Wayanad's e-waste drive: A proposed model-district declaration and lasting management

News: 20 November 2026 | Publication: 20 November 2026

Prelims: e-waste; Mains: GS-III environment, GS-II local governance



Original symbolic illustration: pcsmantra.com

Why in the news

A news report of 20 November says Wayanad has collected nearly 100 tonnes of e-waste and is preparing for an e-waste-free model-district declaration on 27 November. As of 20 November, this is a proposed declaration, not a completed event. The report attributes the claim to district officials; an independent official declaration order was not found during preparation.

How the campaign worked

The report says collection began on 28 September and covered government offices, local bodies and households. Suchitwa Mission and Clean Kerala Company coordinated the effort, with Haritha Karma Sena helping household collection. Institutional collection, household information gathering and rechecking missed locations are useful administrative features.

Reading the label carefully

A successful collection drive does not mean e-waste will stop being generated. Discarded electrical and electronic equipment continues to arise. A one-time campaign must be followed by separate collection, safe storage, authorised processing and regular monitoring. A model-district label and long-term environmental performance are different measures.

Collection is not proof of final treatment

The reported quantity is a collection figure. Collection alone does not prove that all material has been safely recycled. Good records should separately identify collected weight, transfer of material and evidence of final processing. Those stages provide a better basis for assessing local success.

Policy analysis

The drive illustrates the value of local bodies and established household-level networks. Separate arrangements for offices and verification of missed households can improve coverage. Maintaining regular collection, participation and a safe downstream chain remains the next challenge. In exam answers, treat a 'first in India' claim as an official-attributed news claim, not an independently verified fact without a primary order.

Prelims practice question

Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: The quantity of e-waste collected and proof of final safe processing are different measures.

Statement-II: A one-time collection campaign removes the need for regular e-waste management.

Choose the correct option:

(a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I

(b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, but Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I

(c) Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect

(d) Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct

▼ **Answer and explanation**

Correct answer: **(c)**. E-waste management is a continuing process.

Source

https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/wayanad-in-keralam-collects-nearly-100-tonnes-of-e-waste-set-to-earn-model-district-tag/article71720985.ece

Source status: news report based on officials' statements; declaration remains prospective.

PCS MANTRA

Frequently asked questions

How much e-waste has Wayanad collected, and what is the status of the model-district declaration?

A news report of 20 November says nearly 100 tonnes have been collected and an e-waste-free model-district declaration is being prepared for 27 November. As of 20 November it remains a proposed declaration; no independent official order was found. Source (https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/wayanad-in-keralam-collects-nearly-100-tonnes-of-e-waste-set-to-earn-model-district-tag/article71720985.ece)

When did the campaign begin and which agencies were involved?

The report says collection began on 28 September and covered government offices, local bodies and households. Suchitwa Mission and Clean Kerala Company coordinated the effort, with Haritha Karma Sena helping household collection. Source (https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/wayanad-in-keralam-collects-nearly-100-tonnes-of-e-waste-set-to-earn-model-district-tag/article71720985.ece)

Does the collected quantity prove safe final disposal?

No. The reported figure is a collection quantity; collection alone does not prove that all material has been safely recycled. Sound records should separately identify collected weight, transfer of material and evidence of final processing. Source (https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/wayanad-in-keralam-collects-nearly-100-tonnes-of-e-waste-set-to-earn-model-district-tag/article71720985.ece)

PCS MANTRA