

Key Note Address

12th Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum in Asia and the Pacific

[03 March 2025 @ 9:30 AM, Jaipur]

- Representatives from the esteemed Government of Japan
- Hon'ble Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Shri Bhajan Lal Ji
- Members of the United Nations
- Representatives from Asia-Pacific member countries
- Hon'ble Ministers, Mayors, Secretaries, Commissioners, Industry Leaders - Start-ups and virtual participants.

It is a matter of great pride and honour for me to welcome you all to this prestigious gathering. I am delighted to see that all states and Union Territories of India are participating in this event, reflecting the spirit of a strong and integrated India.

India's Pride in Hosting the 12th 3R Forum

Friends, it is a moment of immense pride for India that the 12th Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum in Asia and the Pacific is being hosted in Jaipur.

Seven years ago, after the successful hosting of the 8th Forum in Indore, India is once again bringing together global leaders to advance the agenda of 3R and Circular Economy.

Jaipur – An Ideal Venue for 3R and Circular Economy

There could not have been a better place than Jaipur, Rajasthan, to host this significant conference.

The state is known for its rich cultural heritage, sustainability, and resource efficiency traditions, which align perfectly with the principles of 3R and Circular Economy.

Jaipur's stepwells, *Johads* (small ponds), and handicrafts made from recycled materials are historical examples of its Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle traditions.

I sincerely thank the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Rajasthan for his unwavering support in organizing this conference.

Although he assumed office just over a year ago, his far-sighted leadership has placed Rajasthan on a high-growth developmental path, with sustainability as a key pillar.

3R Circular Economy – A Global and Timeless Necessity

Friends, 3R Circular Economy is not just an environmental responsibility today; it has become an economic necessity for a sustainable future. In many ways, the concept of 3R Circular Economy is not new to us.

If we recall our traditional way of life, we realize that we naturally followed 3R principles, where minimal waste, resource efficiency, and sustainable living were prioritized.

Traditional practices such as rainwater harvesting, composting, and metal repurposing are beautiful examples of the circular economy.

However, industrialization and consumerism led societies towards mass production, disposable culture, and planned obsolescence, increasing waste generation.

Now is the time to revive our traditional practices by integrating them with modern innovations, promoting conscious consumption, efficient recycling systems, and environmental responsibility.

India's Leadership in Circular Economy

The Honorable Prime Minister has always emphasized that adopting Circular Economy can drive self-reliance for India and other nations.

At COP26 in 2021 in Glasgow, Scotland, the Honorable Prime Minister introduced Panchamrit Goals, which included the commitment to achieve net-zero emissions by 2070.

He also launched Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment), aimed at promoting sustainable consumption, reducing waste, and encouraging eco-friendly practices at both individual and community levels, with the goal of making it a global movement.

India is playing a pioneering role in integrating Circular Economy into national policies.

Key Focus Areas for Circular Economy in India

The Government of India has identified **11 key sectors**, including: -

- Municipal solid and liquid waste
- Scrap metal
- E-waste and lithium-ion batteries.

This initiative aims to maximize resource utilisation and minimise waste generation in industries.

As part of this effort, India launched the **Swachh Bharat Mission** on October 2, 2014, to tackle poor sanitation, open defecation, and inadequate waste management.

Recently, as Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) marked its 10th anniversary, India has entered a new decade with a focus on: -

- Bio-CNG - Plastic waste management
- Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF)
- Legacy waste remediation

Additionally, AMRUT 2.0 (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation) is promoting water circularity, including: -

- Wastewater recycling
- Water body rejuvenation
- Conservation efforts

Jaipur Declaration – A Decade of Commitment

I am pleased to announce that a key outcome of this conference will be the Jaipur Declaration (2025-2034), a non-political and non-binding commitment to resource efficiency, low-carbon economy, and a sustainable future.

This declaration will serve as an important step towards transitioning from the take-make-dispose model to a Circular Economy.

I invite all participants to visit the India Pavilion, where India's achievements in 3R and Circular Economy will be showcased.

I am also delighted to share that over 120 speakers will participate in this forum, fostering city-to-city and university collaborations.

International Cooperation for a Sustainable Future

From this global platform, India proposes the formation of a Global Alliance, which will bring together cities, academia, and tech innovators to accelerate circularity.

I invite all stakeholders to engage in discussions and collaborations, strengthening partnerships and bringing forth impactful solutions.

Recently, India hosted the **G-20 Summit**, with the theme **Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam – One Earth, One Family, One Future**.

Inspired by this vision, we must move forward with a shared commitment to building a cleaner, greener, and more accessible future.

Concluding Remarks

Friends, the time for action is now.

With continuous collaboration between industry, academia, and policymakers, this forum will act as a catalyst for resource efficiency and a low-carbon economy in the Asia-Pacific region.

As I conclude my address, I am pleased to share that the Hon'ble Prime Minister has sent a special message for this conference.

His message reaffirms his commitment to 3R and Circular Economy and highlights India's dedication to providing a platform for global discussions on this crucial issue.

Let us harness the power of 3R principles and create a world where sustainability is not just a goal but a way of life.

Thank you.