

Radio Astronomy Centre

National Centre for Radio Astrophysics

TATA INSTITUTE OF FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH

Post Box 8, UDHAGAMANDALAM (OOTY) 643 001, TAMIL NADU, INDIA.
Telephone: +91 423 2244880/ 888
E-mail ID: racnsd@ncra.tifr.res.in



Ref: NSD 2026/invitation for events

16 January 2026

To
The Principal/Headmaster/Headmistress

Sub: National Science Day-2026 celebrations on 28 February 2026 at the Radio Astronomy Centre, Ooty.

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are happy to inform you that National Science Day celebrations are being organized at the Radio Astronomy Centre (RAC), Ooty, which is a part of the National Centre for Radio Astrophysics (NCRA), Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), on 28 February 2026 (Saturday). This programme is mainly being organized to educate young students about the recent developments in science and technology as well as to create scientific awareness among the public.

The NCRA and RAC have been actively involved in several Astronomy and Astrophysics related research, which includes studies of the Sun, Pulsars, Galaxies, Interstellar medium, Cosmology, etc. This also leads to opportunities in the fields of Electronics, Antenna design, Signal processing and Computer related engineering. At present, the NCRA operates two large national facilities, viz., the Ooty Radio Telescope (ORT), located at RAC, Ooty, and the Giant Metre wave Radio Telescope (GMRT), located near Pune. Every year, a large number of students (more than 30,000) visit these facilities from various schools, colleges and universities.

As a part of the National Science Day celebrations at RAC, Science Model competition will be conducted on 28 February 2026 (Saturday) for school students from the Nilgiris District and for college students from the Nilgiris and Coimbatore districts. Apart from awarding prizes to the winners of the competition, all the participants will be encouraged with certificates during the National Science Day Programme at RAC, on 28 February 2026.

We therefore request you to kindly nominate the participants from your school for the above mentioned competition by filling the online registration form available at <http://rac.ncra.tifr.res.in/parti.html>, or by email to racnsd@ncra.tifr.res.in on or before **5 PM, 09 February 2026**.

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The National Science Day celebrations will be held from 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM on 28 February 2026 at RAC campus near Muthorai Village. On this day, there will be live observations with the Ooty Radio Telescope and display of several interesting exhibits on the fundamentals of Astronomy and on the recent developments in the field of Astrophysics. There will also be exhibits from several other scientific research institutions in the Nilgiris district.

The participants should report at RAC at 9:00 AM and occupy the allotted space by 9:30 AM.

We request you to mark the presence of your school by bringing as many students as you can on 28 February 2026 to make the National Science Day a grand success. This will also benefit the students, as they would get an overwhelming exposure towards different fields of science.

We look forward to your enthusiastic participation and cooperation.

Thanking you,

Yours Sincerely,

**For Head of Radio Astronomy Centre
For National Science Day Committee**

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POST BOX No.8,
UDHAGAMANDALAM - 643 001.**