World Forestry Day 2026
Forests and Economies

Green Hackathon

Virtual Mode

Date: 19 March 2026

Who are Eligible:

- University Students
- College Students
- Higher Secondary Students

Broad Themes

- Green Ideas for Green Economy
- Forest-Based Startups
- Technology for Trees
- Waste to Green Wealth
- Medicinal Plants Innovation Challenge
- Mushrooms for Sustainable Livelihood

- Green Innovation for Cold Desert Forest
- Digital Ethnobotany
- Eco-Friendly Products from Local Plants
- Green Ideas for Protecting Sacred Trees

Organised by:
Department of Botany, University of Ladakh, Leh campus
in collaboration with
Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment, UT Ladakh

Last Date of Registration 18 March 2026

- Reg. Link: https://forms.gle/G9cogYq9szpcbJZx6
- Contact for Details: 7051042325; 9419308873

BACKGROUND

Forests play a vital role in sustaining ecological balance, supporting biodiversity, regulating climate, and contributing significantly to local and global economies. Recognizing their importance, the United Nations observes the International Day of Forests every year on 21 March to raise awareness about the significance of forests and sustainable forest management. The theme for 2026 - **'Forests and Economies'** emphasizes the role of forests in supporting livelihoods, promoting sustainable economic growth, and strengthening environmental resilience.

The unique cold desert ecosystem of Ladakh hosts fragile yet valuable forest and shrub ecosystems that support biodiversity, traditional livelihoods, medicinal plant resources, and ecosystem services. In this context, promoting innovative and sustainable solutions for forest conservation, ecological restoration, and green entrepreneurship is crucial.

To encourage creativity, innovation, and problem-solving among young minds, the **Department of Botany, University of Ladakh, Leh Campus, in collaboration with the Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment, UT Ladakh,** is organizing an **Online Green Hackathon on 19 March 2026.** This hackathon will serve as a platform for students to present innovative ideas, prototypes, technological solutions and research concepts related to forests, biodiversity, conservation and sustainable development. The event is being organized as a pre-event activity leading up to the **Mega Celebration of the World Forestry Day on 21 March 2026**, where winners will be felicitated.

OBJECTIVES

- Encourage innovation and creative thinking among students in addressing environmental challenges.
- Promote sustainable solutions related to forests, biodiversity, and natural resources.
- Provide a platform for students to develop eco-friendly ideas, prototypes, and green technologies.
- Foster collaboration between academia, students, and environmental stakeholders.
- Raise awareness about the importance of forests and sustainable ecological practices, particularly in fragile mountain ecosystems such as Ladakh.
- Encourage youth participation in green entrepreneurship and environmental innovation

BROAD THEMES

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EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Generate innovative ideas and solutions for forest conservation and sustainable development.
- Encourage youth participation in environmental problem-solving and green innovation.
- Promote awareness about forests and their economic and ecological importance.
- Identify promising student innovations that can be further developed and supported.

ELIGIBILITY

The competition is open to students from:
- Universities and Research Institutions
- Colleges
- Higher Secondary Schools

Participants may participate **individually or as a team of not more than two students.**

MODE OF COMPETITION

The Green Hackathon will be conducted **online through a virtual platform.**

Participants will present their ideas, prototypes, models, research concepts, or innovations through:
- Virtual presentation (PowerPoint or similar format)
- Virtual prototype demonstration
- Conceptual innovation display

PRESENTATION FORMAT

- Each participant/team will be given **3 minutes** for presentation.
- This will be followed by **2 minutes** of interaction with the judges' panel for questions and discussion.
- The presentation should clearly explain:
  - The problem statement
  - Proposed innovative solution
  - Potential environmental and socio-economic impact
  - Feasibility and scalability

JUDGING CRITERIA

Entries will be evaluated by an expert panel based on:
- Innovation and originality
- Relevance to forests and environmental sustainability
- Practical applicability and feasibility
- Scientific or technical merit
- Potential environmental and socio-economic impact
- Clarity and effectiveness of presentation

REGISTRATION DETAILS

- Registration Link: **https://forms.gle/G9cogYq9szpcbJZx6**
- For Details: **7051042325; 9419308873**
- Last Date for Registration: **18 March 2026**
- ·Date of Hackathon: **19 March 2026**
- Mode: **Online (Meeting link will be shared separately)**

Interested students must register before the deadline through the registration link that will be circulated by the organizing departments.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

The best three entries will be selected by the judging panel.
- Winners will receive prizes and certificates.
- The awards will be presented during the One-day function cum seminar on World Forestry Day celebration on 21 March 2026, going to be organized by the Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment, UT Ladakh in collaboration with the University of Ladakh (Leh Campus).