International Exchange Initiative on Regulating E-Waste

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance*

Why in News?

Recently, India hosted the International Exchange Initiative on Regulating E-Waste and Engaging Tech Companies in New Delhi.

- **Aim –** To ***strengthen global e-waste governance and build a circular economy*** for electricals and electronics.
- Help countries *build effective, context-specific e-waste systems.*
- **Organised by** – International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
- **Supporting agencies –** APC Colombia (Presidential Agency for International Cooperation of Colombia).
- ***Department of Telecommunications (DoT).***
- **Participants – Countries –** Colombia, Dominican Republic, India, Malaysia, Nigeria, South Africa
- **Stakeholders –** Indian policymakers, regulators, industry representatives and recycling practitioners.
- **Objectives –** Facilitate *peer learning and practical insights* into sustainable e-waste management.
- Promote circular economy principles across electronics and telecom sectors.
- Build trust and long-term collaboration between countries and industry.

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is an environmental policy principle that makes producers accountable for the end-of-life of the products they sell.

- **Themes –**

Domain	Focus Area
Regulatory frameworks & governance	• Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), digital compliance systems, and data-driven monitoring.
Circular economy approaches	• Coordination among producers, recyclers, operators and integration of the informal sector.
Standardisation & skill development	• International standards, workforce capacity-building, recycling innovation and technologies.

- **Key Highlights –** India has **emerged as a hub for global knowledge exchange** in e-waste and the circular economy.

- **India's digital ecosystem –**
  - *Nearly **1 billion internet users**,*
  - *UPI handles **12 billion monthly transactions**.*
- **Benefits –** Responsible e-waste management can
  - generate green jobs.
  - Enable recovery of critical materials.
  - Reduce import dependence.
  - Strengthen supply chain resilience.

Quick Fact

Global E-Waste Challenge
• **Generation –** Globally, *62 million tonnes of e-waste are generated annually; only 22.3% is formally collected and recycled.* • **Legislation –** Countries with e-waste laws show significantly higher collection rates. • **EPR –** Of 81 countries with e-waste policies, 67 include Extended Producer Responsibility.

Reference

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