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“Recycling Cultures in India: Studying Electronic and Textile Waste”

Borthakur, Anwasha



Clothes are sorted by colour before being spun into yarn, a step that makes the bleaching process easier, at a recycling factory in Panipat, India.

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At our home in Delhi’s National Capital Region (NCR) in India, I often wake up in the morning to the calls of street vendors. Many of them are experts in fixing small household items—be it a pressure cooker that needs a quick repair or a kitchen knife that requires a swift sharpening. Their calls are one of the few things in Delhi that remind me of my childhood in Assam, a state in the

foothills of the Indian Himalayas. The cries of the scrap dealers, locally known as *kawadiwalas*, in the mornings in an otherwise quiet neighbourhood of the small town of Tinsukia are still distinct in my memory: “Tina, loha, plastic,” they were shouting, asking for recyclable waste such as old newspapers, plastic, or metals. (From the article)

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