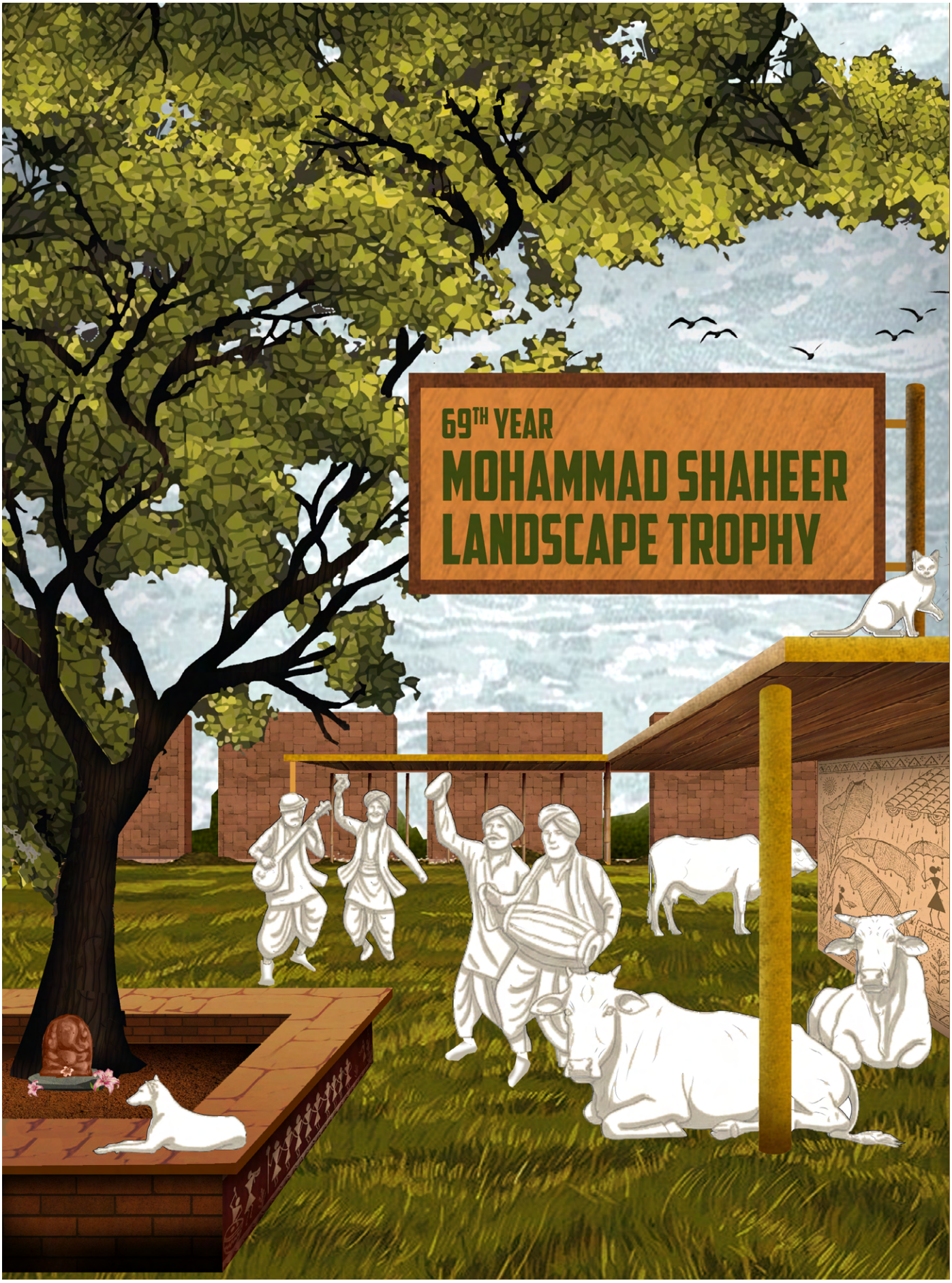


National Association of Students of Architecture
MSL Trophy 2026-27
Transcend

About NASA India

The National Association of Students of Architecture (NASA, India) is the world's largest architectural student-run organization. Founded in 1957 with just seven colleges, it has grown to include over 250 colleges and more than 45,000 students, making it a significant voice for architecture students across India. The association aims to provide a platform for learning and interaction among students from diverse cultural backgrounds.

NASA India functions as a non-profit and non-political organization. It is officially registered under the Societies Act of 1860, with its headquarters at the Department of Architecture, School of Planning and Architecture in New Delhi.

NASA India organizes various events, programs, and competitions throughout the year. These include partnerships with organizations like HUDCO, GRIHA, and CPK for design trophies. There are 11 design trophies in total, with the Annual NASA Design Competition being the flagship trophy and offering students a platform to showcase their creative talents and design innovations. We have partnered with the Council of Architecture, India, for the Student of the Year trophy as well.

The association's flagship event is the Annual NASA Convention (ANC), the world's largest gathering of student architects. This event attracts over 4,000+ students participating in workshops, masterclasses, and programs led by more than 200 esteemed architects. Additionally, there are regional Zonal NASA Conventions held annually.

NASA India's initiatives extend beyond traditional academics. The summer-winter school programs offer immersive experiences that enhance students' practical skills and broaden their educational horizons. The "Insider" initiative allows students to engage directly with experienced architects, gaining insights into office management and professional practice. This interaction fosters mentorship and provides valuable guidance. The Louis I Kahn Documentation series aims to preserve and disseminate architectural knowledge by documenting significant but often overlooked sites.

NASA India hosts programs both nationally and internationally, in countries like Japan, Sri Lanka, the USA, and South Korea. These experiences provide students with enriching learning opportunities and enhance their networking capabilities.

The NEXUS is an informal meeting ground where students can form bonds, share ideas, and collaborate. It emphasizes learning, mentoring, and networking, allowing students to showcase their talents and develop new ideas with peers from around the globe. We have also expanded into podcasts with our Spotify exclusive, The Archade.

For more information, you can visit NASA India's website - https://www.nasaindia.co/
Our social media pages are @wenasaindia and @mynasaindia on Instagram.

TRANSCEND

Transcend - Our Annual Theme

For nearly seven decades, NASA India has connected generations of architecture students through conventions, conversations, competitions, collaborations and collective learning. Every council has contributed another chapter to an institution built not on infrastructure, but on people. Yet history alone cannot guarantee relevance. The question before the 69th Year is no longer what NASA India has achieved. It is what NASA India chooses to become before its seventieth year.

Architecture today exists in a world profoundly different from the one that shaped NASA's origins. Students graduate into uncertain professions. Artificial intelligence is transforming design processes. Climate change demands architects who think beyond buildings. Communities demand participation instead of prescription. Cities require systems thinkers rather than object makers. Yet much of architectural education continues to measure success through drawings, grades, competitions and placements alone. NASA India must ask itself: Is architecture merely a profession or is it a responsibility towards society?

What does it mean to Transcend? Transcend is often mistaken for moving higher. It is not. To transcend is to move beyond inherited limitations, beyond assumptions, beyond comfort, beyond systems that no longer serve their purpose. For NASA India, transcendence is not abandoning its legacy; it is about honouring that legacy by refusing to become complacent. **Transcend** is to question before accepting, to research before concluding, to collaborate before competing, to create impact before recognition and to understand that architecture extends beyond buildings into culture, policy, ecology, technology and communities.

To transcend is not to leave the past behind; it is to carry it forward in ways the past could never imagine.

For NASA India to transcend is to become more than an event organiser, more than a representative body, more than an annual convention. NASA India must become a platform of discourse, a generator of research, a catalyst for policy conversations, a bridge between academia and practice and a voice for every architecture student.

The seventieth year should not simply celebrate seventy years of history. It should celebrate an institution that was courageous enough to evolve before the celebration arrived. The responsibility of the 69th Year is therefore unique, not to preserve, not merely to reform but to transcend. Architecture has always challenged the limits of material, imagination and society. The architects of tomorrow must challenge the limits of architecture itself. Let this year be remembered not for the scale of what we organised, but for the scale of what we dared to imagine.

Let us Transcend, because the future will not be built by those who preserve boundaries, but by those who have the courage to question them and the 69th Year belongs to every student who are willing to rethink and redefine what architecture can become.

Moderator

ISOLA

The Indian Society of Landscape Architects

The Indian Society of Landscape Architects (ISOLA), a professional body of Landscape Architects, was established in May, 2003. The Society has over 600 members from different states of the country and globally. It has a presence across the country through 10 regional chapters. The Society is at the forefront in creating awareness about the profession of Landscape Architecture and promoting and enhancing professional excellence among its members in India. It conducts a biennial conference, publishes conference proceedings, recognizes excellence of professional and student works through the ISOLA awards, collaborates through events, activities and initiatives with allied professionals on issues of national and local concerns and is working through its Education Board to strengthen professional education through recognition, mentorship and training programs.

The Indian Society of Landscape Architects (ISOLA) collaborates with the **National Association of Students of Architecture (NASA), India** on the **MOHAMMAD SHAHEER LANDSCAPE TROPHY at NASA.** This brief has been set in keeping with our objectives of increasing the awareness of the profession of landscape architecture among the undergraduate students of Architecture. We hope to receive entries of a quality that do justice to the memories that we have of our mentor and guide Professor Mohammad Shaheer.

Introduction

Introduction :

Urban, rural and natural landscapes are not merely physical territories. They are repositories of stories, memories and knowledge accumulated over generations. These stories may be inscribed in streets, built forms, sacred spaces, rivers, fields and forests, or may exist through rituals, language, craft, food, songs and everyday practices.

Together, these layers form a living palimpsest, a landscape that carries histories, adapts to changing conditions and is continually interpreted by the communities that inhabit it.

As landscapes transform through development, changing economies, environmental pressures and shifting ways of life, many of these practices are altered, displaced or gradually forgotten. Yet they continue to offer ways of understanding how people have historically negotiated with land, climate, ecology, resources and one another.

The Mohammad Shaheer Landscape Trophy 2026-27 invites students to look closely at these relationships and discover the landscape stories embedded within them.



Illustration by Prasanna Mattikop
https://centreforcontemporaryfolklore.org/2026/04/07/kanseri-katha-a-tale-from-the-western-ghats/

The Task

THE CHALLENGE

Identify, document and interpret a traditional or cultural landscape practice that reveals the stories of the land and its folklore.

The practice may be agricultural, ritualistic, craft-based, water-related, culinary, seasonal, festive, temporal or everyday: a way of tending, building, gathering, moving, worshipping or sharing a place. It should be:

- Living or recoverable: still practised, remembered or traceable
- Place-specific: tied to a particular land, community and set of conditions
- Layered: holding more than one story, whether ecological, social, spiritual or political

FRAMING LENSES

LAND

Land is more than the physical ground on which a practice takes place. It is shaped by natural processes such as geology, water, soil, climate and ecology, as well as by human influences such as ownership, occupation, infrastructure, development and power. Participants should examine the physical, environmental and socio-political conditions that have shaped the practice and continue to influence it.

LORE

Lore encompasses the stories, memories, skills, rituals and situated knowledge through which communities understand, inhabit and interact with their landscapes. This knowledge may be expressed through oral traditions, performances, inherited practices or the routines of everyday life.

LANDSCAPE

Landscape emerges from the continuous interaction between land and lore. It is not a static entity, but an evolving environment that is continually shaped, negotiated and reinterpreted through human activities and ecological processes.

Participants must therefore establish a relationship between all three - the physical land, the knowledge attached to it, and the landscape that emerges from their interaction.

Objectives

1. **Document:** record the practice through drawings, mapping, photography, oral testimony, sketches, models, film or writing.

2. **Peel back the layers:** show how the practice has changed over time and what shaped those changes (environmental shifts, land tenure, infrastructure, migration, policy, development).

3. **Interpret:** explain what the practice tells us about how people relate to the land, and what knowledge it carries.

4. **Propose or reflect:** suggest how the practice might inform landscape architecture and spatial design, conservation or future ways of inhabiting.

Submission Requirements

The project shall be expressed through a maximum of **TWO (2) A1 boards** in portrait orientation.

The boards should communicate the investigation, interpretation and final proposition as a coherent narrative. The method of representation is open to the participants and may include drawings, mapping, photography, diagrams, sketches, models, collages, archival material, writing or other appropriate visual and spatial media.

A written statement of **300–500 words** MUST accompany the submission, explaining the selected practice, its significance and the position developed through the project. (Font - Century Gothic 12 point size)

Supporting material such as sketchbooks, oral-history transcripts, photographs, documentation should accompany the final submission in a Field-notes format.

A Note on Ethics

Participants are engaging with knowledge, memories, practices and stories that belong to individuals and communities. All sources and knowledge-holders must be appropriately acknowledged and credited.

Where oral testimony, interviews, photographs or other forms of community knowledge are used, participants should seek appropriate consent and represent the knowledge with sensitivity.

The competition encourages participants to learn from landscapes and communities without romanticising, extracting or reducing them to aesthetic representations.

Guidelines

Evaluation Criteria

The jury will evaluate entries based on the following criteria and what the jury looks for:

1. **Depth of documentation:** Rigour, originality and primary engagement with the site and community
2. **Layered reading:** Ability to reveal the palimpsest of natural, socio-cultural and political forces
3. **Sensitivity to lore:** Respectful, credited handling of knowledge and knowledge-holders
4. **Representation:** Clarity, craft and imagination in how the story is told
5. **Relevance:** Insight into how the practice matters for architecture and contemporary places

Checklist for submission

1. Online Submission of **sheets** in PDF format of not more than **25MB**
2. Online Submission Submission of **Design note** in PDF format of not more than **10MB**
3. Online Submission of Field Notes & Photographs
4. Original Copy of Authentication Letter
5. Original Copy of Declaration Letter
6. Original Copy of AI Usage Declaration Letter

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.
- Sheet Template to be followed is available in the drive link - https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/16_HDc7rIFVMkLIc3Jf2ppEPzF8Q1EJGB



Use of AI

The National Association of Students of Architecture (NASA) India recognises Artificial Intelligence (AI) as an emerging tool within architectural education, design and creative practice. AI may be used to support research, ideation, visualisation, iteration, analysis, documentation and communication throughout the design process. However, AI should remain a tool, not the author of the work. The core idea, design intent, critical thinking, architectural decisions and final outcome must originate from the participant. Entries should demonstrate the participant's ability to question, interpret, develop and communicate ideas rather than rely solely on AI-generated outputs. Participants are encouraged to explore AI critically and creatively, including generative AI, image-generation tools, computational tools, language models and other emerging technologies. The use of AI should contribute meaningfully to the design process and should not replace architectural thinking, experimentation or authorship.

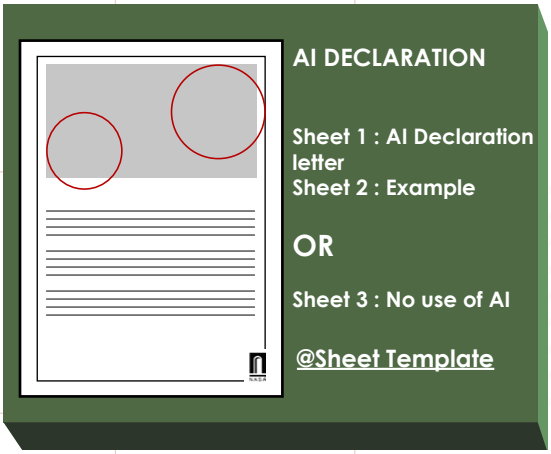
Submission Requirements

AI may be used to support the representation and communication of the work; however, the overall use of AI in the final submission **must not exceed 30%**. This includes AI-assisted text, graphics, images, visualisations, diagrams, research, analysis, post-production and other generated content. The design concept, architectural thinking, design decisions and final design must be entirely the participant's own work. All AI-assisted content must be clearly identified and declared.

Submission Requirements

Any use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the development of the submission must be clearly identified and declared. Participants are required to circle or mark on the submission sheet wherever AI has been used, whether for research, ideation, image generation, text, analysis, visualisation, post-production or any other part of the process. For every identified instance, participants must declare:

- **AI Tool**: Name of the AI tool/platform used.
- **Prompt:** The text prompt or input provided to the AI tool.
- **Method:** A brief description of how the AI output was used, interpreted, modified or developed as part of the final work.



The declaration should make the extent and role of AI within the design process transparent, while demonstrating the participant's own design thinking, decisions and authorship. Undeclared AI-generated or AI-assisted content may be considered a breach of the competition guidelines.

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., "**MOHAMMAD SHAHEER LANDSCAPE TROPHY 2026-2027"**

• 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, AI Declaration 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. Failing to which the entry will be strictly disqualified.**

• 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 copyrights for the same and to adhere by all the rules and regulations, jury process and the results.

• **Authentication & Declaration formats to be followed are available in the drive link** -https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1_Wnr5YCbozi8ArGztz16yWwv6poy9_j2

• 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

Other Information

- **Maximum (4) participants Per Entry for 69th Year MSL Trophy**
- **A participant can submit only one entry, whether as part of a group or individually** for 69th Year MSL Trophy.
- No limit to the number of entries per unit for the 69th Year MSL Trophy.
- Queries to be put forward through the trophy page on the website (http://www.nasaindia.co)
- **Registration should be done by the Participant in NASA India website before the registration deadline. One Participant can register one team & its members.**
- Registration of the trophies will be final and cannot be changed or withdrawn henceforth.
- Late Registration & submission will not be entertained, henceforth the defaulters shall be disqualified.

Important Dates

Release of Brief:
9th October 2026, Friday

Queries Deadline:
25th October 2026, Sunday 1800 hrs IST

Registration Deadline:
28th October 2026, Wednesday 1800 hrs IST

Submission Deadline
23rd November 2026, Monday 1800 hrs IST

Prize pool of
INR 1,00,000 /-

Prize money of Rupees 1 Lakh is allotted to the trophy and it will be divided according to the number of the Citations and Special Mentions.

All the Best !

Don't forget to follow our social media handles!
Visit them by clicking the icons below

www.nasaindia.co