

# International Recycling Incubation Summit

**IRIS — Of 'eye' deas and insights**

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**I**RIS, held on 16 and 17 January 2026, at the India Habitat Centre in New Delhi, was organised by the Indian Pollution Control Association's Centre for Waste Management and Research (IPCA-CWMR or ICWMR in short), housed within The Energy and Resources Institute's School of Advanced Studies (TERI-SAS). It was verily a confluence of several stakeholder groups in waste management.

'Waste' is a derogatory term these days. 'Waste' can be euphemised to 'ignored resources'. This zeitgeist was the *leitmotif* of the IRIS summit referred to above, which did its best to contribute to the ongoing transition to a circular economy in *Viksit Bharat*. In the true spirit of collaboration

(SDG 17), IRIS brought together representatives from the manufacturing sector, academia, consultancies, government/s, media and NGOs under one roof at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, to share knowledge, disseminate information, and sow 'ideacorns' (term coined by the author), with the hope of seeing a forest of oaks in the future, sturdy and adaptable, symbiotic and enabling, transmuting challenges into success stories.

#### From Insights...

Setting the context for IRIS in the opening session, Prof. Arun Kansal, Director of ICWMR, remarked that waste management