



Mains Practice Question

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This just in:

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[Q. Examine the causes behind India's problem of e-waste and reasons due to which rules have been ineffective. \(250 words\)](#)

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Approach:

- Introduce briefly e-waste problem through relevant facts.
- Enumerate causes of e-waste.
- Describe the reasons for the failures of e-waste guidelines to control the problem.

Answer:

Introduction

- The **Global E-waste Monitor 2017** by the United Nations University, states that India generates about 2 million tonnes of e-waste annually and ranks fifth among e-waste producing countries, after the US, China, Japan and Germany.
- **E-Waste Management Rules, 2016**, provides that manufacturers of electric and electronic equipments must facilitate their collection and return it to authorized dismantlers or recyclers. However, there is little evidence that it is being implemented.

Causes of E-waste

- **Domestic use:** The decline in cost of consumer electronics, rise in middle-class incomes, and the increase in frequency at which devices are discarded. India has emerged as second largest mobile phone market which has created major problem for management of e-

- waste.
- **Illegal Import:** Hazardous and illegal e-waste is imported from developed countries under the garb of recycling. However, due to lack of monitoring there is no way to ensure imported material is sent back. A 2015 report by the United Nations Environment Programme says that China, India, Malaysia and Pakistan are the main destinations for large-scale shipments of hazardous wastes, including e-waste, in Asia.
 - **Infrastructure problem:** Shortage of Institutional infrastructures, including e-waste collection, transportation, treatment, storage, recovery and disposal, need to be established, at national and/or regional levels for the environmentally sound management of e-waste
 - **Informal and Unscientific approach:** Over 95 per cent of e-waste recycling is done by the informal sector through unscientific methods to recycle e-waste.

Reasons for ineffectiveness of rules:

- **Failure in implementation** of E-Waste (Management) Rules due to shortage of personnel in state and central pollution board.
- Rules allow for refurbishing of imported second-hand products. However the nodal agency, the Central Board of Excise and Customs, **lacks the human resource and the infrastructure** to distinguish between a second-hand product and e-waste.
- There are **grey areas in the rules** as there is no mechanism to check whether products imported for refurbishing have been re-exported or not. Even if a fraud is detected the law is silent on the penal clause.
- The rules provide that the responsibility of producers is not confined to waste collection, but also to ensure that the waste reaches the authorised recycler/dismantler. But the annual returns filed by the producers are silent on this. Since there is **no monitoring system**, there is no guarantee that the waste collected by producers does not go to unauthorised recyclers.
- **Lack of awareness:** There is the general lack of awareness about e-waste and rules governing their management. A 2015 survey by Toxic Links found that only 50 per cent people interviewed were “acquainted with the term e-waste”. Those interviewed were residents of India’s top 5 e-waste generating cities — Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata and Bengaluru.

Conclusion

- E-waste when dismantled and disposed unscientifically release extremely harmful gases or large particulates into environment causing hazardous air pollution causing severe health hazards.
- Thus there is need to implement the E-waste management rules 2016 effectively and deal with the problem of e-waste more holistically with proper monitoring mechanisms in place.

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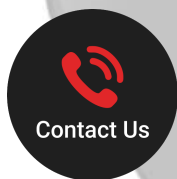


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$('#archivefrm button').click(function(e){ var year=$('#archiveyear').val(); var month=$('#archivemonth').val(); if(year!='' && month!=''){ location='https://www.drishtiiias.com/archives/'+year+'-'+month; } }); $('#archivedtfrm button').click(function(e){ var start=$('#startdate').val(); var end=$('#enddate').val(); if(start=='') { $('#startdate').addClass('error'); $('.err').html('Please enter start date'); } else if(end=='') { $('#enddate').addClass('error'); $('.err').html('Please enter end date'); } else if(new Date(end
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function openForm() { var form = document.getElementById("myForm"); var opacity = 0; form.style.display = "block"; // Gradually increase opacity to 1 var fadeInterval = setInterval(function () { if (opacity >= 1) { clearInterval(fadeInterval); } else { opacity += 0.1; form.style.opacity = opacity; } }, 20); // Adjust the interval as needed for the desired speed // Add click event listener to document to close form when clicking outside document.addEventListener("click", closeFormOnClickOutside); } function closeForm() { var form = document.getElementById("myForm"); var opacity = 1; // Gradually decrease opacity to 0 var fadeOutInterval = setInterval(function () { if (opacity
```



```
screen_width_resize_before){ //Zoom out if(current_location > screen_middle){ box.style.left =
(screen_width_resize_after-xx) + 'px'; } else { box.style.left = x + 'px'; } } else { //Zoom in
if(current_location > screen_middle){ box.style.left = (screen_width_resize_after-xx) + 'px'; } else {
box.style.left = x + 'px'; } } var screen_width_resize_before = screen_width_resize_after; });
document.addEventListener('scroll',(event) => { var box_top=parseInt(box.style.top, 10); var
window_height=parseInt(window.innerHeight, 10); if((box_top >= window_height) || (box_top
screen_middle){ box.style.left = (screen_width-xx) + 'px'; } else { box.style.left = x + 'px'; } box.style.top
= (window_height*0.5)+'px'; } }, { passive: true } ); $('float-plus').draggable(); $(".float-
plus").css("position", "fixed"); $(".float-plus").css("z-index", "999"); $(".float-plus").click(function(){
show_social_float_icons(); }); var box = document.getElementById('float-plus'); $(".float-
plus").mousedown(function(){ const body = document.body; box.style.transition = "all 0s ease 0s";
body.style.overflow = "hidden"; body.style.pointerEvents = "auto"; }); $(".float-plus").mouseup(function(){
const body = document.body; body.style.overflow = "auto"; body.style.pointerEvents = "auto";
box.style.transition = "all 1s ease 0s"; var screen_width = window.innerWidth; var screen_width =
parseInt(screen_width, 10) var current_location = box.style.left; var current_location =
parseInt(current_location, 10) var screen_middle = (screen_width/2); var xx = (screen_width*0.04); var x
= (screen_width*0.009); if(current_location > screen_middle){ box.style.left = (screen_width-xx) + 'px'; }
else { box.style.left = x + 'px'; } }); // For MOBILE TOUCH - DRAGGABLE
box.addEventListener('touchstart', function(e) { box.style.transition = "all 0s ease 0s"; });
box.addEventListener('touchmove', function(e) { e.preventDefault(); box.style.transform =
"translate(-50%, -50%)"; var touchLocation = e.targetTouches[0]; box.style.left = (touchLocation.pageX-
window.scrollX) + 'px'; box.style.top = (touchLocation.pageY-window.scrollY) + 'px'; });
box.addEventListener('touchend', function(e) { box.style.transition = "all 1s ease 0s"; var screen_width =
screen.width; var screen_width = parseInt(screen_width, 10) var current_location = box.style.left; var
current_location = parseInt(current_location, 10) var screen_middle = (screen_width/2); var xx =
(screen_width*0.05); var x = (screen_width*0.05); if(current_location > screen_middle){ box.style.left =
(screen_width-xx) + 'px'; } else { box.style.left = x + 'px'; } }); function remove_social_float_icons() {
$(".float-fb").animate({ top: "-=8%", }, 500 ); setTimeout(function(){ $(".float-fb" ).hide("slow"); },500);
$(".float-tw").animate({ top: "-=16%", }, 500 ); setTimeout(function(){ $(".float-tw" ).hide("slow"); },500);
$(".float-rs").animate({ top: "-=24%", }, 500 ); setTimeout(function(){ $(".float-rs" ).hide("slow"); },500);
$(".float-ig").animate({ top: "-=32%", }, 500 ); setTimeout(function(){ $(".float-ig" ).hide("slow"); },500);
$(".float-pn").animate({ top: "-=40%", }, 500 ); setTimeout(function(){ $(".float-pn" ).hide("slow"); },500);
$(".float-wp").animate({ top: "-=48%", }, 500 ); setTimeout(function(){ $(".float-wp" ).hide("slow");
},500); var width = (window.innerWidth > 0) ? window.innerWidth : screen.width; if(width >= 700){
$(".float-tg").animate({ top: "-=56%", }, 500 ); setTimeout(function(){ $(".float-tg" ).hide("slow"); },500);
} setTimeout(function(){ $(".float-cross" ).hide("slow"); },500); setTimeout(function(){ $(".float-plus"
).show("slow"); },500); sessionStorage.setItem("remove_social_icons", "1"); } function
show_social_float_icons(){ setTimeout(function(){ $(".float-plus" ).hide("slow"); },10);
setTimeout(function(){ $(".float-fb" ).show("slow"); },10); setTimeout(function(){ $(".float-tw"
).show("slow"); },10); setTimeout(function(){ $(".float-rs" ).show("slow"); },10); setTimeout(function(){ $(".
float-ig" ).show("slow"); },10); setTimeout(function(){ $(".float-pn" ).show("slow"); },10);
setTimeout(function(){ $(".float-wp" ).show("slow"); },10); var width = (window.innerWidth > 0) ?
window.innerWidth : screen.width; if(width >= 700){ setTimeout(function(){ $(".float-tg" ).show("slow");
},10); } setTimeout(function(){ $(".float-cross" ).show("slow"); },10); $(".float-fb").animate({ top:
"+=8%", }, 500 ); $(".float-tw").animate({ top: "+=16%", }, 600 ); $(".float-rs").animate({ top: "+=24%",
}, 700 ); $(".float-ig").animate({ top: "+=32%", }, 800 ); $(".float-pn").animate({ top: "+=40%", }, 900 );
$(".float-wp").animate({ top: "+=48%", }, 1000 ); if(width >= 700){ $(".float-tg").animate({ top:
"+=56%", }, 1000 ); } sessionStorage.setItem("remove_social_icons", "0"); }
```

```
$(document).ready(function(){ var value = sessionStorage.getItem("remove_social_icons"); if(value ==
'1'){ remove_social_float_icons(); } }); // function to close the popup function closePopup() { var modal =
document.getElementById("myModal"); modal.style.display = "none"; } // function to open the popup
function openPopup() { var modal = document.getElementById("myModal"); modal.style.display =
"block"; } // Added the code - If user click on anywhere outside the popup $('body').click(function(e) {
$('#myModal').hide(); }); $('#popclose').on('click',function(e) { $('#myModal').css('display','none'); }); //
automatically open the popup on page load window.onload = openPopup; $(document).ready(function(){
if(screen.width { button.addEventListener('click', btnEvent => { // console.log(button.id); $.ajax({
method: "POST", url: "https://www.drishtias.com/search/", data: { 'id': button.id, 'search': search },
headers: { 'X-CSRF-TOKEN': $(''[name = "_csrfToken"]').val() }, success: function(result){
$('body').html(result); }, error: function(error){ console.log(error) } }) }) $(document).ready(function(){
//alert(getCookie('isLogin')); if(getCookie('isLogin')==1) { $('#myAccountDiv').css('display','inline-block');
$('#loginLink').css('display','none'); $('#registerLink').css('display','none');
$('#makeNoteLoginLink').css('display','inline-block'); $('#makeNoteLink').css('display','none');
$('#makeNoteOptionDiv').css('display','inline-block'); } else { $('#myAccountDiv').css('display','none');
$('#loginLink').css('display','inline-block'); $('#registerLink').css('display','inline-block');
$('#makeNoteLoginLink').css('display','none'); $('#makeNoteLink').css('display','inline-block');
$('#makeNoteOptionDiv').css('display','none'); } }); function getCookie(name) { var match =
document.cookie.match(RegExp("(?:^|;)\s*" + name + "=(.*)")); return match ? match[1] : null; } var
regex = /^[a-zA-Z0-9_+!@([a-zA-Z0-9-])+\.[a-zA-Z0-9]{2,4}+$/; var phonex = /^[0-9 ]+$/;
$('#newsletterfrm').submit(function(e){ var msg=true; var txtname=$('#txtname').val(); var
txtemail=$('#txtemail').val(); $('#nmsg').html(""); //$('#input-error').remove(); if(txtname.trim()==){
$('#txtname').addClass('input-error'); msg=false; }else{ $('#txtname').removeClass('input-error'); }
if(txtemail.trim()==){ $('#txtemail').addClass('input-error'); msg=false; }else
if(!regex.test(txtemail)){ $('#txtemail').addClass('input-error'); msg=false; }else{
$('#txtemail').removeClass('input-error'); } if(msg){ var form=$('#newsletterfrm').serialize(); $.ajax({
type: "POST", url: "https://www.drishtias.com/pages/newsletterfrm", data: form, success: function(data){
if(data=='already'){ $('#nmsg').html('Email address already in use'); }else if(data=='add'){
$('#nmsg').html('Thank you for subscribing to our newsletter.'); $('#txtname').val("");
$('#txtemail').val(""); }else{ $('#nmsg').html('Oops! something went wrong, Please try again'); }
//$('#nloader').hide(); }, error: function(error,errortype,errorstatus){ alert(errortype);
//$('#nloader').hide(); } }); } e.preventDefault(); }); $('#smsalertfrm').submit(function(e) var msg=true;
var txtmobile=$('#txtmobile').val(); $('#nmmsg').html(""); //$('#input-error').remove();
if(txtmobile.trim()==){ $('#txtmobile').addClass('input-error'); msg=false; }else
if(txtmobile.trim().length!=10){ $('#txtmobile').addClass('input-error'); msg=false; }else
if(!phonex.test(txtmobile)){ $('#txtmobile').addClass('input-error'); msg=false; }else{
$('#txtmobile').removeClass('input-error'); } if(msg){ var form=$('#smsalertfrm').serialize();
//$('#nmloader').show(); $.ajax({ type: "POST", url: "https://www.drishtias.com/pages/smsalertfrm", data:
form, success: function(data){ if(data=='already'){ $('#nmmsg').html('Phone number already in use');
}else if(data=='add'){ $('#nmmsg').html('Thank you for subscribing to our SMS Alerts.');
$('#txtmobile').val(""); }else{ $('#nmmsg').html('Oops! something went wrong, Please try again'); }
//$('#nmloader').hide(); }, error: function(error,errortype,errorstatus){ alert(errortype);
//$('#nmloader').hide(); } }); } e.preventDefault(); }); $('#subscriptionfrm').submit(function(e){ var
msg=true; var txtname=$('#name').val(); var txtemail=$('#emailaddress').val(); var
txtmobile=$('#phone').val(); $('#contactmsg').html(""); //$('#input-error').remove();
if(txtname.trim()==){ $('#name').addClass('input-error'); msg=false; }else{
$('#name').removeClass('input-error'); } if(txtemail.trim()==){ $('#emailaddress').addClass('input-
error'); msg=false; }else if(!regex.test(txtemail)){ $('#emailaddress').addClass('input-error'); msg=false;
}else{ $('#emailaddress').removeClass('input-error'); } if(txtmobile.trim()==){
$('#phone').addClass('input-error'); msg=false; }else if(txtmobile.trim().length!=10){
$('#phone').addClass('input-error'); msg=false; }else if(!phonex.test(txtmobile)){
$('#phone').addClass('input-error'); } else{ $('#phone').removeClass('input-error'); }
if($('#dailyupdates').prop("checked") == false && $('#examnewsletter').prop("checked") == false &&
$('#fullnewsletter').prop("checked") == false && $('#sms').prop("checked") == false) {
$('#contactmsg').css('display','block'); $('#contactmsg').addClass('error'); $('#contactmsg').html('No
option selected, please select at least one option.'); msg=false; } if(msg){ $('#loader').css('display','block');
var form=$('#subscriptionfrm').serialize(); $.ajax({ type: "POST", url:
"https://www.drishtias.com/subscription", data: form, success: function(data) {
$('#loader').css('display','none'); if(data=='success'){ $('#contactmsg').css('display','block');
```

```
$('#contactmsg').removeClass('error'); $('#contactmsg').html('Thank you for subscribing to our
subscription. You will hear from us soon.');
```

\$('#name').val(""); \$('#emailaddress').val(""); \$('#phone').val(""); }else{ \$('#contactmsg').css('display','block'); \$('#contactmsg').addClass('error');

```
$('#contactmsg').html('Oops! something went wrong, Please try again'); } }, error:
function(error,errortype,errorstatus){ $('#loader').css('display','none'); alert(errortype);
//$('#nloader').hide(); } }); } e.preventDefault(); }); $('#testseriesfrm').submit(function(e){ var msg=true;
var txtnname=$('#firstname').val(); var txtnemail=$('#emailaddress').val(); var
txtnmobile=$('#phonenumber').val(); $('#contactmsg').html(""); //$('#input-error').remove();
if(txtnname.trim()=="){ $('#firstname').addClass('input-error'); msg=false; }else{
$('#firstname').removeClass('input-error'); } if(txtnemail.trim()=="){ $('#emailaddress').addClass('input-
error'); msg=false; }else if(!regex.test(txtnemail)){ $('#emailaddress').addClass('input-error'); msg=false;
}else{ $('#emailaddress').removeClass('input-error'); } if(txtnmobile.trim()=="){
$('#phonenumber').addClass('input-error'); msg=false; }else if(txtnmobile.trim().length!=10){
$('#phonenumber').addClass('input-error'); msg=false; }else if(!phonex.test(txtnmobile)){
$('#phonenumber').addClass('input-error'); msg=false; }else{ $('#phonenumber').removeClass('input-
error'); } if(msg){ $('#loader').css('display','block'); var form=$('#testseriesfrm').serialize(); $.ajax({ type:
"POST", url: "https://www.drishtiias.com/test-series-registration", data: form, success: function(data){
$('#loader').css('display','none'); //alert(data); if(data=='success'){ $('#contactmsg').css('display','block');
$('#contactmsg').removeClass('error'); $('#contactmsg').html('Thank you for choosing our test series. You
will get an email and message soon.');
```

\$('#firstname').val(""); \$('#lastname').val("");

```
$('#emailaddress').val(""); $('#phonenumber').val(""); }else{ $('#contactmsg').css('display','block');
$('#contactmsg').addClass('error'); $('#contactmsg').html(data); } }, error:
function(error,errortype,errorstatus){ $('#loader').css('display','none'); alert(errortype);
//$('#nloader').hide(); } }); } e.preventDefault(); }); $('#allnotes').click(function(){
$('#fixbtn.notes').removeClass('open'); $('#fixbtn.mynotes').toggleClass('open'); });
$('#mynotes,.notelist').on('click','.readmore',function(){ var noteid=$(this).attr('data-noteid');
$('#note_id').val(noteid); $.ajax({ type: "POST", url: "https://www.drishtiias.com/articles/setnote", data:
'note_id='+noteid, success: function(data){ if(data){ tinymce.get("mynote").setContent(data);
$('#mynotemsg').html(""); $('#fixbtn.notes').toggleClass('open'); }else{ alert('Oops! something went
wrong, Please try again'); } }, error: function(error,errortype,errorstatus){ alert(errortype); } }); });
$('#notelink').click(function(){ $.ajax({ type: "POST", url: "https://www.drishtiias.com/articles/removenote",
success: function(data){ if(data=='removed'){ $('#note_id').val(""); tinymce.get("mynote").setContent("");
$('#mynotemsg').html(""); $('#fixbtn.notes').toggleClass('open'); $('#fixbtn.mynotes').removeClass('open');
}else{ alert('Oops! something went wrong, Please try again'); } }, error:
function(error,errortype,errorstatus){ alert(errortype); } }); });
$('#mynotes,.notelist').on('click','.removenote',function(e){ if(confirm('Are you sure want to remove
note?')) { $('#loader').css('display','block'); var noteid=$(this).attr('data-noteid'); $.ajax({ type: "POST", url:
"https://www.drishtiias.com/articles/deletenote", data: 'note_id='+noteid, success: function(data){
$('#loader').css('display','none'); if(data=='removed'){ $('#note-list #' +noteid+' ,.notelist
#' +noteid).css('display','none'); }else{ alert('Oops! something went wrong, Please try again'); } }, error:
function(error,errortype,errorstatus){ $('#loader').css('display','none'); alert(errortype); } }); }
e.preventDefault(); }); $('#commentfile').change(function(){ $("#file-name").text(this.files[0].name); });
$(document).ready(function(){ $('#list-toggle').click(function(){ $('#list-category').toggleClass('active');
$(this).toggleClass('active'); $('#value').text(function(i, text){ return text === "Hide Menu" ? "Show Menu"
: "Hide Menu"; }); }); $('#aside button.close').click(function(){ $('#list-category').toggleClass('active');
$('#list-toggle').toggleClass('active'); }); $('#fixbtn .btn').click(function(){ $('#fixbtn
.btn').not(this).parents('.fixbtn').removeClass('open'); $(this).parents('.fixbtn').toggleClass('open'); });
$('#fixbtn a.close').click(function(){ $(this).parents('.fixbtn').removeClass('open'); }); $('#note-
btn').click(function(){ $('#fixbtn.notes').toggleClass('open'); }); $('#viewmore a').click(function(){
$('#hide').slideToggle('active'); $(this).text(function(i, text){ return text === "View More" ? "View Less" :
"View More"; }); }); $('#learning-program .subheading').click(function(){ $(this).next().slideToggle();
$(this).toggleClass('open'); }); $(document).ready(function(){ $('#a.register-btn').colorbox(); });
$('#interview-slider').slick({ autoplay: true, arrows: false, dots: true });
$('#bookSession').on('click',function(e){ $.ajax({ type: "POST", data: { 'course':
$('#bookSession').data('course') }, url: "https://www.drishtiias.com/book-online-session", success:
function(json){ var obj = JSON.parse(json); if (obj.status==200) { alert(obj.message); } else {
alert(obj.message); window.location.reload(); } }, error: function(error,errortype,errorstatus){
alert(errortype); } }); e.preventDefault(); }); $('#popup').colorbox({iframe: true, innerWidth: 790,
innerHeight: 530}); if(screen.width = 500) { $("#scroll-top").addClass("show"); } else { $("#scroll-
```

```
top").removeClass("show"); } }); // $(' .section-banner .wrapper > div').matchHeight(); $(' .slider').slick({
autoplay: true, arrows: false, dots: true, autoplaySpeed:3000 }); $(' .services-slider').slick({ arrows: true,
slidesToShow: 3, slidesToScroll: 1, prevArrow: 'Previous', nextArrow: 'Next', responsive: [ { breakpoint:
1025, settings: { slidesToShow: 2 } } ] }); $(' .loader1').css('display','none'); $(' .horizontal-
menu').css('visibility','visible'); $(' .banner').css('visibility','visible'); $(".editorial-scroll").niceScroll({
cursorcolor:"#c8c7c7", cursorwidth: "8px", autohidemode: false }); $(' .services-slider--mobile').slick({
autoplay: true, autoplaySpeed: 2000 }); /* $("#qa-form").steps({ headerTag: "h5", bodyTag: "section",
transitionEffect: "slideLeft" });*/ $("#tagcloud a").tagcloud({ size: {start: 14, end: 22, unit: "px"}, color:
{start: '#3498DB', end: '#46CFB0'} }); $(".popup-video").colorbox({iframe: true, innerWidth: 850,
innerHeight: 600}); $(".feedback").colorbox({iframe: true, innerWidth: 850, innerHeight: 600});
if(screen.width
```

PDF Refernece URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/mains-practice-question/question-229/linkedin.com/company/drishtiasenglish/pnt>

