HACK THE SPRING '26

COSMIC LENS//
OFFICIAL RULEBOOK &
CODE OF CONDUCT

1. PURPOSE & SPIRIT

Cosmic Lens is the visual documentation arm of the event. We are looking for photographers and cinematographers who can capture the energy, intensity, and "sci-fi" atmosphere of Hack The Spring '26 through creative storytelling

2. SUBMISSION PROTOCOL (CRITICAL)

- **The Platform**: All submissions must be uploaded to Instagram.
- **The Mechanism:** To officially register your entry, you must:
  Post the Photo/Reel on your feed/timeline.
- **Tag the official account:** @hackthespring
- **Use the mandatory hashtags:** #capturetheuniverseathts26 AND #hackthespring26
- **Public Profile:** Your Instagram account MUST BE PUBLIC during the event and for 48 hours after. If your account is private, our tracking tools cannot see your entry, and you will be disqualified.

3. EQUIPMENT & ELIGIBILITY

- **Open Gear:** Participants can use Smartphones, DSLRs, Mirrorless Cameras, or GoPros. Judging will be based on composition and creativity, not just camera resolution.
- **Accessories**: Gimbals and tripods are allowed, provided they do not obstruct pathways or block fire exits.

4. EVALUATION CRITERIA

- **Entries are judged on:**
- Visual Impact (Composition, Lighting).
- Storytelling (Does it show the spirit of the event?).
- Engagement (Creativity in the reel/caption).
- Adherence to Theme (Bonus points for capturing the "Sci-Fi/Space" vibe).

COSMIC LENS // FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Can I post a Story instead of a Post/Reel?

A: No. Stories disappear after 24 hours. You must upload it as a Main Feed Post or a Reel so our judges can review it later.

Q: I have a private account. Can I just DM you the screenshot?

A: No. Our tracking system relies on public hashtags. You must either make your account public for the duration of the event or post from a public secondary account.

Q: Is there a limit on how many photos/reels I can upload?

A: Yes, there is a limit! You can upload one entry for each.

Q: Can I use CapCut or Premiere Pro to edit?

A: Yes. Editing, color grading, and adding music are highly encouraged. Just don't use AI to generate fake elements in the picture.

Q: When is the deadline?

A: The final upload must be made before 5:00 PM on Day 2. Any posts timestamped after that will not be considered for the awards.

Q: Will participants receive certificates?

A: All verified participants who successfully complete the event requirements will receive a E-Certificate of Participation. Winner of each competition will receive E-Certificates of Merit along with their prizes.

COSMIC LENS // QUICK FACTS (THE "TL;DR")

- **Format:** Photography & Reel Making Competition.
- **Submission:** Instagram Post/Reel.
- **Mandatory Tags:** @hackthespring, #capturetheuniverseaththts26, #hackthespring26.
- **Key Rule:** Account MUST BE PUBLIC.
- **Deadline:** Upload before the event closing ceremony.

COSMIC LENS // COMPTETION GUIDE

1. **Offline Round: Creative Showcase**

- On-campus round.
- Time : From 20 Feb 26, 11:00 AM IST TO 21 Feb 26, 11:59 PM IST.
- For both Photography and Reel competitions, entries will be evaluated based on creativity, relevance to the theme, technical quality, and jury evaluation.
- The top entry from each competition will be selected.
- Format :
  (i) Entries must align with the given theme.
  (ii) Original content only.
  (iii) Theme will be informed before the event duration.
- Evaluation Parameters :
  (i) Creativity and storytelling.
  (ii) Relevance to theme.
  (iii) Technical quality (composition, editing, clarity).
- Outcome :
  (i) Best Photography entry selected.
  (ii) Best Reel entry selected.