



Import of Refurbished Mobile Phones

India has allowed the import of refurbished mobile phones, subject to the condition that they are certified by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS).

- A refurbished mobile phone refers to a handset that was returned to the manufacturer, tested for problems and restored to full-functioning in factory-standard condition.
- The move meets the demands of mobile operators like Apple which want to tap blooming smartphone business in India.
- As per a notification by the commerce ministry, **the import of electronic goods** (new as well as second hand, whether or not refurbished, repaired or reconditioned) **which require compulsory registration, is prohibited unless they are registered with the BIS** and comply to the labelling requirements. The import can be allowed if the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) gives a specific exemption for a particular consignment.

Concerns

- The chief concern is that **how will the BIS be able to certify refurbished phones** as they lack in uniformity. For instance, new phones have a uniform standard and can be examined for certification purposes by picking up a sample. However, such uniform sampling is not possible in the case of refurbished mobile phones.
- There is a fear that companies may use India as a place to **dump hazardous electronic waste**.
- Import of refurbished mobile phones would **negate the effect of 'Make in India' initiative**.
- It will act as a **counter to the [National Policy on Electronics, 2019](#)**.

Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)

- BIS is the **National Standard Body of India established under the BIS Act 2016** for the harmonious development of the activities of standardization, marking and quality certification of goods and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.
- It has its **headquarters in New Delhi**.