

No. ADMIN/37/2025-P.II  
Government of India  
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
(P.II Section)  
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Prithivi Wing, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor,  
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi – 110 003.  
Date: 16.06.2026.

**OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

**Subject: Invitation to participate in the commemoration of World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought 2026 on 17.06.2026 – reg.**

The undersigned is directed to inform that the Ministry is organising a half-day program in Ganga Sabhagar, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, New Delhi, in the forenoon of 17.06.2026 to commemorate the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought 2026.

2. The programme will be graced by the Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change and the Hon'ble Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change. The event will bring together experts, policymakers and stakeholders to deliberate on strategies for addressing desertification and drought, with a focus on the theme for the year 2026.

3. In view of the above, all officers at the level of Under Secretary and above are requested to attend the programme as per the **enclosed** schedule. **All officers are requested to be seated by 08:30 a.m. in the Ganga Sabhagar and attend the programme upto 2.00 p.m.**

4. Consultants/Scientific Consultants are requested to attend the technical sessions from 10.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.

5. This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.

**Encl.: As above.**

Digitally signed by  
VIBHUTI PANJIYAR  
Date: 16-06-2026  
15:09:41

(Vibhuti Panjiyar)  
Under Secretary to the Govt. of India  
Tel. 011-20819373  
Email: vibhuti.panjiyar@nic.in

To:

All Officers of the level of Under Secretary and above of the MoEF&CC

Copy to:

1. PS to Hon'ble Minister, EF&CC.

2. PS to Hon'ble Minister of State, EF&CC.
3. PSO to Secretary, EF&CC.
4. PPS to DGF&SS.
5. PSO/Sr. PPS//PPS/PS to all Additional Secretaries/ AS&FAs /ADG/Joint Secretaries/DDG.
6. IT Cell – with a request to upload the O.M. on the Ministry's website.
7. Guard File.



Government of India  
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
*in collaboration with*  
United Nations Development Programme  
*cordially invite you to commemorate*

# World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought 2026

**Date:** 17 June 2026 | **Time:** 09:00 AM to 02:00 PM  
**Venue:** Ganga Sabhagar, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Jor Bagh, New Delhi

*Chief Guest*

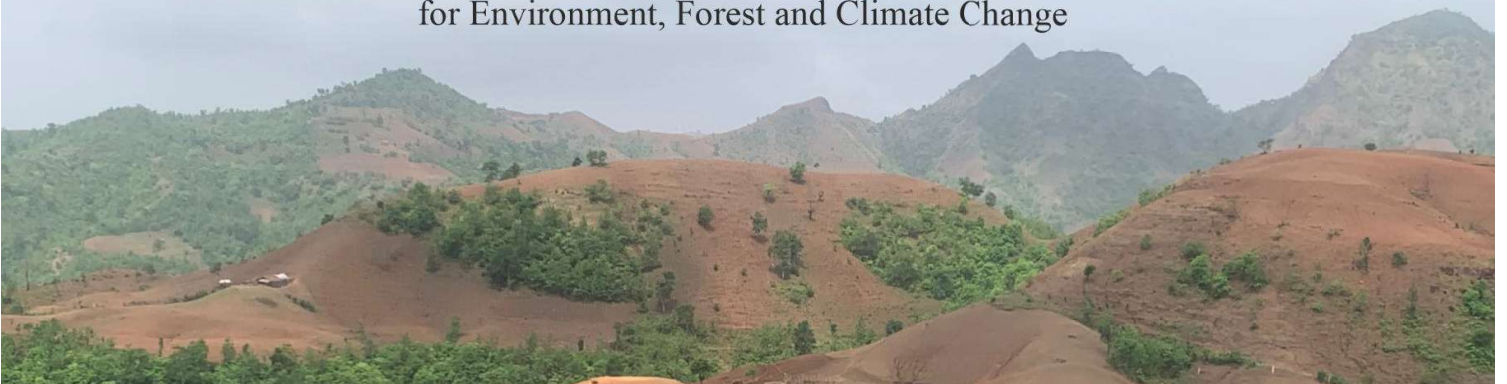
**Shri Bhupender Yadav**

Honourable Minister of Environment,  
Forest and Climate Change

*Guest of Honour*

**Shri Kirti Vardhan Singh**

Honourable Minister of State  
for Environment, Forest and Climate Change





# World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought (WDCDD) 2026

Rangelands: Recognize. Respect. Restore.

Venue: Ganga Sabhagar, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan

Date: 17 June 2026

## PROGRAMME AGENDA

Time	Activity	Speaker / Lead
<b>Inaugural Session</b>		
8:15-8:45	Registration & Arrival of Participants <i>All seated.</i>	Desertification Cell
8:45-9:00	Arrival of Dignitaries	
9:00-9:10	Lighting of lamp and welcome of dignitaries	Desertification Cell
9:10-9:13	Welcome Address & Context Setting: Global Theme & Its Relevance to India	Dr. V Clement Ben, IGF, NAEB
9:13-9:18	Special Address	Shri Ramesh Kumar Pandey, ADGF
9:18-9:23	Special Address	Shri. Sushil Kumar Awasthi, DGF
9:23 –9:28	Special Address	Shri Tanmay Kumar, Secretary
9:28 -9:35	Special Address	Dr. Angela Lusigi, Resident Representative, UNDP
9:35-9:42	Special Address	Shri Kirti Vardhan Singh, HMOS
9:42-9:57	Keynote Address	Shri Bhupender Yadav, HMEFCC
9:57-10:00	Vote of Thanks	Dr. V Clement Ben, IGF, NAEB
<b>High Tea (10:00 – 10:30)</b>		





<b>Technical Session</b>		
10:30-10:45	Rangelands under the UNCCD Framework: India's Progress, Priorities and Pathways Forward	ICFRE & SAC
10:45-10:55	Strengthening Partnerships for Land Restoration and Sustainable Development	UNDP
10:55-11:25	Grassland restoration in India: Sharing of Experiences by State Governments <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Gujarat</li><li>- Maharashtra</li><li>- Madhya Pradesh</li><li>- Delhi</li><li>- Haryana</li><li>- Rajasthan</li></ul>	State Governments (5 Mins each)
11:25 -11:35	Community led Grassland Restoration in India: A Conservation & Biodiversity led perspective	ATREE
11:35-11:45	Advancing India's Restoration Agenda: Contributions to Grassland Conservation and Land Degradation Neutrality	IGFRI
<b>Panel Discussions</b>		
11:45-12:15	Panel Discussion I: Rangelands as Resilient Production Landscapes — Restoration, Livelihoods & Climate Resilience	Moderated by ICFRE
12:15-12:45	Panel Discussion II: Governance, Institutions, Community management & Scaling Restoration Finance	Moderated by ICFRE
12:45-12:50	Summary & Key Takeaways	ICFRE
12:50-12:55	Vote of Thanks	Shri Prashant Rajagopal, DIGF, NAEB
<b>LUNCH (12:55 – 13:55)</b>		

