

Terms & Conditions

Inter-School Environmental Podcast Competition 2026

The competition is open to students from recognized schools.

1. Competition Schedule

Activity	1. Date
Announcement	2. 20th June 2026
Registration Open	3. 25th June 2026
Registration Closed	4. 24th July 2026
Podcast Drive Link Submission	5. Any time after registration
Podcast Submission Closed	6. 15th August 2026
Virtual Round – Top 10 Winners Announcement	7. 20th August 2026
Final Event	8. 31st August 2026

2. Registration Fees

Registration fee for all categories is **Rs. 1000/- per team**.

Free participation for Govt. ATL & PM Shri Schools (**Only 1 entry allowed free**).

For more than 1 entry from Govt. ATL & PM Shri Schools **50% fee waiver** will be applicable.

3. Competition Structure

Round 1 – Registration & Concept Submission

Students must submit:

Team Details Form

Topic Title

Short Concept Note (100–150 words)

Submission Mode

Google Form

Email

4. Round 2 – Podcast Submission

Participants must submit:

Podcast Video (3–5 minutes)

Submission via Google Drive Link

MP4 format Video submission

Backdrop / Poster / Cover Image (Optional)

5. Language Options

English

Hindi

Bilingual

6. Round 3 – Final Round

Final round may be conducted:

Online via Zoom / Google Meet

Physical Presentation at Chandigarh

7. Final Round Activities

8. Final Event Format

After the team consent submission closing date, the organizers will announce the format of the Final Event based on the responses received through the Google Form. The final round will either be conducted virtually or in front of the judges at Chandigarh.

9. Evaluation Rubric

Criteria	Marks
Content Research	10.20
Creativity	11.15
Communication Skills	12.15
Environmental Awareness	13.15
Audio Quality	14.15
Impact & Message	15.20
Total Marks: 100	

10 Awards & Recognition

- Winning schools will receive trophies.
 - Winners in all categories securing 1st, 2nd, and 3rd positions will receive trophy for every student.
 - Runner-up teams in all categories will receive medals.
 - All participants will receive an E-Certificate.
 - Mentors of all winning teams will receive an E-Certificate and Appreciation Letter.
 - Mentors of all participating teams will receive an E-Certificate.
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11 Teams and Student Eligibility

- Each team may consist of two or three student members.
- A student may participate in only **one** team. After registration, changing teams is not allowed.
- Schools must submit the details of the participants and mentor on the official school letterhead, duly signed and stamped by the school principal or a competent authority.
- The official language of the competition is **English**. All competition-related information, including registration, correspondence, and project submission, must be completed in English. At least **two** student team member must be fluent in either **English or Hindi** and must be present at the **Finalist Event** to conduct their team's presentation if selected as a finalist.

12 Mentor

- Each Team shall be supervised by one mentor, preferably a teacher from the same school, but, can be a part time person as well.
- While student Team Members are required to do the work involved in undertaking their projects, the role of the mentor is to help students manage their project. An individual may serve as Mentor for more than one Team. Mentors are to act as guides through the process, not as participating members in the research project or podcast shoot. If selected in round 2, mentors are not eligible to answer the queries of the judges.
- The mentor is responsible for registering the team, keeping

communication obtaining any additional information about Team Members as required by the Organizer, including obtaining all necessary consents from parents or guardians of Team Members , providing overall guidance to the Team, submitting the Team's entry by uploading the properly formatted document to their Team's account, and facilitating distribution of prizes. If their Team is selected as a Finalist, the mentor will assist in Team travel arrangements and oversee presentation of the Team's entry at the Finalist Event. If the registered mentor is unable to attend the Finals in person, a replacement mentor who meets the Organizer's Mentor's requirements must be put in place and their information shared at least seven days before the event to the Organizer.

Finalist teams must arrange their own accommodation and travel . However, the administration will assist in locating accommodation near the competition venue.

13 Personal Details and Parental Consent

- a) Each student Team Member of a Finalist Team must provide a completed parental consent form, signed by the student's parent or legal guardian, to be eligible to participate in the Finalist Event.
- b) Finalist Teams will have 7 days from the date of announcement to complete and submit all required consent forms. If a Team fails to submit all consent forms by the assigned date, they may be disqualified at the sole discretion of the Organizer, and another Semi-Finalist Team may be invited to take their place.
- c) If a Team qualifying for the Finalist Round informs the Organizer that they must withdraw prior to submitting their consent forms, they will retain their Semi-Finalist Team designation, and receive a Semi-Finalist certificate. However, if a Team chooses to withdraw from the Finalist Round after submitting required forms and/or confirming participation, the Team risks disqualification and forfeiture of any awards, at the sole discretion of the Organizer.

14 NOTE:

By participating in the Competition, Team Members, Mentors, Judges, and Speakers agree to the collection and use of their photographs, projects videos and personal information by the Competition organizer. This includes (but is not limited to): all forms of media, advertising, and the Competition's website.

15 Podcast Video Submission Deadline

- a. Video Submission entries for Round 1 must be received by the Organizer's server by August 15th August 2026 at 12:00 PM (Mid Night). NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE. The Organizer reserves the right in its sole discretion to modify the entry deadline and if this occurs, all Teams will be notified of such deadline and modification will be posted on the competition website or through provided email addresses. LATE ENTRIES WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

16 Warranty, Hold Harmless and Intellectual Property Rights and Considerations

By submitting a Team's entry, the school/mentor affirms that the entry is the original work of the Team and the entry does not violate any law or regulation or intellectual property right, including but not limited to any patent, trademark, copyright or trade secret, or any

other right of any third party. Teams and Team leaders shall defend and hold harmless the Organizer and its directors, officers, staff, sponsors, contractors and agents and all competition participants, sponsors, reviewers, judges, speakers and mentors against any and all liability, losses, damages, expenses, claims or costs, including reasonable attorney's fees, relating to breach of this Section 10. Teams agree that the Organizer has the right to verify the ownership and originality of all entries. If verification cannot be done to the satisfaction of the Organizer or if a Team's entry is in any other way ineligible, the Organizer may disqualify the Team as an entrant and/or select an alternate semi-finalist, finalist or winner, as applicable.

17 Ethics and Unacceptable Entries

- a) Entries may not involve use of or experimentation on animal or human subjects, except in cases of survey or undisturbed observation being performed.
- b) Entries may not defame or invade the rights of publicity or the privacy of any person, living or deceased, or otherwise infringe upon or violate a person's personal or proprietary rights.
- c) The Organizer reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to reject any submission they believe may not be in keeping with the Organizer's image or defames, invades, infringes or violates a third party's rights
- d) The Organizer also reserves the right in its sole discretion to disqualify any entry at any time which, in the Organizer's opinion, may endanger the safety or wellbeing of any person and/or animal or in the event it is determined that the participant has not complied with these rules.

18 Judging

- a) The chance of winning any prize will depend upon the total number of eligible entries received and the scores of the Judges, based on entry prototype and viability, innovation in solving the problem.
- b) The decisions of the Judges, with the approval of the Organizer, will be final. Judging scores will not be released to Teams. However, Judge's comments will be released to Finalists as they prepare for the Finalist Event.
- c) Teams that do not qualify for the Finals will have their comments released upon request to the Organizer.

NOTE :- Teams are responsible for all travel expenses and other costs they incur in connection with the competition, including attendance at the Finals.

19 CRITERIA:

For judging criteria is shared on the website <https://www.welmfoundation.in>

- 20 Participants may register individually or in teams of up to 3 students.
- 21 All participants must complete the registration process within the official registration timeline.
- 22 Podcast entries must be based on environmental themes and should promote awareness, sustainability, or innovative environmental solutions.
- 23 Podcast duration should generally be between 3–5 minutes unless otherwise specified by organizers.
- 24 Submitted content must be original. Any plagiarism or copyright violation will result in immediate disqualification.
- 25 Participants must ensure that no offensive, political, discriminatory, or inappropriate language/content is used in the podcast.

- 26 Background music, sound effects, images, or other media used in the podcast must be copyright-free or properly credited.
- 27 Podcast submission must be shared through a Google Drive link with proper access permissions enabled.
- 28 Late submissions after 15th August 2026 will not be accepted under any circumstances.
- 29 The organizing committee reserves the right to reject incomplete or invalid entries.
- 30 Shortlisted teams for the final round will be selected by the jury based on creativity, environmental awareness, presentation skills, originality, and technical quality.
- 31 The Top 10 selected teams(Both Category) will be informed through email/WhatsApp/official communication channels.
- 32 After the team consent submission closing date, the organizers will announce the format of the Final Event based on the responses received through the Google Form. The final round will either be conducted virtually or in front of the judges at Chandigarh.
- 33 Participants shortlisted for the final round must confirm their participation within the timeline shared by organizers.
- 34 The decision of the jury and organizing committee will be final and binding. No objections regarding results or evaluation will be entertained.
- 35 Organizers may use submitted podcasts, photographs, videos, and participant details for educational, promotional, and awareness purposes with proper credits.
- 36 Certificates will be provided only to registered participants who successfully complete the competition process.
- 37 The organizing committee reserves the right to modify schedules, rules, categories, or event format due to unforeseen circumstances.
- 38 Any participant found violating competition rules or engaging in unfair practices may be disqualified immediately.
- 39 By registering for the competition, participants and schools agree to all terms and conditions mentioned above.