

## Individual responsibility essential to ensure a toxic free world through eWaste management : Experts

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M.M.Khanna, INVC, Chandigarh, As a part of the outreach programme to address various challenges in the region as a precursor to the mega IT conclave, Destination IT@North, Chandigarh Administration, Govt of Punjab, STPI and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) organized a seminar on 'e-Waste Management and Its Disposal', at the Chandigarh College of Engineering & Technology yesterday. This is the first of various outreach programmes planned by the organizers of the IT Conclave which will culminate with the two-days conference at CII on 20-21 November, informed Mr. Upkar Singh, Director IT, UT Administration. Mr. Satya Gopal, Secretary Environment, Science & Technology for the UT Administration, listed out various initiatives taken to manage e-waste in the city. The Administration along with CII launched the campaign in June 2011 and placed 17 bins in various public places and Sampark Centres in the city. People can even call up the toll-free helpline 1800 419 3283 to have the e-waste collected from their door steps, he said. Speaking to over 300 students from various schools and colleges who congregated at the CCET auditorium, he asked them to take the pledge to reduce, reuse and recycle electronic products and strictly dispose them of through authorized recyclers only. Earlier, Akshat Ghiya and Aamir Jariwala, co-founders of one-year old enterprise Karma Recycling in New Delhi, said that management and disposal of e-waste should become of school curriculum since children and youth are the largest users of the electronic gadgets and devices. Karma which has set up operations in Chandigarh last week intend to collect e-waste from the city and even pay for the usable smart phones by contacting through their online portal created for the purpose, Akshat informed. Chandigarh and Panjab are the 10th largest producers of ewaste in the country, and it is time that we keep our environment clean, advised Aamir Jariwala. Mrs Tripat Parmar, founder Director of an NGO, Deeksha, engaged in sensitizing community to e-waste management and disposal, said that unknowingly we are sowing toxicity into our environment which would harm the future generation, through wrong disposal of our mobiles and other gadgets. There are several companies like Moser Baer who take back used CDs, Nokia takes back used mobiles and Philips would take back CFL lamps for recycling, but there are other authorized recyclers who should be approached for disposing off your used electronic items.

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