

CSIR-NEERI wins First Prize at National Hackathon on R&D-2026 for AI-Based Tree Enumeration and Species Identification

CSIR-NEERI, Nagpur won the First Prize under Problem Statement 2 at the Hackathon on R&D-2026 for its innovative AI-ML-based geospatial solution for automated tree census, species identification and height estimation. The solution demonstrates the potential of GeoAI, remote sensing and machine learning for tree assessment, environmental monitoring and sustainable mining practices.

The national-level hackathon, themed “NextGen AI for Smart Mining,” was organised by the Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Limited (CMPDI), Ranchi, a subsidiary of Coal India Limited under the Ministry of Coal, Government of India. The proposal submission period was from 3 August to 3 September 2026. CSIR-NEERI’s proposal, titled “Development of an AI- and ML-Based GIS Model for Tree Enumeration, Species Identification and Tree Height Estimation,” was shortlisted for presentation from among 70 proposals received nationwide.

The CSIR-NEERI team was led by Dr. Asheesh Sharma (Principal Investigator) and Dr. Kanchan Kumari (Co-Principal Investigator), with AcSIR PhD student Mandeep Poonia and Project Associates Rohit Nale, Ankush Rai, Arya Wadsamudrakar, Abhishek Dalwi, Neha Nasim, Pooja Sadashiv, Pradyumna Gondane and Rajat. The team was mentored by Dr. Saravana Devi, Scientist G and former AcSIR Coordinator, and Dr. S. Venkata Mohan.

The award has been announced, and the award ceremony will be organised shortly.

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CSIR-NEERI wins First Prize at CMPDI’s R&D-2026 Hackathon for AI-based tree census, species ID & height estimation. Team led by Dr. A. Sharma & Dr. K. Kumari. #CSIRNEERI #CSIR_IND #CMPDI #GeoAI