

Indo-French Edition of R|Elan™ Circular Design Challenge Set for 2026

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In 2026, the **R|Elan™ Circular Design Challenge (CDC)** — a global platform championing sustainable fashion and circular design — will hold a **special Indo-French edition** as part of the **India–France Year of Innovation**. The initiative is being organised by the **Embassy of France in India** and the **French Institute in India**, in partnership with **Reliance Industries Limited**, the **United Nations in India**, and the **Fédération de la Haute Couture et de la Mode (FHCM)**.

This edition aims to **deepen cooperation between Indian and French fashion ecosystems**, placing particular emphasis on **education, design exchange and sustainable innovation** across both countries' creative industries.

A Platform for Cross-Cultural Sustainability Innovation

Originally launched in India with support from the UN in India and Lakmé Fashion Week, the R|Elan™ Circular Design Challenge has grown into a **globally recognised forum** for early-career designers and entrepreneurs to showcase **circular and responsible design solutions** across the fashion and textile value chain.

The 2026 edition will build on this foundation by integrating **French and Indian perspectives on circularity**, fostering dialogue and collaboration that transcend national boundaries. As part of this goal, **French designers working in circular fashion will be identified through a regional European jury session in Paris**, organised in coordination with the FHCM. A **dedicated Indo-French jury of industry professionals** will then select finalists for the showcase.

International Showcase and Capacity Building

The culminating event — an **international finale and fashion showcase** — is planned for **Lakmé Fashion Week x FDCI in Delhi in October 2026**, with events hosted at the **Embassy of France in India**. This platform will give emerging designers from both countries the opportunity to **present transformative work in sustainable fashion on a major stage**, strengthening ties between French and Indian institutions in fashion, design innovation and circular economy development.

Organisers emphasise that the special edition not only highlights the role of **creative industries in addressing global environmental challenges**, but also reinforces cultural exchange and long-term dialogue in sustainability-centred design.

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