-24**.

- The Union Health Ministry of India has announced new regulations requiring [Over-The-Top \(OTT\) platforms](#) to display tobacco-related health warnings during streamed content.

## Way Forward

- There is a need for **urgent measures to prevent the uptake of e-cigarettes**, counter nicotine addiction, and promote a comprehensive approach to tobacco control, considering national circumstances.
- Advocates suggest regulating and taxing e-cigarettes similarly to other "sin goods" like cigarettes and alcohol. This approach aims to disincentivize excessive use while allowing access to a potentially less harmful alternative for smokers.

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## Waste Management Initiatives

**For Prelims:** [Extended Producer Responsibility](#), Plastic Packaging, [E-waste](#), Battery Waste, Bio-medical Waste, [Swachh Bharat Mission](#), Bio-remediation, Waste Management Rules

**For Mains:** Waste Management Initiatives and Rules, Government Policies & Interventions

[Source: PIB](#)

### Why in News?

In a recent written reply in the [Rajya Sabha](#), the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change highlighted the significant steps taken to tackle [waste management in the country](#).

### What are the Highlighted Initiatives Related to Waste Management?

- **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Mechanism:**
  - [EPR](#) is a policy approach in waste management that makes producers **responsible for the entire lifecycle of their products**, including their collection, recycling, and disposal.
    - It aims to reduce the **environmental impact of products** by shifting the financial and physical burden of waste management from governments and taxpayers to producers.
  - In 2022, EPR initiatives utilizing market mechanisms were implemented for [plastic packaging](#), [E-waste](#), battery waste, and [used oil](#). This strategic move is anticipated to stimulate growth in the waste management sector.
- **Waste Processing Capacity:**
  - Out of the approximately **1.5 lakh metric tons per day (MT/D) waste generated in urban areas, around 76% is processed**.
  - Since 2014, there has been a notable increase in the capacity for processing various types of waste, including solid waste, hazardous waste, bio-medical waste, E-waste, plastic waste, and construction and demolition waste.
  - Solid waste processing capacity has seen an increase of around 1.05 lakh MT/D in the last eight years, particularly under the [Swachh Bharat Mission \(Urban\)](#).
- **Swachh Bharat Mission for Solid Waste Management:**
  - Central assistance is provided under **Swachh Bharat Mission for solid waste**

**management** including plastic waste management in urban and rural areas, as per scheme guidelines.

- The Central Government launched [Swachh Bharat Mission Urban 2.0 \(SBM-U 2.0\)](#) in 2021 with the overall vision of creating "[Garbage Free Cities](#)", which would involve achieving the target that all Urban Local Bodies will become at least **3-star certified (as per Star Rating Protocol for Garbage Free Cities)** covering door to door collection, source segregation, and scientific processing of municipal solid waste.
- The mission focuses on source segregation, reducing single-use plastic, managing waste from construction-and-demolition activities, and bio-remediation of legacy waste dump sites.
- Under [Swachh Bharat Mission - Grameen Phase II](#), the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation has issued operational guidelines to the States and Union Territories which include **solid waste management activities at the village level.**
- **Waste Management Rules and Guidelines:**
  - The **Ministry, under the [Environment \(Protection\) Act, 1986](#)**, has implemented various waste management rules and guidelines to ensure environmentally sound practices. These include:
    - [Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016.](#)
    - [Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016.](#)
    - [Bio-medical Waste Management Rules, 2016.](#)
    - [Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules, 2016.](#)
    - [Hazardous and other wastes \(Management and Transboundary Movement\) Rules, 2016.](#)
    - [E-waste Management Rules, 2022.](#)
    - [Battery Waste Management Rules, 2022.](#)
    - Guidelines have also been issued on environmentally sound waste management.
      - Guidelines have been developed for the levy of **environmental damages /environmental compensation charges** based upon the polluter pays principle, for hazardous waste, E-waste, and plastic waste.

## Note

- The 'polluter pays' principle is the commonly accepted practice that those who produce pollution should bear the costs of managing it to prevent damage to human health or the environment.

## UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

### Prelims

**Q. As per the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 in India, which one of the following statements is correct? (2019)**

- (a) Waste generator has to segregate waste into five categories.
- (b) The Rules are applicable to notified urban local bodies, notified towns and all industrial townships only.
- (c) The Rules provide for exact and elaborate criteria for the identification of sites for landfills and waste processing facilities.
- (d) It is mandatory on the part of the waste generator that the waste generated in one district cannot be moved to another district.

**Ans: (c)**

## Indira Gandhi Peace Prize

[Source: TH](#)

### Why in News?

Recently, the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for 2023 has been jointly awarded to **Daniel Barenboim and Ali Abu Awwad** for their efforts in bringing together the youth and peoples of Israel and the Arab World **for a non-violent resolution** of the [Israel-Palestine conflict](#).

- Barenboim is an Argentine-born distinguished classical pianist, and Awwad is an eminent Palestinian peace activist who has been working for a peaceful resolution of the ongoing conflict in the **Middle East**.

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### What is the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development?

- **About:**

- The Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament, and Development award has **been conferred every year since 1986 by Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust** in honor of Indira Gandhi, the former Prime Minister of India.
- The award recognizes **individuals or organizations for their exceptional contributions** to international peace, disarmament, and development.
- The prize is awarded annually and is considered one of the highest honors in the field of peace and development.
- It consists of a monetary award of **25 lakh rupees along with a citation.**
- **Categories:**
  - The award is bestowed in **three categories:** peace, disarmament, and development.
- **Criteria for Recognition:**
  - The recipients are chosen based on their exceptional and sustained efforts to address critical global challenges related to peace, disarmament, and development.
  - Their work should demonstrate a positive impact on the international community and contribute to the betterment of human welfare.

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