

NEW E-WASTE RULES THREATEN JOBS, COLLECTION NETWORK

In News:

- A proposed framework by the Central government for regulating e-waste in India has upset a key link of India's electronic waste collection system and threatens the livelihood of thousands.

Electronic-waste in India:

- According to a 2020 report by the Central Pollution Control Board, India generated 10,14,961 tonnes of e-waste in FY 2019-2020 – up 32% from FY 2018-2019.
- Of this, the report found that only 3.6% and 10% were actually collected in the country in 2018 and 2019, respectively.
- It also said that the **informal sector controls more than 90% of e-waste collection** and handling processes in the country.

E-waste Management Rules, 2016:

- The Central Government, in the exercise of the powers provided under the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**, had notified e-waste management rules in 2016.
 - These rules supersede the E-waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2011.
- The rules aim to enable the recovery and/or reuse of useful material from e-waste, and to ensure the environmentally sound management of all types of waste of electrical and electronic equipment.
- For the first time, the rules brought the producers under **Extended Producer Responsibility** (EPR), along with targets.
 - Producers have been made responsible for the collection of E-waste and for its exchange.
- The manufacturers, dealers, e-retailers, and refurbishers have been brought under the ambit of these rules to ensure that the e-waste is effectively channelized and disposed of.
- The urban local bodies have been assigned the responsibility of collecting back the e-waste arising from the orphan products and channelizing it to authorized dismantler or recycler.

- The EWM Rules 2016, have prescribed strict criteria for achieving effective collection, transportation, storage, channelization, and disposal of the e-waste in an environmentally sound manner.

Amendment to EWM Rules, 2016:

- In 2018, the EWM Rules were further amended.
- The new E-Waste (Management) Amendment Rules, 2018 has the provision of introduction of **Producer Responsibility Organisation (PRO)** registration.
 - PRO is defined as a professional organization which can take the responsibility for collection and channelization of e-waste to ensure environmentally sound management of such e-waste.
 - PROs are now required to register with CPCB under the new Rules.
- PROs will also have to prove that all collection is legitimate and share proofs for such collection.
- Earlier, PROs were not able to procure waste from private and government institutions.
- The Rules address this lack of acknowledgement of legitimate PROs by asking them to register with CPCB.

Challenges associated with E-waste Management in India:

- **Involvement of child labour:**
 - In India, about 4.5 lakh child laborers in the age group of 10-14 are observed to be engaged in various E-waste related activities
- **Ineffective legislation:**
 - There is absence of any public information on most SPCBs/PCC websites.
 - 15 of the 35 PCBs/PCC do not have any information related to E-waste on their websites, their key public interface point.
 - Even the basic E-waste Rules and guidelines have not been uploaded.
- **Lack of awareness & sensitization:**
 - Limited reach out and awareness regarding disposal, after determining end of useful life.
 - Also, only 2% of individuals think of the impact on environment while disposing off their old electrical and electronic equipment.

News Summary:

- In May 2022, the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change announced a draft on new regulation to replace the current E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2016.
- Proposed Changes include –

Criticism:

- Under the proposed definition of EPR, brands would no longer be responsible for the collection of e-waste, and can purchase certificates from recyclers to show they have met their targets under the rules.
- With brands no longer responsible for a take-back system, collection will become the responsibility of recyclers, and that the concept of EPR will be reduced to just purchasing certificates from recyclers.
- There are also worries that the rules will enable recyclers to engage further with the informal sector when it comes to collection and dismantling.
- The increase in product types that will have to be recycled could also pose a problem for the ecosystem's capacity to process e-waste.
- This massive jump in product types and categories (from 21 to 95) will only make recycling that much harder.

PM: POWER LOSS HIGH, SO HAVE TO PRODUCE MORE THAN WE NEED

In News:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that India's power sector losses run into double digits while developed countries have managed to keep it to single digit.
- He was speaking at the closing function of the 'Ujjwal Bharat Ujjwal Bhavishya – Power @2047' event.

Ujjwal Bharat Ujjwal Bhavishya – Power @2047

- Ministry of Power and New & Renewable Energy, celebrated “Ujjwal Bharat Ujjwal Bhavishya – Power @2047” initiative of the Government of India.

- It was celebrated under Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav from 25th to 30th July 2022 across the Nation in association with all Power CPSEs and State DISCOMs.
- The event showcased the achievements in Power and Renewable Energy Sectors.
- It also showcased the vision of India in these sectors for 2047 when India completes 100 years of Independence.

News Summary

- Prime Minister Modi participated in the Grand Finale marking the culmination of Ujjwal Bharat, Ujjwal Bhavishya – Power @2047 through video conferencing.

Key highlights of the speech made by PM

- **Urged State governments to clear power sector companies' dues**
 - PM Modi asked the State governments to clear power sector companies' dues which are estimated at around ₹2.5 lakh crore.
 - He highlighted that the State governments are yet to clear subsidy commitments amounting to ₹75,000 crore to power companies.
- **Highlighted achievements in power sector**
 - The Prime Minister said that during the last eight years, about 1,70,000 MW of electricity generation capacity has been added.
 - He also added that India is among the top 4-5 countries of the world in terms of installed solar capacity and also has one of the world's largest solar plants.

Key initiatives launched by PM

- **Foundation stone of many projects laid**
 - 735 MW Nokh solar project in Rajasthan,
 - Green Hydrogen Mobility Project (for vehicles) in Leh
 - Kawas Green Hydrogen Blending with Natural Gas project in Gujarat.
 - He inaugurated the 100 MW Ramagundam Floating Solar Project in Telangana and the 92 MW Kayamkulam Floating Solar Project in Kerala.
- **National Solar rooftop portal launched**
 - The estimated capacity under the national solar rooftop program is 4000 MW.
 - This portal will enable online tracking of the process of installation of rooftop solar plants.

- It will track the process starting from registering the applications to release of subsidy in residential consumers' bank accounts after installation and inspection of the plant.
- **Launched the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme**
- With an outlay of over Rs 3 lakh crore over a period of five years from FY 2021-22 to FY 2025-26, the scheme aims to provide financial assistance to DISCOMs for modernization and strengthening of distribution infrastructure.
- It also aims to reduce the AT&C losses to pan-India levels of 12% to 15% and ACS-ARR gap to zero by 2024-25.
 - AT&C loss is the sum total of technical and commercial losses and shortage due to non-realization of billed amount.
 - ACS-ARR gap is the gap between average cost of supply (ACS) and average revenue realised (ARR)
- The scheme aims to achieve this target by improving the operational efficiencies and financial sustainability of all state-sector DISCOMs and power departments.

GUN HILL

To commemorate the victory of Indian Armed Forces and pay tribute to the supreme sacrifice of the Gunners in “Operation Vijay”, Point 5140 at Dras, in Kargil sector has been christened as “Gun Hill”.



About:

- Regiment of Artillery of Indian Army, with lethal and accurate firepower, was able to have a telling effect on the enemy troops and their defences including Point 5140, which was the key factor in early completion of operations.

FLOATING SOLAR POWER PLANT AT NTPC-KAYAMKULAM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated to the nation the 92-MW floating solar power project set up at the National Thermal Power Corporation's (NTPC) Kayamkulam unit in Kerala.



About:

- Prime Minister said that so far, about 170 GW capacity has been installed from non-fossil sources in India. India is among the top four-five countries in terms of installed solar capacity.
- The Kayamkulam plant is the second-largest floating solar power project of the NTPC after the 100-MW plant at Ramagundam in Telangana.
- The floating solar system was built on a 450-acre lake area adjacent to the NTPC's Rajiv Gandhi Combined Cycle Power Project (RGCCPP). Implemented at a cost of ₹465 crores, the project consists of around three lakh Made in India solar PV panels floating on water.

44th CHESS OLYMPIAD

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 44th Chess Olympiad at Chennai in Tamil Nadu.

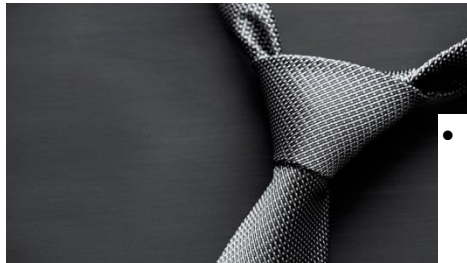


About:

- International, National and State level Chess masters participated in the inaugural event.
- The Olympiad torch which crossed the 75 iconic cities of the Country was brought to the Stadium by five-time world chess champion Vishwanathan Anand and was handed over to Prime Minister Modi and Chief Minister MK Stalin and was later given to the chess prodigy Grandmaster Rameshbabu Pragnananda.

STOP WEARING TIES TO SAVE ENERGY

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez has called on workers in the public and private sectors to stop wearing ties, as an energy-saving measure in the heat.



About:

- Mr Sanchez said, his government will adopt urgent energy-saving measures on as European countries strive to become less dependent on Russian gas in the wake of the war in

Ukraine.

- Over the past few weeks, Europe has experienced record-high temperatures.
- Prime Minister Sanchez said, not wearing ties will ensure people stay cooler and therefore lower energy costs because air conditioners will be used less often.
- Spain is not the first to take this move. In 2011, Japan introduced its "Super Cool Biz" campaign, which encouraged office workers to wear cooler clothes in summer.
- And during sweltering temperatures in the UK recently, politicians were told they could ditch their suit jackets while in the House of Commons.