

World Circular Economy Forum (WCEF) 2026

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | International Relations

Why in News?

India hosted the 10th edition of the World Circular Economy Forum (WCEF 2026) at Mahatma Mandir in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, marks the first time the global flagship event is being hosted in South Asia.

Circular Economy

- It is an economic system that departs from the traditional **"Take-Make-Dispose"** linear economic model to a closed-loop system.

- **Core Principles**

- **Eliminate Waste and Pollution:** Designing out waste and harmful emissions at the product conception phase.

- **Circulate Products and Materials:** Keeping products, components, and materials at their highest utility and value through the **6Rs** (Reduce, Reuse, Repair, Refurbish, Remanufacture, and Recycle).

- **Regenerate Nature:** Returning biological nutrients back to natural ecosystems (e.g., composting, bio-refining) to replenish natural capital.

- **Economic Alignment-** Decouples economic activity from the consumption of finite natural resources, improving raw material security and creating "green jobs" in remanufacturing and resource recovery.

- **Theme** - "Circular Economy: Transition for People and Prosperity".
- **Jointly organized by** -
 - The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB),
 - Finnish Innovation Fund Sitra (the creator of WCEF), the Government of Finland,
 - the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC),
 - the Government of Gujarat, and
 - the Gujarat Pollution Control Board (GPCB).
- **Framework** - It was structured around a "2+2 day" dual-format framework.
- The forum bridges India's domestic environmental paradigms, such as
 - **Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment)**, the **3Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle)**, and
 - **Swachh Bharat Abhiyan** with global expertise, venture capital, and cross-border clean-tech partnerships.
- **Main Forum Programme** - Consists of **4 Plenary Sessions** addressing cross-cutting, high-level global themes alongside **16 Parallel Sessions**.
- Features a curated Expo Space showcasing practical, scalable circular technologies and business models from Indian and international organizations.
- **Accelerator & Partner Sessions** - Hosted by global collaborators in Gandhinagar, online, and through satellite WCEF Studios worldwide to translate policy frameworks into actionable industrial roadmaps.

The Four Core Thematic Tracks

- **People Track (Inclusion, Skills & Jobs)**- Focuses on human-centric transitions, workforce upskilling for green jobs, and integrating informal waste workers into formal waste management systems.
- Examines how youth leadership and behavioral changes drive sustainable consumption models.
- **Business Track (Transforming Value Chains)** - Explores sustainable product design, industrial symbiosis, material recovery, and remanufacturing across key sectors (textiles, electronics, plastics, and automotive).
- Promotes business models that shift from selling physical products to offering "product-as-a-service" (PaaS).
- **Governance Track (Policy & Institutional Rules)** - Focuses on regulatory enablers, including Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) frameworks, circular public procurement, and harmonizing cross-border waste trade standards.
- Discusses metrics, life-cycle assessments, and science-based policy interventions to prevent non-tariff trade barriers.
- **Growth Track (Scale & Capital Allocation)** - Addresses scaling circular solutions through blended finance, sovereign green bonds, risk-guarantee mechanisms, and venture capital.
- Connects public-private investment frameworks to build resilient material supply chains across developing economies.
- **Significance** - Provides a platform for Global South nations to co-design circular economy policies, ensuring that international environmental standards account for local economic realities and informal sector dynamics.

WCEF 2026

Programme Architecture & Core Themes

World Circular Economy Forum 2026



10th Edition
(World Circular Economy Forum)



**Gandhinagar,
Gujarat, India**



Overall Theme
"Circular economy:
Transition for people
and prosperity"



Programme Architecture



**15 – 16
September 2026**

Main Forum



4 Plenaries



16 Parallel Sessions



Expo
(Showcasing circular solutions)



**17 – 18
September 2026**

Accelerator Sessions



60+
Collaborator-led sessions



Expo

Showcasing circular solutions and innovations.



WCEF Studios

Around the world.



Side Events

Throughout the year.



Four Programme Tracks



PEOPLE

- Inclusive transition
- Livelihoods
- Social inclusion



BUSINESS

- Circular business models
- Value chains
- Competitiveness



GOVERNANCE

- Policy and regulation
- Partnerships
- Urban and resource governance



GROWTH

- Finance
- Investment
- Innovation
- Scaling circular solutions



Core Themes



People



Business



Governance



Growth

*A circular future
for a resilient
and prosperous world!*



Circular Economy

| Inclusive

| Sustainable

| Collaborative

Reference

[DD News | World Circular Economy Forum 2026 in Gandhinagar](#)



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