



## Celebration of International Day of Forests – 2025

Surendranath Law College, a prestigious institution in Kolkata with an illustrious legacy of over a century, is deeply committed to the pursuit of justice, equality, and the rule of law. Founded by the illustrious nationalist leader Surendranath Banerjee, the college has long been a beacon of legal education in India, producing countless legal professionals who have made significant contributions to the judiciary, academia, and public service. The college's ethos is rooted in the principles of social justice and human rights, aligning with its mission to not only educate students in the law but also to instil in them a deep sense of responsibility towards society. Surendranath Law College, a distinguished institution with a rich legacy in legal education, has been at the forefront of shaping future leaders in the legal profession. Established with a vision to impart quality education and foster intellectual growth, the college is known for its rigorous academic curriculum, vibrant campus life, and a strong emphasis on practical legal training. Over the years, it has produced numerous accomplished lawyers, judges, and legal professionals who have made significant contributions to the field of law. The college is committed to providing its students with the skills and knowledge required to excel in a rapidly evolving global legal landscape.

In keeping with this tradition, the ECO CLUB of Surendranath Law College organized a special awareness programme on 21st March 2025 to observe the International Day of Forests. The event was conducted within the college premises under the guidance of **Prof. (Dr.) Mohammadi Tarannum, Vice-Principal** of the college, and coordinated by **Prof. Debjani Ojha, Convenor of the ECO CLUB**. The event saw vibrant participation from students, faculty, and non-teaching staff, all coming together to celebrate and advocate for forest conservation.

The United Nations General Assembly, on 28th November 2012, declared 21st March as the International Day of Forests to raise global consciousness about the value of forests and the urgency of their protection. Each year, a theme is selected by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations to guide awareness efforts. The theme for 2025 is "Forests and Food", which emphasizes the indispensable connection between forest ecosystems and food security across the world.

Forests provide nourishment, shelter, and livelihoods to millions and are vital to the health of our planet. They support biodiversity, regulate the climate, enrich soil fertility, and contribute to clean water and air. Yet, these ecosystems face constant threats from deforestation, unsustainable agricultural practices, and unchecked human expansion. These threats have cascading effects—increased CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, loss of biodiversity, disruption of indigenous communities, and heightened vulnerability to climate change.

This year's programme highlighted how forests are not just natural spaces but critical sources of food, medicine, and economic support—especially for rural and tribal communities. Participants were encouraged to reflect on sustainable consumption habits and the importance of preserving forests not only for ecological reasons but also to secure food systems and human well-being for future generations.

## Glimpses of the Event

