BHARAT Navnirmaan Challenge

SEASON 2

Presented by:

THE TIMES OF INDIA

NICMAR

Official Rules & Participation Guidelines



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1. Introduction

After a landmark Season 1, the Bharat Nav-Nirmaan Challenge returns bigger, broader and more ambitious. Presented by The Times of India and NICMAR, Season 2 puts India's next generation of Civil Engineering, Architecture, Core Engineering and Built Environment talent in the spotlight, challenging them to shape the infrastructure of tomorrow.

This season is more focused and rigorous. The competition is exclusively for **final-year and pre-final-year Civil Engineering, Architecture, Core Engineering and Built Environment students**, who will solve industry-relevant case studies curated by experts from a defined set of challenges. This ensures every idea is grounded in real infrastructure needs and is judged on practical relevance, innovation and scalability.

The Challenge is a five-stage competition that culminates in a Grand Finale in Mumbai.

2. Program Vision & Objectives

The Challenge aims to:

- Bridge classroom learning with real-world engineering applications
- Develop industry-ready talent across India
- Encourage innovative, sustainable and technically credible solutions
- Provide national visibility to young innovators and institutions
- Foster a culture of applied problem-solving on campuses
- Support India's infrastructure development mission

3. Competition Structure Overview

The Challenge moves through five stages, from college level to the national Grand Finale in Mumbai.

Stage	Who competes	Who advances
1. College Round	All registered teams within each participating college	One winning team (3 students) per college
2. Online Submission Round	College Round winners plus eligible direct-entry teams	Top 20 teams per host city
3. City Finale	Top 20 teams in each of the 14 host cities	Top 3 teams per city
4. Regional Finale	Top 3 teams from each city, grouped by region	Top 1 team per region (3 teams in total)
5. Grand Finale (Mumbai)	The 3 regional winners	National Winner

Stage 1: College Round

- Conducted within each participating college.

- Teams of 3 students register through their college SPOC/HOD and respond to the official Problem Statement issued by the organisers.
- Each team submits its solution to the college SPOC/HOD, who runs the internal selection.
- One winning team per college qualifies for the next stage.
- **City-level participation challenge (new):** the college that mobilises the highest percentage of its eligible students in the College Round will be recognised in its city.
- **National Orientation Session:** all qualifying college teams attend a virtual orientation conducted jointly by The Times of India and NICMAR. It covers submission guidelines, expectations and evaluation parameters, and gives teams detailed instructions for the Online Submission Round. Attendance is mandatory for at least one team member and the SPOC.

Stage 2: Online Submission Round

- Each qualifying team submits a detailed project proposal, with team details, through the official microsite (see Section 8).
- All submissions, from both College Round winners and direct-entry teams, are evaluated by a central jury.
- Based on the scores, the jury selects the Top 20 teams per city. These teams advance to the City Finale.
- A team is allocated to the host city nearest its college.

Direct entry. Eligible students may enter directly only if their college is not participating in the Challenge through a College Round. If the college is participating, its students must take part through the college and cannot enter independently. All members of a direct-entry team must be from the same college.

Stage 3: City Finale

Held across 14 host cities: Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Pune, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Chennai, Lucknow, Kochi, Chandigarh, Bhubaneswar, Jaipur, Indore and Vijayawada.

- Each city hosts its Top 20 teams from the Online Submission Round.
- Teams present their solutions to a professional city-level jury.
- The Top 3 teams per city advance to the Regional Finale.

Stage 4: Regional Finale

- Held in 3 regions: Pune, Hyderabad & Delhi.
- Teams present full-scale proposals and prototypes.
- The top 3 teams in each region are invited to the Grand Finale for felicitation and prize distribution.
- Only the top team from each region competes for the National Winner title at the Grand Finale.
- Travel, stay and hospitality for the students and one accompanying college SPOC are provided by the organisers.

Stage 5: Grand Finale, Mumbai

- The top team from each region competes for the National Winner title.

- Final presentations take place before senior industry leaders, government officials and academic experts.
- The National Winner is announced at the event.

Continuity rule. A team must stay with the same Problem Statement from the College Round to the Grand Finale. Each stage builds on and refines the previous submission; a team may not switch problems or submit an unrelated solution at a later stage.

4. Eligibility Requirements

Academic eligibility

Participants must be enrolled in the **final or pre-final year of an Under-Graduate programme** (Strictly limited to Engineering & Architecture and Not Diploma) in one of the following disciplines:

- Civil Engineering
- Architecture
- Core Engineering
- Built Environment

"Pre-final year" means the year immediately before the final year of the programme, as on the registration closing date.

Team mix rule. Civil Engineering and Architecture students may form a team on their own. Core Engineering and Built Environment students are eligible only as part of a team in which **at least 2 of the 3 members are Civil Engineering or Architecture students**. A team may therefore include at most one Core Engineering or Built Environment student. A team made up entirely of Core Engineering and Built Environment students is not eligible. See Section 5.

Note: Core Engineering includes Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Electronics Engineering & Electrical & Electronics Engineering Only and Built Environment includes Planning, Construction Management, Environmental Engineering Only.

Team members' year of study

Every team member must meet the year-of-study requirement on the registration closing date. A team may include a mix of final-year and pre-final-year students.

5. Team Composition Rules

- Each team must have **exactly 3 members**.
- All members must be students of the same college and of an eligible discipline (Civil Engineering, Architecture, Core Engineering or Built Environment).
- At least 2 of the 3 members must be Civil Engineering or Architecture students. A team may include at most one Core Engineering or Built Environment student.
- A student may be part of only one team.
- Each team is supported by a faculty mentor, who may be the college SPOC/HOD. Mentor support is advised but is not a condition of entry.

- Team composition is locked at registration. A replacement is allowed only for a genuine reason, on the SPOC's written request and with organiser approval, and only before the Online Submission deadline. The replacement must meet all eligibility rules, including the team mix rule. No changes are allowed after submission.

6. Registration Rules

- Each participating college nominates a Single Point of Contact (SPOC). The SPOC or mentor can be any senior member of the college faculty, such as a Senior Professor, Head of Department (HOD), Dean, Director, Principal or another designated official.
- The SPOC/HOD registers the college and its teams through the Registration Form on the official microsite.
- The form must state each member's discipline and year of study. The SPOC/HOD confirms that the team meets the eligibility and team mix rules. Organisers may ask for proof, such as a college ID or bonafide certificate.
- A direct-entry student team whose college is not participating may register through the same link.
- Registration is free of charge.
- Registration closes on the date given in the Timeline (Section 24). Late registrations are not accepted.

7. Problem Statements & Domain Areas

The organisers issue the official Problem Statements, which fall into these domains:

- Urban Mobility & Transport Systems
- Water Management
- Waste Management & Sanitation
- Affordable Housing
- Smart Infrastructure
- Renewable Energy & Sustainability
- Innovative Construction Materials
- AI in Construction
- Road, Bridge & Highway Innovation
- Disaster-Resilient Design
- City Development & Redevelopment

Each team works on one Problem Statement and must follow every instruction in it.

8. Submission Requirements (Online Round Proposal)

File format

- PDF only.
- Maximum file size: 20 MB.
- Font: Calibri or Times New Roman.

- High-quality images, graphs and diagrams are allowed.
- AI-generated visuals must be disclosed (see Section 16).

Mandatory components

- Executive Summary
- Problem Understanding
- Proposed Solution
- Design / Model / Concept Details
- Impact Analysis
- Feasibility & Cost Estimate
- Sustainability Considerations
- References
- Plagiarism & AI Disclosure

A submission that omits a mandatory component, exceeds the size limit or arrives after the deadline may not be evaluated.

9. Evaluation Criteria & Scoring Framework

Every submission is scored on the eight criteria below. Weights are published to teams at the National Orientation Session and stay the same within a stage.

Criterion	Weight	What the jury looks for
Concept Understanding	10%	Clear grasp of the problem, context and constraints
Innovation & Creativity	15%	Originality of approach and fit with the problem
Technical & Economic Feasibility	20%	Sound engineering, realistic cost and buildability
Impact & Relevance	15%	Measurable benefit to the community and infrastructure need
Functional Demonstration	10%	Model, sketch or prototype that shows the idea working
Sustainability & Scalability	10%	Environmental performance and ability to replicate at scale
Presentation & Communication	10%	Clarity, structure, and handling of Q&A
Deployment Strategy	10%	Phasing, stakeholders, risks and implementation roadmap

- Clarity, logic, technical depth and problem relevance are considered within each criterion.

- Not every criterion applies at every stage. Functional Demonstration is assessed from the City Finale onwards. For earlier stages, the applicable criteria are re-scaled to a total of 100.
- The jury may not change the criteria or weights once a stage has begun. Any change for a later stage is communicated to all qualified teams in writing before that stage.
- Ties are broken by the higher Technical & Economic Feasibility score, then the higher Impact & Relevance score.

10. Stage-wise Deliverables

Stage	Deliverables
College Round	Project submission to the college HOD/SPOC.
Online Submission Round	Project proposal in PDF or PPT format through the microsite (Section 8).
City Finale	8 - 12 slide presentation; initial model, sketch or design; presentation and Q&A.
Regional Finale	Comprehensive proposal; detailed design or prototype; costing and implementation plan; presentation and Q&A.
Grand Finale	Final refined design; final prototype or digital model; implementation roadmap; presentation and Q&A.

11. Presentation Rules

- Time limits must be strictly followed.
- Visual aids are allowed (PPTs, videos, models).
- Offensive or political content is prohibited.
- Teams present in English or Hindi. A regional language may be used only with prior written approval from the organisers, so that a jury able to follow it can be arranged.

12. Prototyping & Model Rules

- Models may be physical or digital.
- Safety standards must be followed for physical prototypes.
- No hazardous materials are allowed.
- Digital models must be original or properly credited.

13. Research & Innovation Guidelines

- Teams must justify their concepts with real data and cite the source.
- Government and industry reports may be used.
- Economic and sustainability analysis is encouraged.

14. Safety, Ethics & Compliance

Participants must follow:

- Academic honesty
- Laboratory and workshop safety standards
- No misrepresentation of data
- No dangerous practices in prototype building

Prototypes are built and transported at the team's own risk. The organisers are not responsible for any accident or injury that occurs while making, transporting or presenting a prototype.

15. Intellectual Property (IP) Policy

- Ownership of each submission stays with the team.
- By taking part, teams allow the organisers to display and publish their submissions, names and photographs for the Challenge and its promotion.
- Industry partners may approach a team for collaboration only through the organisers. Any collaboration needs the team's consent.
- Teams must not include confidential or third-party proprietary material without permission.
- Each team must submit a declaration, countersigned by its College Head/SPOC, confirming that the work is original and not copied, and the team and its members are solely liable for any claim, loss or consequence raised by a third party if the work is found to be copied or to infringe anyone’s rights.

16. Plagiarism & AI Disclosure

Plagiarism

- Similarity above 10% leads to disqualification. The similarity score is measured by a tool chosen by the organisers and excludes the reference list and properly cited quotations.
- Copying designs, code or models is prohibited.

AI use guidelines

- AI tools are permitted for research, drafting, analysis and visuals.
- Every AI tool used must be declared in the submission, stating the tool and what it was used for. This includes AI-generated images.
- Teams are fully accountable for the accuracy of their work. Fabricated data, citations or results are treated as falsified data.
- Teams must be able to explain every part of their submission in the Q&A.

17. On-Ground Event Rules

- Teams must report at the time communicated by the organisers.
- Every participant must show a valid college ID at verification.
- Dress code: smart casual or formal.

- Teams arriving more than 15 minutes after their reporting time are not admitted.

18. Jury Protocols

- Jury decisions on scores and rankings are final.
- Jury discussions remain confidential.
- Teams must not contact jury members outside scheduled sessions.
- Jury members declare any conflict of interest, such as a link to a competing team's college, and do not score that team.
- A team that finds a clerical or calculation error in its result may report it to the organisers within 48 hours of the announcement.

19. Disqualification Rules

Reasons include:

- Missed deadlines, unless an extension is granted in writing
- Plagiarism
- Misconduct
- Falsified data
- Offensive content
- Non-compliance with instructions
- Misrepresentation of discipline, year of study or team composition

The organisers may disqualify any team at any stage if it violates the rules or acts in a way that compromises the fairness or integrity of the Challenge. The organisers will tell the team the reason in writing. These decisions are final and binding.

Note: The organisers reserve the right to amend, modify or withdraw any rule or guideline in this document at any time, without prior notice, and all such changes are binding on all participants.

20. Prizes & Accolades

- Total prize pool of ₹40 lakh and above.
- National media coverage.
- Digital certificates for all College Round participants and their HODs/SPOCs.

21. Travel, Stay & Hospitality

- Travel, stay and hospitality are provided by the organisers only for the Regional Finale and the Grand Finale, for the team members and one accompanying college SPOC.
- Teams bear their own cost of attending the City Finale.
- All participants must follow hostel and campus rules.

22. Conduct & Anti-Harassment Policy

- Zero tolerance for harassment or discrimination.
- Respectful behaviour is mandatory.
- A violation leads to disqualification from the event.

23. Technology Use

- Any software is allowed (AutoCAD, SketchUp, STAAD, GIS, AI tools).
- Licensed or authorised versions must be used.
- Teams are responsible for their own compatibility issues.

24. Timeline

Milestone	Date
Registration Window	22nd November 2027 – 16th January 2027
College Round	22nd November 2027 – 16th January 2027
National Orientation Session	Schedule will be communicated later
Online Submission deadline	23rd January 2027
City Finale	Feb – March 2027
Regional Finale	March 2027
Grand Finale, Mumbai	April – May 2027 *(tentative)*

25. Support & Contact

Email: **bharatnavnirmaan@timesofindia.com**

NICMAR representatives by city:

City	Contact number
Ahmedabad	7559321530
Bengaluru	9916123984
Chandigarh	9988095129
Chennai	9916123984
Delhi	8188855855
Hyderabad	9705646585
Kochi	8086058615

City	Contact number
Lucknow	8090456288
Mumbai	9890575089
Pune	9890575089
Bhubaneswar	8240042226
Jaipur	8188855855
Indore	7559321530
Vijaywada	9705646585