

India plans waste management strategy for resource efficient economic growth

Today, India is the fifth largest economy in the world and it has set an ambitious target of attaining USD 5 trillion GDP and become third largest economy before 2030. It is necessary to attain this growth target through judicious use of natural resources, especially as India is a net importer of natural resources. India is a net importer of bulk ores and minerals to the extent of USD 5 billion.

According to a 2019 report by research body TERI, India is the third largest consumer of materials consuming 7% of globally extracted raw materials after China and USA. India is 100% dependent on imports for critical raw materials such as rare metals, lithium, magnesite, nickel, cobalt and more than 75% import dependent for phosphate, copper, lead, fluorite and crude oil.

The circular economy principles of reuse, recycle, upcycle and use of renewable resources rather than non-renewable resources are essential part of our strategy to promote resource efficient economic growth. Government of India has introduced several policy initiatives for recovering raw materials from end of life products to minimize waste, reduce extraction of natural resources and also promote environment.

Government of India has notified Plastic Waste Management Rules, e-Waste Management Rules, Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules and Metals Recycling Policy, to recover reusable raw materials from end of life products and minimize waste generation.

Countries such as Japan, China and European Union have adopted Circular Economy approach to protect environment and to use natural resource efficiently. China adopted Circular Economy Law in 2008, while European Union introduced Circular Economy Package in 2018. Many European Union countries are measuring GDP per unit of raw material consumption to optimize use of natural resources. Japan introduced the Fundamental Law for Establishing a Sound Material-Cycle Society way back in the year 2000.

In order to recover valuable resources from waste, Government of India has formed 11 committees, viz. on agro waste, solid & liquid waste, electronic waste, battery waste, scrap metal, tyre & rubber, vehicles, petroleum oil, toxic waste, gypsum and solar panels.

Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Development prepared prepared a roadmap to promote circular economy in municipal solid and liquid waste in 2021. The roadmap report estimates that India produces 1.45 lakh metric tonnes of solid waste every day, of which 35% is dry waste. This waste is generated from disposal of end of life products made of rubber, plastic, metals, textile, ceramics, glass, paper & cardboard and other materials. Around 5-25% of the municipal solid waste comes from construction and demolition of buildings. The roadmap stresses on the need to recover materials from this waste as India currently does not have sufficient waste processing facilities in this sector.

Optimal use of water through waste water recycling is also an essential part of the circular economy approach. Wastewater recycling and reuse offers a reliable, longterm source of water supply to help meet non-potable water demand.

The above mentioned roadmap calls for enhancing sewage treatment capacity to increase gradually the rate of recycling and reusing wastewater from 25% in 2026, to 50% by 2050.

Notifications

PIB

Ninth round of India-South Korea CEPA upgradation negotiation

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1873807>

Australian Minister informs IndAus ECTA to be ratified shortly

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1872805>

Gujarat government supports lab grown diamond manufacturing units

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1872807>

India's agriculture and processed food exports grow 25% in Q2 FY23

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1873007>

CBIC

Exchange rate notifications

<https://www.cbic.gov.in/resources//htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-act/notifications/notfns-2022/cs-nt2022/csnt92-2022.pdf>

Extension of Standard Examination Orders through RMS for faceless assessment

<https://www.cbic.gov.in/resources//htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-circulars/cs-circulars-2022/Circular-No-23-2022.pdf>

Amendment in basic customs duty and IGST notification

<https://www.cbic.gov.in/resources//htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-act/notifications/notfns-2022/cs-tarr2022/cst-56-2022.pdf>

DGFT

Notification of new Pre-shipment Inspection agencies

<https://content.dgft.gov.in/Website/dgftprod/055ffd33-e917-4ee8-93d8-04ad0baa6536/Public%20Notice%2034%20dated%2003-11-2022%20-English.PDF>

Grievance redressal helpdesk for exporters at ICEGATE

<https://content.dgft.gov.in/Website/dgftprod/081063a7-7453-4dfa-9831-67917f528cd8/TN%2020.pdf>