



Draft Notification on EPR on Waste Oil

For Prelims: [Extended Producer Responsibility](#), [circular economy](#)

For Mains: The importance of waste oil management and the potential impact of EPR, The significance of EPR in the circular economy

Why in News?

Recently, the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** introduced a **draft notification on [Extended Producer Responsibility \(EPR\)](#) on waste oil.**

- The **[Union Budget 2023-24](#)** in India emphasizes **[sustainable development](#)** and a **[circular economy](#)**, with a goal of shifting from a linear model to a circular one through the **replacement of natural resource usage with valuable waste materials.**

What is EPR?

- It makes **producers responsible for the environmental impacts** of their products throughout their life cycle.
- EPR aims to **promote better waste management** and **reduce the burden on municipalities.**
- It **integrates environmental costs into product prices** and encourages the **design of environmentally sound products.**
- EPR is applicable to various types of waste, including **[plastic waste](#), [e-waste](#), and [battery waste](#).**
- The E-Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2011 introduced **the concept of EPR for the first time in India.**

What is the Draft Notification on EPR on Waste Oil?

- **About:**
 - EPR on waste oil is to improve the **circularity of waste oil management.** Waste oil is a contaminant that contains harmful substances that can **pollute freshwater and soil.**
 - Waste oil can act as a contaminant as it contains **benzene, zinc, cadmium** and other impurities that have the potential to **pollute freshwater.**
- **Aim:**
 - **Prevent pollution** and **bring waste oil collection and recycling** under the formal sector.
- **Recommendation:**
 - It recommends the **registration of stakeholders**, including producers, collection agents, recyclers and waste oil importers, on **[Central Pollution Control Board's \(CPCB\) online portal.](#)**
- **Applicability:**

- EPR on waste oil is applicable to **producers, and bulk generators** (like industry, railways, transport companies, power transmission companies, etc.).
- **EPR Targets:**
 - Gradual increase in waste oil recycling targets, **starting from 2024-25.**
 - **Base year target set at 10%, increasing by 10% annually until 2029.**
 - Future targets based on the quantity of lubrication oil sold or imported annually.
- **Provisions and Responsibilities:**
 - **EPR certificate generation**, computation of eligible quantity, and transaction details.
 - Clear **demarcation of responsibilities** for producers, importers, agents, recyclers, etc.
 - Online portal for **registration, filing returns, and tracing oil produced or generated.**
 - [Bureau of Indian Standards](#) is entrusted with setting necessary standards for re-refined oil.
- **Challenges:**
 - Need for monitoring, verification, and auditing mechanisms.
 - Overburden on [Central Pollution Control Board\(CPCB\)](#) and [State Pollution Control Boards\(SPCBs\)](#) require additional support.
 - Focus on **improving waste oil circularity and reducing fresh oil consumption.**
 - Questions on compliance, third-party audits, and monitoring oversight.
- **Expert Opinions:**
 - Positive reception by **non-profit organizations for EPR on waste oil.**
 - Concerns over **implementation, monitoring, oversight, and penalties for defaulters.**

What is India's Progress Towards Circular Economy?

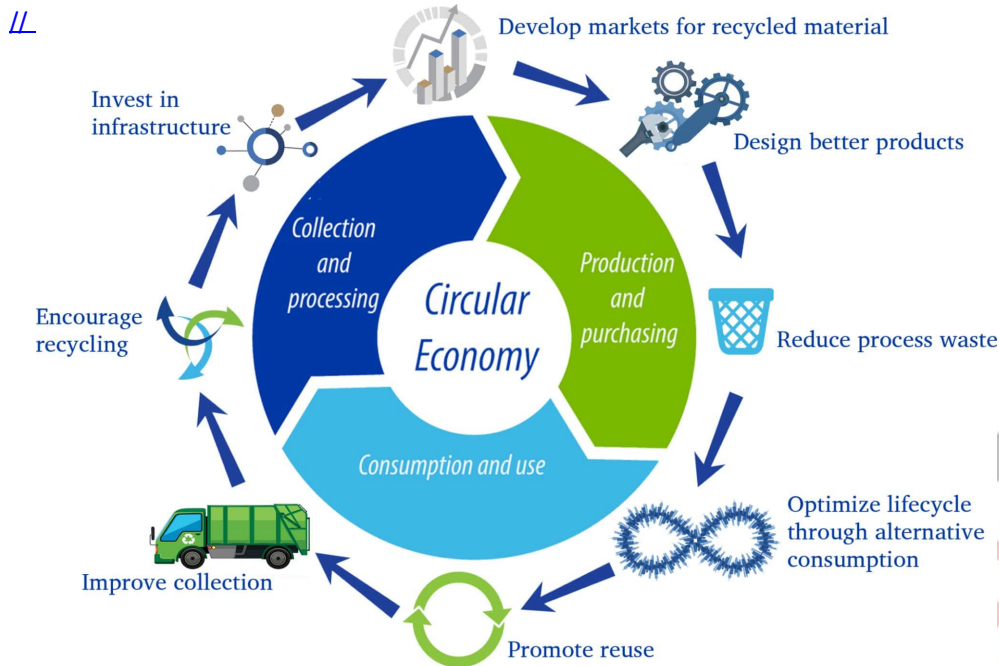
- Notifying various rules and policies for waste management, such as the [Plastic Waste Management Rules,2022](#), [e-Waste Management Rules 2022](#), [Battery Waste Management Rules 2022](#) etc.
- Constituting 11 **committees led by the concerned line ministries** to prepare comprehensive **action plans for transitioning from a linear to a circular economy** in 11 focus areas, such as **agriculture, mobility, textiles, electronics**, etc.
- [NITI](#) also organized an international conference on '**Sustainable Growth through National Recycling**'.
- Collaborating with international partners, such as the [European Union](#) and the [United States](#), to exchange best practices and learnings on resource efficiency and circular economy.
- Supporting **social and environmental innovators** who are developing **circular economy solutions for waste management**, such as the World Institute of Sustainable Energy.
- **Encouraging businesses and industries** to adopt circular economy principles and practices in their production systems and supply chains.
- India's progress toward a **circular economy is still in its early stages** and faces **many challenges**, such as a **lack of awareness, data gaps, regulatory barriers, infrastructural constraints, and behavioral inertia.**
 - However, with concerted efforts from all stakeholders and continuous learning and innovation, India can achieve its vision of a resilient and inclusive circular economy.

What is A Circular Economy?

- **About:**
 - A Circular Economy is the one **where products are designed for durability, reuse and recyclability** and thus **almost everything gets reused, remanufactured, and recycled** into a raw material or used as a source of energy.
 - It includes **6 R's - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Refurbishment, Recover, and Repairing of materials.**
- **Need for Circular Economy:**
 - CE focuses on **minimising waste while maximising utilisation** and calls for a production model aiming to retain the most value to create a system that **promotes sustainability, longevity, reuse, and recycling.**
 - Though India has always had a culture of recycle and reuse, its **rapid economic growth, growing population**, impact of climate change and rising environmental pollution, the

adoption of a circular economy is more imperative now.

- CE can lead to the **emergence of more sustainable production and consumption patterns**, thus providing opportunities for developed and developing countries to achieve economic growth and **inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID)** in line with the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**.



UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

Q. In India, 'extend producer responsibility' was introduced as an important feature in which of the following? (2019)

- (a) The Bio-medical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1998
- (b) The Recycled Plastic (Manufacturing and Usage) Rules, 1999
- (c) The e-Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2011
- (d) The Food Safety and Standard Regulations, 2011

Ans: (c)

Source: DTE