



Ministry of
**Electronics &
Information Technology**
Government of India



Digital India
Power To Empower



National e-Governance Division

Ask Our Experts- Episode 24: Safe e-Waste Management

- *Ask Our Experts- a live program presented by NeGD, MeitY focuses on Digital India initiatives*
- *The show is broadcast on Fridays at 1 PM on Digital India's YouTube channel*

The National e-Governance Division (NeGD), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), conducted the 24th episode of its interactive YouTube LIVE program 'Ask Our Experts' on July 4, 2025. This special session focused on “Safe e-Waste Management,” a significant issue within the Digital India framework, and was broadcast on the Digital India official YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/@DigitalIndiaofficial>).

The episode featured leading experts in the field: Dr. Sandeep Chatterjee, former Group Coordinator and Senior Director at MeitY, and currently Senior Advisor (Sustainable Electronics Recycling International, USA) and Adjunct Professor (IIT Mandi); and Shri B.K. Soni, Chairman & MD, ECO Recycling Ltd., Mumbai.

Empowering Citizens for a Greener Tomorrow

The core aim of the episode was to raise awareness about responsible e-waste disposal, the risks associated with informal e-waste processing, and to educate citizens on their crucial role in safe e-waste management. The session covered the following:

- Environmental and health hazards posed by informal recycling practices (such as open burning and acid leaching)
- Importance of handing over used electronics to authorised recyclers and leveraging platforms like Green E Network and apps for responsible disposal

- The formal sector's standard operating procedures for dismantling, segregation, data destruction, and materials recovery in environmentally sound facilities.

Practical Steps and Legal Frameworks

A step-by-step walkthrough was given to enable viewers to learn how to safely dispose of e-waste using mobile applications ("BookMyJunk") and drop-off in collection bins (EcoBin) placed at schools, colleges, and community places, as well as door-to-door collection services in select cities. Experts discussed how formal handling not only improves recovery of valuable materials but also secures users' data and reduces medical expenses due to pollution-related health risks.

The session also elucidated the regulatory landscape under the E-Waste Management Rules, 2022 (effective from April 2023), enforced by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). These mandate Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for manufacturers and producers, obliging them to ensure safe collection and recycling.

Circular Economy and Urban Mining

Responding to public queries, experts explained how responsible e-waste recycling supports the circular economy: devices and materials extracted from e-waste (aluminum, ferrous metals, gold, copper, and many others) are reintegrated into the manufacturing cycle, thereby conserving critical natural resources, supporting "urban mining," and reducing import dependency. Citizens were urged not to hoard unused electronics at home, but rather to see e-waste as a national asset and return it to the formal recycling chain.

Education, Training, and Research Opportunities

The show highlighted emerging academic and skilling opportunities in e-waste management, including M.Tech. programs at IIT Hyderabad (in partnership with MeitY's C-MET), and training courses at other institutes. With the sector growing, youth were encouraged to explore avenues in dismantling, logistics, data destruction, refurbishment, and R&D for innovative materials extraction technologies.

Data Security in E-Waste Recycling

Experts addressed concerns on data sanitisation, recommending citizens physically destroy storage devices when possible or use certified recyclers adhering to standards like ISO and R2 Certificates, which ensure complete and secure data destruction.

Hundreds of viewers engaged live via YouTube chat, asking queries and being recognized as 'Digital India Question Ninjas.' Winners will be rewarded by NeGD. Participants were also invited to suggest topics for future sessions by email. **Watch the full episode here:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ydx5BnEDDH0>

About Ask Our Experts

'Ask Our Experts' is a live interactive programme by NeGD, MeitY, providing citizens with the opportunity to engage directly with experts and thought leaders in the digital governance ecosystem, and get answers to their queries on various Digital India initiatives.

