67TH YEAR

GSEN TROPHY

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STUDENTS OF ARCHITECTURE
GSEN TROPHY | 2024-2025
EXCLAIM!

UIC · exclaim! · NASA

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About NASA India

The National Association of Students of Architecture (NASA India) is one of the largest architectural student organizations in the world with student participants from 350+ colleges all over India and countries around the world. The main objective of NASA India is to create a platform for architecture students to learn and interact, engage them directly and indirectly through both online and offline platform. NASA India conducts events, conventions, seminars, workshops, design competitions and trophies, and many other activities.

Exclaim!

Choose between being a goat in a herd or the king of the jungle as a lion.
I believe that most of us choose architecture as the path to break away from the conventional routes of engineering and medicine. It's a pursuit fueled by the desire to showcase one's unique ideas, creativity, and innovation. Many of us carry dreams of designing landmark buildings in the cities or villages where we were born and raised, making pursuing this lengthy professional program.

However, the obstacles that a student architect faces in India are sadly numerous. These includes the demanding nature of the course, navigating through assessments that balance creativity and innovation, limited exposure to professional practice within a six-month timeframe, inadequate or nonexistent compensation for interns, and witnessing unhealthy working conditions.

Yet, for aspiring architects in India, the road is riddled with challenges. From the intense demands of the course which eventually bounds creativity and innovation between juries, the journey is far from easy, limited exposure to professional practice within a sixmonth timeframe, inadequate or nonexistent pay for interns, and witnessing unhealthy working conditions adds to the struggle.

In the face of such obstacles, many find themselves questioning their choices and seeking alternative paths. It's not uncommon to see architecture graduates ending up in IT roles and other such irrelevant platforms.

Did they choose to be a lion only to find themselves relegated to the role of a goat?
With the staggering pace of urbanisation and its consequential social and environmental concerns, the necessity for architects is indisputable. However, do we possess sufþcient awareness of architecture within the *grassroots* of the society? Can we *envision* architecture education as accessible and affordable for all? Will our curriculum provide enough autonomy to both institutions and students to ensure the quality of architectural education in India?

I call upon all members of the National Association of Students of Architecture to participate in the assemblage with like minds and deliberate upon the array of prevalent issues and potential solutions. Together let's **Exclaim for reform** and ensure a brighter future for the architecture fraternity in India!.

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Introduction

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HOLY WATERS: CHALLENGE TO IMPROVE PILGRIMAGE TOWNS NATIONWIDE

Continuing focus from past year, the G Sen trophy will concentrate upon India's numerous pilgrimage towns in the current and the next cycle. This year we turn attention to water, which not only seems ever-present but often central to the spatial organization and long-term development of these historical places in the first place. But first the background.

Indians are traveling like never before, and the country's tourism sector is booming consequently. Governments across the country are simultaneously funding a wide range of civic improvements like better streets and public open spaces seeking to improve the quality of city life for everyone. Local businesses and elected officials want more local economic growth in parallel play. What does the confluence of such powerful factors mean for India's numerous pilgrimage towns dotting the vast countryside? How can architects help?

Our preliminary explorations suggest many pilgrimage towns attract a growing number of visitors and businesses nowadays, but not a corresponding level of design attention. So, India's budding architects are potentially presented with a fantastic opportunity to contribute purposefully toward the betterment of these popular local places that masses of common people routinely visit and wish to enjoy.

Against this backdrop, GSEN 24-25 presents a twofold challenge to your team: First, broadly map and analyze the overall water system at play in a locally/regionally well-known pilgrimage town of your area identifying 1-2 key opportunities/gaps susceptible to purposeful change. Second, conceive and illustrate design proposals addressing identified opportunities/gaps while improving the overall water system in empirically measurable ways (e.g., quality, quantity, storage, enhanced water-human interface, improved quality of public space etc.). We want participating schools to propose diligently conceptualized visionary ideas cleverly leveraging both the existing potential and future possibilities in creative ways.

Focus and Theme

Within your chosen context and narrative, you are free to conceive design proposals for any water improvement project aimed at enhancing the visitors' experience and improving the quality of life for place users and residents. Examples include development of new or redevelopment of existing water tanks, channels, and ponds as well as adjoining areas and infrastructure such as Ghats, embankments, walkways, or open public spaces. Similarly, you could focus upon improving/strengthening the area's natural water cycle paying attention to rainwater collection, storage, and reuse. Make sure your architectural infrastructures and spatial settings are detailed and well-crafted to give your proposal strength and realism.

To conclude, we encourage a fresh reading cleverly uncovering improvement opportunities, often hiding in plain sight, coupled with fitting design proposals suitable to the cause and context at hand. We also want you to think outside the box and incorporate contemporary solutions using architectural innovation that promotes better user experience in this age of growing travel and tourism while thinking carefully through the role and purpose of holy waters in these popular places.

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The Task

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Objectives

1. To create design proposals showcasing creative thinking in the form of water improvement projects
2. To raise public awareness about the reinvigorated relevance of India's pilgrimage centers
3. To demonstrate above ideas via an inventive design proposal that engages meaningfully with the needs of common public.

Site Selection

There is no limitation to choosing the site (could be a large or small pilgrimage town located anywhere in your area) but you should be able to study the place well and easily. Using the context, build a case for what you are addressing in relation to the theme (water system improvement) and develop coherent solutions. The scale and details can depend on the narrative you are building as long as you are able to articulate and communicate the proposed design, adopted storyline, and overall intent clearly.

Programme

The design should meet the following requirements :

1. The focus and outcome of your effort should be a publicly accessible water system for the use of general population.
2. The designed space can be flexible in nature and may be use for variable activities at different times of the day or year.
3. Any proposed structure may be temporary or permanent in nature. If temporary, it should be designed with recycled/recyclable materials for the annual cycle of seasons.

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Guidelines

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Jury Criteria

1. Design concept / overall argument – 25%
2. Research / empirical work – 25%
3. Persuasive / coherent storyline – 25%
4. Visual materials / presentation quality – 25%

Submission Requirements

The project should be expressed within TWO (2) A1 size sheets.

Sheet 1: Should contain- concept, plan, details of the project and short text (up to 300 words) to explain the project and context.

Sheet 2: Compelling strong views of the architectural and spatial innovations to address the theme. (2-3 views)

The project visuals should also be expressed in 6 Digital Postcards of 210MM X 210 MM (square) with little or no text (limit to one line for explaining the visual).
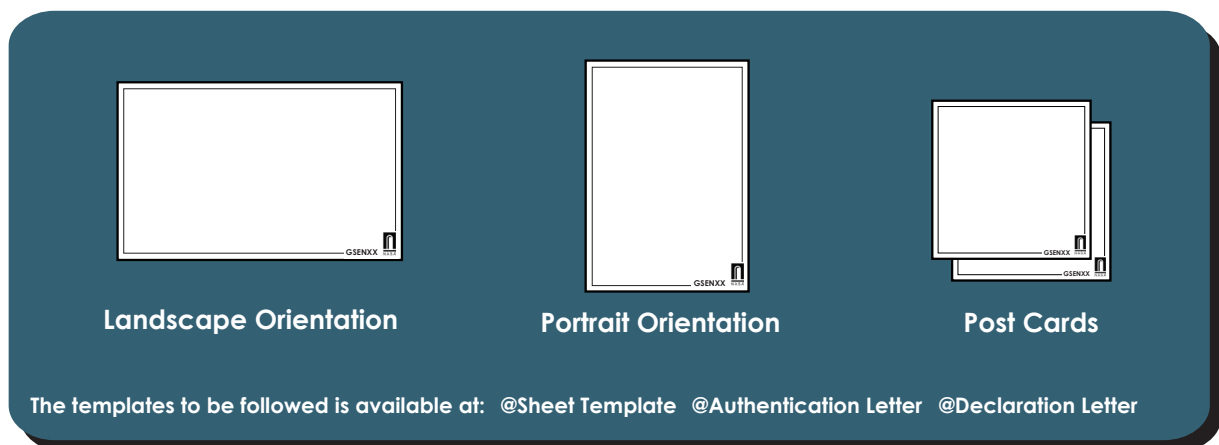
Check list for submission

1. Online Submission in form of PDF
2. Original Copy of Authentication Letter
3. Original Copy of Declaration Letter
4. Editable Format of the Sheets (Applicable if shortlisted)

Sheet & NASA India Logo Guidelines

Failing to comply with any of the guidelines may lead to disqualification at the discretion of the executive council.
• NASA India Internal Logo shall always be placed on the right-hand bottom corner of the sheet.
• NASA India logo should not be merged, overlapped etc. with any sort of text, graphic, image, etc.
• NASA India logo should be in true black with a perfectly white background.

Landscape Orientation   **Portrait Orientation**   **Post Cards**

The templates to be followed is available at: @Sheet Template @Authentication Letter @Declaration Letter

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General Submission Guidelines

Failing to comply with any of the guidelines may lead to disqualification at the discretion of the executive council.

• All text should be in English.
• The projects should use the decimal metric system and contain a metric graphic scale in order to enable publication in reduced formats.
• The format of the sheets should clearly mention the name of the trophy followed by the year i.e. "GSEN Trophy 2024-25"
• The format of the sheet should contain a square box of 25mm*25mm at the bottom right-hand corner, next to the NASA INDIA logo which should have the unique registration number allotted to the participants after registrations.
• 10MM White margin is to be left on all sides of A1 sheets.
• The scale is left to the discretion of the participant(s) to the condition that the scale should be in metric system and all the drawings should be clear and legible.
• Manually rendered entry should be scanned at least in 300*300dpi (dots per Inch) resolution.
• The soft copy (non-editable format) of the sheets along with authentication letter, declaration letter and any other required documents prescribed in the submission requirements should be uploaded on the website by the submission deadline.
• The soft copy file of the sheets should not be corrupted or incomplete or in low resolution.
• It is mandatory to produce the original copy of the Authentication Letter for each entry(entry code should be mentioned if allotted) with the name of participant(s) and stating the unit will abide by whatever may be the final results and also agree that this entry is a property of both the institute and NASA India.
• The Authentication Letter should be signed by the HOD/Principal/Director of the unit.
• It is mandatory for the colleges to produce the original copy of the Declaration Letter for each entry(entry code should be mentioned if allotted) signed by the participants stating the work submitted is genuine and they have endorsed copy- rights for the same and to adhere by all the rules and regulations, jury process and the results.
• The Prize Money Authenticating Letter signed by the Director/ Principal / HOD in the college letterhead specifying the account details (Account Name, Account Number, Bank Name, IFSC Code) in which the money is to be credited for each entry
(entry code should be mentioned if allotted) shall be collected at a later stage.
• The working files in editable formats of the Shortlisted Entries should be submitted to the Council, failing which, the submission requirements would be deemed incomplete leading to the prize money being withheld.
• Shortlisted Entries with manual hand-done sheets should submit high quality scans
(min. 300*300dpi) along with the content in a word document of the shortlisted entries should be submitted to the Council, failing which, the submission requirements would be deemed incomplete leading to the prize money being withheld.
• Any misconduct such as exposing identity through college name/ stamp participant(s) name or college code on the sheets or the video will be disqualified.

Other Information

• Maximum One (01) Entry Will Be Accepted Per College For GSEN Trophy.
• Queries to be put forward through the trophy page on the website (http://www.nasaindia.co)
• Registration should be done by the Unit secretary in NASA India website before the registration deadline.
• Registration of the trophies will be final and cannot be changed or withdrawn henceforth.
• Late Registration and submission will not be entertained and henceforth the defaulters shall be disqualified.

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Prize Money

Total prize fund

₹ 2,00,000

Prize money of Rupees 2 Lakh is allotted to the trophy and it will be divided according to the number of the Citations and Special Mentions.

Important Dates

Release of Brief:
6th May 2024, Monday

Registration Deadline:
26th May 2024, Sunday 1800 hrs IST

Queries Deadline:
26th May 2024, Sunday 1800 hrs IST

Submission Deadline:
20th June 2024, Saturday 1800 hrs IST

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Moderator

Sanjeev Vidyarthi

Sanjeev Vidyarthi is professor and head of the department of Urban Planning and Policy (UPP), and the founding director of the Masters in city design (MCD) program at the University of Illinois Chicago (UIC). Exploring the case of contemporary India, he studies who does the urban planning and city design work in such a massive, complex country and how. Sanjeev works with progressive scholars and professional practitioners worldwide.

Note:

For the purpose at hand, we define 'pilgrimage town' as: A specialized human settlement serving spiritual purpose or religious needs of visitors from near and afar. Found in many different parts of India, such places come in a diverse range of shapes and sizes but typically comprise a human settlement centered around / adjoining a shrine, holy site, or sacred landscape popular in the public domain. Some prominent examples include Guruvayoor and Velankanni in Tamil Nadu, Galiakot and Salasar Balaji in Rajasthan, and Trimbakeshwar in Maharashtra.

All the Best !

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