



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 - 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

Prof. K. T. Ravindran

Architect, Author & Academic

Prof. K. T. Ravindran is an architect, urban designer and academician with over five decades of experience across architecture, urban design, conservation and planning. He taught Urban Design at the School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi, for over three decades, where he also served as Dean.

He is the Founding President of the Institute of Urban Designers India and has held several key positions, including Chairman of the Delhi Urban Art Commission and Convener of the INTACH Delhi Chapter. His work has also taken him into advisory and jury roles at both national and international levels, including with UNESCO, the United Nations and the Government of India.

His professional practice spans greenfield cities, public spaces, heritage conservation, adaptive reuse and urban development. He has been closely involved with projects and initiatives across India, including the United Nations Capital Master Plan in New York and urban design guidelines for the Chennai Metropolitan Area. He was awarded the Gold Medal for Education by the Indian Institute of Architects in 2022.



Introduction

Theme:
BEYOND THE HUMAN THRESHOLD:
Climate Crisis, Technological Disruption & Erosion of Humanity.

Introduction :

Architecture has always been shaped by the conditions of its time. Today, those conditions are changing at a scale and speed that challenge the ways in which we understand the city, the environment, technology and, ultimately, ourselves.

The climate crisis is no longer a distant environmental concern. It is altering where and how people live, work, move, gather and survive. At the same time, technologies are transforming the systems through which cities operate and people interact from artificial intelligence and automation to surveillance, data driven governance and increasingly mediated forms of everyday life. These developments promise greater efficiency and new possibilities, yet they also raise a fundamental question: what happens when optimisation begins to come at the cost of human experience?

The consequences are not only environmental or technological. They are deeply human, as cities become increasingly automated, climate-adaptive and data-driven, there is a possibility that the individual becomes reduced to a number, a user, a consumer, a data point or a unit within a larger system. Spaces designed for efficiency may leave little room for spontaneity, dignity, memory, interaction, care or belonging.

This condition of dehumanisation forms the central concern of this year's GSen Trophy.

The Trophy asks students to investigate where the relationship between climate, technology and humanity is changing, and to ask what architecture can learn from these transformations.

Rather than designing for an imagined future detached from reality, participants are expected to identify a real place within the Indian subcontinent where these forces are already visible, emerging or in conflict. The place may be urban, peri-urban, rural, infrastructural, institutional, public or domestic.



Theme

The theme Beyond the Human Threshold asks where architecture stands when environmental pressures and technological systems begin to fundamentally alter human life. The three concerns proposed for the trophy are therefore not three independent subjects:

Climate Crisis + Technological Disruption + Erosion of Humanity

Instead, they form a single interconnected condition.

Climate crisis creates new pressures on settlements and infrastructure. Technology emerges as a means of predicting, managing, adapting and responding to these pressures. Yet the same technologies can introduce new forms of control, exclusion, surveillance and dependency.

In this intersection lies the question of **dehumanisation**.

A climate-controlled environment may protect its occupants while disconnecting them from natural cycles. An automated city may reduce friction while reducing human agency. A data-driven public space may improve efficiency while changing how people interact within it. A technologically mediated environment may provide unprecedented access while producing new forms of isolation.

These contradictions are not necessarily problems to be solved with a single technological answer. They are conditions to be examined.

The trophy therefore asks:



- 1.What does it mean to design for humans when the environment itself is changing?
- 2.When does technology become an instrument of empowerment, and when does it become an instrument of control?
- 3.Can architecture protect human agency while responding to environmental necessity?
- 4.What forms of human interaction, memory, dignity, care and collective life risk disappearing?
- 5.What can existing places teach us about designing for futures that are not yet fully understood?
- 6.What should architecture preserve, transform or reject as we move into the future?

The intention is not to predict the future.

It is to learn from the present in order to construct a more conscious future.



The Task

INTENT

READING THE HUMAN THRESHOLD

The first stage of the trophy is Ideation. Participants must collectively interpret the theme Beyond the Human Threshold and establish a clear position on what the theme means in relation to architecture and the contemporary built environment.

The three primary concerns:- climate crisis, technological disruption and erosion of humanity, must form the starting framework of this inquiry.

However, teams are expected to move beyond simply repeating these three terms. Through discussion, research and observation, each team must identify five central themes or conditions that emerge from the intersection of the three concerns. These five themes will become the team's theoretical framework.

They may address ideas such as:

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Agency | 8. Resilience |
| 2. Dependence | 9. Isolation |
| 3. Access | 10. Identity |
| 4. Memory | 11. Resource scarcity |
| 5. Care | 12. Automation |
| 6. Surveillance | 13. Adaptability |
| 7. Displacement | 14. Collective life |

These are only examples. Teams are free to identify their own themes. The five themes must be interrelated, rather than treated as five unrelated topics. The purpose of this stage is to establish the question that the team will carry into the physical world.

The outcome of Ideation should establish:

- What is changing?
- Who is affected?
- What is being lost, transformed or gained?
- What does the condition reveal about humanity?
- What can architecture learn from it?

The resulting theoretical framework must directly inform the next stage.

DEADLINE FOR INTENT

24th October 2026, Saturday 1800 hrs IST

ACTIONS

Having established their interpretation of the theme, participants shall identify a real site within the Indian subcontinent where the concerns of climate crisis, technological disruption and the erosion of humanity are visibly or implicitly present.

The selected site shall be between **1 and 5 hectares in area (10,000–50,000 sq.m.)**. Within this context, participants shall identify a specific condition, conflict or opportunity and develop an architectural or urban response, with the proposed intervention limited to a maximum of **10,000 sq.m.** This could be a single parcel of land or a collection of various pockets in the selected site.

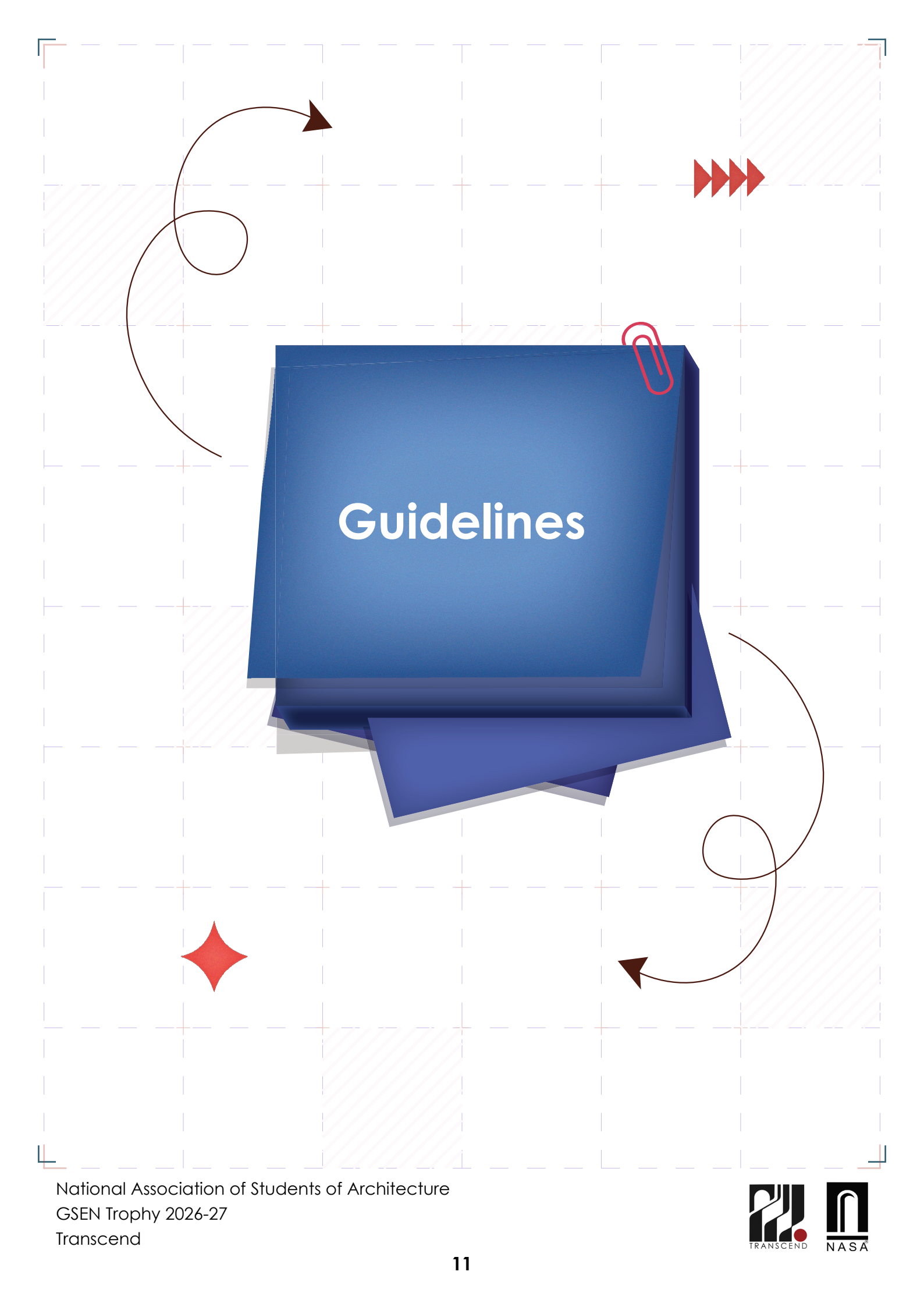
The intervention may take the form of a building, adaptive reuse, public space, infrastructure, spatial system, installation, landscape intervention or a combination thereof. The proposal must emerge from the realities of its chosen context and demonstrate how architecture can respond to the identified condition rather than merely document or describe it.

The process of investigation may employ architectural drawings, mapping, photography, interviews, data, film, sound, models, diagrams or other appropriate forms of documentation. These should establish the relationship between the selected site, the identified condition and the proposed architectural response. The proposal should ultimately question what architecture must learn from the present in order to remain relevant to a changing future.

DESIGN SCOPE

The design proposal shall translate the concerns identified through the process of Ideation and Action into a tangible architectural or urban response. Participants are encouraged to move beyond conventional building programmes and explore how architecture can intervene in situations where climate change, technological advancement and the erosion of human values intersect.

The scope may range from a single building or adaptive reuse project to a cluster of spaces, public infrastructure, landscape intervention, installation or a larger spatial system, provided the intervention remains within the defined site and area limits. The proposal should demonstrate a clear relationship between people, place, environment and technology, questioning how these relationships may change in the future



Guidelines

Submission Requirements

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

1. **Intent:** The Intent is not expected to be a final proposal; it should communicate the team's initial direction clearly enough to establish what the investigation will pursue. (maximum size: 10MB and maximum 250 words) **(DEADLINE; 24th October 2026, Saturday 1800 hrs IST)**
2. **Sheet 1:** Should contain- concept, plan, details of the project and short text (up to 300 words) to explain the project and context.
3. **Sheet 2:** Compelling strong views of the architectural and spatial innovations to address the theme. (2-3 views)
4. The project visuals should also be expressed in **5 Digital Postcards** of 210MM X 210MM (square) with little or no text (limit to one line for explaining the visual).
5. **Online Submission of YouTube Video** link (2-3 Minutes Max duration). The video duration must be a minimum of 2 minutes and a maximum of 3 minutes. It must be uploaded to YouTube as an unlisted video, and the link must be submitted along with the final entry at the time of submission. Public or private links will not be accepted.

Check list for submission

1. Intent write-up PDF of not more than 10MB in size (Within 10 days of registration)
2. Online Submission of sheets in form of PDF
3. Online Submission of YouTube Video (Unlisted video)
4. Original Copy of Authentication Letter
5. Original Copy of Declaration Letter
6. Original Copy of AI Usage Declaration Letter



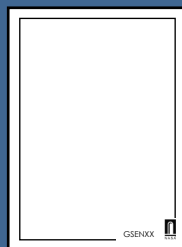
Sheet, Video & NASA India Logo Guidelines

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

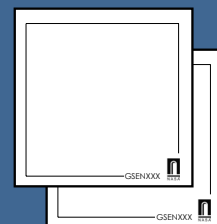
- NASA India Internal Logo shall always be placed on the right-hand bottom corner of the sheet.
- NASA India logo should not be merged, overlapped etc. with any sort of text, graphic, image, etc.
- NASA India logo should be in true black with a perfectly white background.
- Use the NASA India Intro for the video.



Landscape orientation



Portrait orientation



Post Cards

The templates to be followed are available at: [@Sheet Template](#) [@Authentication Letter & Declaration Letter](#)



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



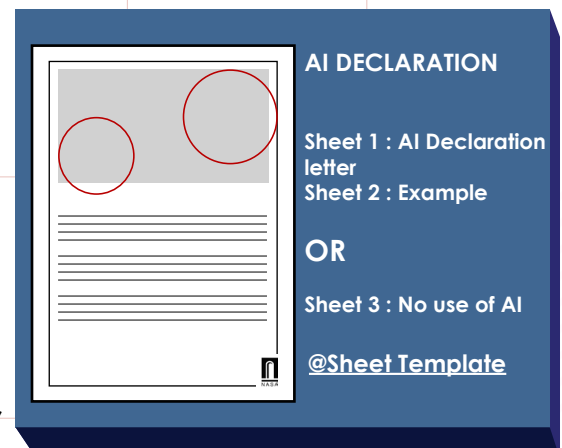
AI may be used to support the representation and communication of the work; however, the overall use of AI in the final submission **must not exceed 30%**. This includes AI-assisted text, graphics, images, visualisations, diagrams, research, analysis, post-production and other generated content. The 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. "GSEN Trophy 2026-27"
- 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*300 dpi (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*300 dpi) 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

- **A Maximum of 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

Important Dates

Release of Brief:

2nd October 2026, Friday

Queries Deadline:

16th October 2026, Friday 1800 hrs IST

Registration/Intent Deadline:

24th October 2026, Saturday 1800 hrs IST

Submission Deadline

20th November 2026, Friday 1800 hrs IST

Prize pool of
INR 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.

All the Best !

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



www.nasaindia.co