

**Address of Hon'ble Chief Minister for inauguration of 12th Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum Conclave, Date: 3rd March 2025**

- Respected guests, participants and experts, welcome to this conclave of 12th Regional 3 R and Circular Economy Forum at this distinguished venue.
- Especially welcome to Shri Manohar Lal Khattar ji in Rajasthan and I am grateful to you for choosing Rajasthan for this great event.
- This platform is taking concrete steps in the direction of environmental protection that are not only significant for India but are also extremely important for the global community.
- The goals of sustainable development and the reuse of resources for which you are working is the significant necessity of present time.
- We are visualising that in the last 50 years, the exploitation of natural resources has significantly increased i.e. the use of these resources is rising by almost 400 percent since the 1970s. And it is estimated that it has crossed 106 billion ton.
- Moreover, it is matter of concern that 90 percent of them are wasted and only 8.6 % gets back into the world economy.
- This disaster is affecting the earth and issues like climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution are creating.
- The Asia-Prasant region is the region of largest population. The development taking place here is 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of the development happening in the world.
- But this fast-paced economic development has reduced our forests, reduced water resources and that has put biodiversity at risk.
- Circular Economy is the most effective way to cope with these challenges. It is a system where waste is reused & recycled causing reduced energy consumption and renewable energy is promoted.
- India has taken significant steps in this direction. Under Swachh Bharat Mission, India has launched the largest waste management and cleanliness drive.
- Additionally, Circular Economy Roadmap has been developed, focusing on 11 key sectors, including municipal solid waste, electronic waste, solar panels, and industrial waste.

**Initiatives by the Rajasthan Government**

- The Rajasthan government is playing a leading role in this mission. An Environmental Management Cell (EMC) has been established so that waste management and recycling can be done more effectively.
- A new policy is being formulated for the reuse of treated water.

- Non-usable items in the urban areas are being collected and reused through the INITIATIVE “Mukhyamantri Sadbhavna Kendra (Chief Minister's welfare Centers)”
- Rajasthan has put the target to double its waste processing capacity from 2.1 million tons to approximately 4.5 million tons.
- Under the Waste-to-Energy schemes emphasis is being given on compost production, RDF (Refuse-Derived Fuel), and organic fertilizer production.
- In urban areas, plastic and recyclable materials are being segregated through Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs), while e-waste, battery waste, and hazardous waste are being disposed of under integrated waste management system.
- Additionally, 8.8 million cubic meters of legacy waste has been remediated, reclaiming 326 acres of land for reuse.
- Rajasthan has also taken steps in green technology and sustainable development. You will be happy to know that Rajasthan is the first state in India to introduce a Green Budget, allocating INR 27,854 crores for green projects.
- An investment of INR 250 crores is being dedicated to circular economy parks and for development of clean and green technology centres.
- We will bring a Circular Economy Incentive Scheme which will provide financial assistance of up to INR 2 crores to MSMEs and startups. Additionally, “The Rajasthan Vehicle Scrapping Policy” will further promote disposal of old vehicles.
- We will promote collaboration between the government, private sector, and research institutions to fulfil the dream of Zero Waste Society through establishment of Circular Economy Alliance Network (CEAN).

## Conclusion

- I am pleased to see that discussions are being held here on the participation of circular economy for mitigation of resource efficiency, sustainable cities, climate change mitigation.
- The circular economy is not just a necessity for today but also for our future. It will help protect the environment while driving modern, inclusive, and sustainable development.
- I sincerely thank the Government of India, the Government of Japan, UN ESCAP, and UNCRD for co-partnering of this forum.
- I urge all stakeholders to take concrete steps based on the discussions held here.
- **Our goal is clear:** Optimize use of resources and minimize waste so that Rajasthan and the Asia-Pacific region can become global leaders in the circular economy.

**Thank you all!**