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MAGAZINE NOTES

Dark Energy, Consumerism, and the Waste Crisis

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ENVIRONMENT

ECONOMY

GS3

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Dark Energy, Consumerism, and the Waste Crisis

🌱 **Down to Earth** Chapter 12 · 1 min read ·

🔗 WHY IN NEWS

India's aggressive consumerist lifestyle generates insurmountable waste mountains (Ghazipur, Burari) and drives up carbon emissions.

Key Points

- Over **80% of energy** comes from “dark energy” (coal, oil, gas)
- Fast-fashion mindset: perfectly good electronics and synthetic clothes constantly discarded for upgrades
- Generates toxic **microplastics**, ruins fragile ecosystems (Himalayan tourist sites)
- Individual recycling rendered meaningless by massive **corporate overproduction**

Way Forward

- Adopt “**Finite Earth Movement**” principle: on a finite planet, consumption must be finite
- Return to truly seasonal, local, slow-cooked whole-grain diets to reduce agricultural carbon footprints
- Reject “farm-to-fork” greenwashing of luxury restaurants

UPSC Angle

- **GS3:** Environment, waste management, climate change
- **Essay:** “On a finite planet, can consumption be infinite?”



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