



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
Inaugural Session		
8:15-8:45	Registration & Arrival of Participants <i>All seated.</i>	Desertification Cell
8:45-9:00	Arrival of Dignitaries	
9:00-9:08	Welcome Address	Dr. V Clement Ben, IGF, NAEB
9:08-9:18	Context Setting: Global Theme & Its Relevance to India	DGF&SS, EF&CC
9:18 – 9:28	India's Leadership in Ecosystem Restoration and Land Degradation Neutrality	Secretary EF&CC
9:28 – 9:40	Special Address	Dr. Angela Lusigi, Resident Representative, UNDP India
9:40 -9:55	Release of Publications: - India's Second Progress Report on the Bonn Challenge - Special Edition of the 'Indian Forester'	HMEFCC
9:55-10.00	Keynote Address	Shri Bhupender Yadav, HMEFCC
	Vote of Thanks	Dr. V Clement Ben, IGF, NAEB
High Tea (10:00 – 10:30)		



Technical Session		
10:30-10:45	Rangelands under the UNCCD Framework: India's Progress, Priorities and Pathways Forward	ICFRE & SAC
10:45-10:55	Advancing Land Degradation Neutrality in India: Strategies, Pathways and Opportunities	AFRI
10:55-11:25	Grassland restoration in India: Sharing of Experiences by State Governments – Gujarat – Maharashtra – Madhya Pradesh – Delhi – Haryana – Rajasthan	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
Panel Discussions		
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	Dr. Sanjay Singh, CoE-SLM, ICFRE
12:50-12:55	Vote of Thanks	Shri Prashant Rajagopal, DIGF, NAEB
LUNCH (12:55 – 13:55)		