



Council of Architecture
Ministry of Education, Government of India



INDIAN STREETS REIMAGINED

DESIGN COMPETITION

18th GRIHA Summit



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BACKGROUND

Streets are the threads that connect India's towns, villages, and cities. They have evolved over time, shaped by history, culture, climate, livelihoods, and the ways people move and live. From village pathways and historic bazaars to neighbourhood streets, commercial streets, major avenues and transit corridors, the street has always been more than a space for movement. It carries people, supports livelihoods, enables access to services and opportunities, and creates spaces for exchange, interaction and everyday public life.

As settlements grow, however, many streets have increasingly prioritised vehicles over people. Limited space for walking and cycling, parking pressures, loss of trees and open spaces, inadequate shade, and extensive paved surfaces have affected the quality of our streets. These challenges can contribute to congestion, unsafe movement, poor drainage, air pollution and the urban heat island effect, making outdoor spaces less comfortable and less inviting.

Yet, every street holds different possibilities. Some are vibrant markets and cultural hubs; others are neighbourhood streets, village lanes or important movement corridors. The most successful streets do not serve a single purpose. They balance mobility, ecology, safety, access, livelihoods, thermal comfort and public life.

Across India's diverse towns, villages, cities, climates and cultural contexts, one thought endures: A street is not merely a corridor it is shaped by people, place, climate, movement and the everyday rhythms of life.

Indian Streets Reimagined invites designers to rethink our streets as inclusive, climate-responsive, low-carbon and resilient public spaces streets that respond to their local context while creating better everyday environments for people and communities.



AIM

Mission Statement

With the aim of rethinking the role of streets in India's towns, villages, and cities, this competition invites participants to reimagine a selected street stretch as an inclusive, sustainable, and climate-responsive public space.

The competition encourages designers to look beyond streets as corridors for movement and explore how they can better support walking, cycling, public transport, local livelihoods, ecology, social interaction, and everyday life.

Participants are expected to respond closely to the existing character, users, activities, scale, and environmental conditions of their chosen street, while addressing relevant challenges such as heat island effect, air pollution, waterlogging, accessibility, safety, and the unequal distribution of street space.

The competition seeks proposals that balance mobility with public life, strengthen environmental performance, and respond to the local identity and context of the selected street demonstrating how thoughtful street design can create healthier, more resilient, and more liveable places across India.



SITE AND CONTEXT

The design setting

The selected street stretch should represent an active public environment where market activity, pedestrian and vehicular movement, and everyday public life overlap within a defined street corridor. The site should demonstrate opportunities and challenges related to limited public space, heat, extensive hardscape, shade, accessibility, and the balance between movement and street-based activities.

The selected stretch may be located **anywhere in India**, but should have a street width between **20 to 40 metres**, length **between 500 and 1000 meters** and reflect characteristics similar to the examples of Janpath, New Delhi; Fancy Bazaar, Guwahati; and Pondy Bazaar, Chennai etc. These examples illustrate streets where major movement corridors connect with active market environments and support a mix of formal and informal activities.

Participants are encouraged to select a street that presents clear opportunities to rethink the distribution of space between people, vehicles, commerce, landscape, and public amenities, while responding to the local climate, urban context, cultural identity, and character of the selected Indian street.



Example 1. Janpath Market, New Delhi

 [Location of Janpath](#)



Existing Street Character



Infrastructure

Scattered shading and lack of green cover has led to high heat exposure.

Edge Conditions

Commercial activity on ground floors.

Movement

High pedestrian footfall with mixed traffic movement.

Heat

Scattered shading and lack of green cover has led to high heat exposure.

Public Life

Vibrant street market and informal activities animate the street.

Example 2. Fancy Market, Guwahati

 Location of Fancy Market



Existing Street Character



Infrastructure



Edge
Conditions



Movement



Heat

Public Life

Example 3. Pondy Bazaar, Chennai

 Location of Pondy Bazaar



Existing Street Character



Infrastructure



Edge
Conditions



Movement

Heat

Public Life

GUIDELINES

For Developing the Design Proposal

While Indian Streets Reimagined encourages innovative and diverse interpretations, all proposals must respond to the designated street stretch and its existing physical, social, environmental and mobility context.



01 PRIORITISE PEOPLE FIRST

Reimagine the street to ensure safe, comfortable and universally accessible movement for pedestrians, cyclists and persons with disabilities.

- Continuous, obstruction-free footpaths
- Universal accessibility
- Safe street crossings
- Comfortable cycling infrastructure
- Public transport integration



02 DESIGN FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Develop streets capable of responding to increasing heat, flooding and changing climatic conditions.

- Native street trees and continuous shade
- Stormwater management
- Permeable paving
- Reduction of urban heat island effects



03 ENHANCE ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

Reduce the environmental footprint of the street through resource-efficient design.

- Low-carbon materials
- Water-sensitive urban design
- Energy-efficient lighting
- Renewable energy integration
- Circular material strategies



04 CREATE INCLUSIVE PUBLIC SPACES

The street should accommodate diverse users throughout the day.

- Informal activity and street vendors
- Elderly users, children, women
- Differently-abled persons
- Seating and pause spaces



05 BALANCE MOBILITY AND URBAN LIFE

The objective is not simply to move traffic efficiently, but to create streets that also encourage social interaction and local economic activity.

- Flexible curb management
- Shared spaces where appropriate
- Active frontages
- Public gathering areas
- Traffic considerations



06 RESPECT LOCAL IDENTITY

Celebrate the cultural and architectural character of the selected street.

- Respond to surrounding built form
- Strengthen local identity
- Improve visual coherence
- Integrate public art where appropriate



07 INTEGRATE SMART AND SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE

Where relevant, proposals may incorporate technologies that improve the long-term performance and management of streets.

- Smart lighting
- Environmental monitoring
- Wayfinding
- EV charging
- Digital information systems



08 ENSURE FEASIBILITY

Proposals should be realistic, maintainable and implementable.

- Maintain emergency access
- Preserve essential utility corridors
- Consider phased implementation
- Demonstrate long-term maintenance strategies

The objective is not merely to beautify the street, but to rethink how it performs as sustainable infrastructure and shared public space.



ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The competition is open to **professionals** from architecture, urban design, planning, engineering, transport planning, and other related disciplines. Registration can be done individually or in a team with maximum members of five.

Participation is subject to the following conditions:

- Each participant may submit only register once.
- Professionals may be employed or independent practitioners.
- Participants must be based in India.



REGISTRATION FEE: Registration is **free** of cost.

PRIZES



Winner

Cash prize: ₹ 1,00,000*

Certificate and exhibition at the 18th GRIHA Summit



First Runner-up

Cash prize: ₹ 25,000*

Certificate and exhibition at the 18th GRIHA Summit



Second Runner-up

Cash prize: ₹ 25,000*

Certificate and exhibition at the 18th GRIHA Summit



Special Mentions

If any
Certificate and exhibition

*Final decision for the award and selection of winners will be on the discrete decisions of the jury, the jury may take a call to withdraw or not award the winner category on the basis of substandard, inappropriate, poor quality etc. of submission.

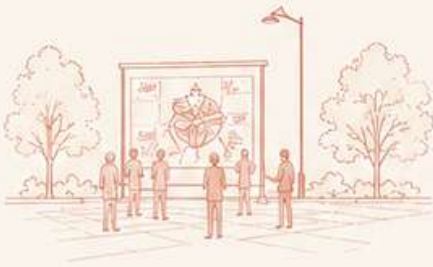
TIMELINE

All deadlines are 11:59 pm IST.

01

Stage 1: Initial concept

Open to all participants



Competition announcement and registration opens
24th August 2026



Registration deadline
10th September 2026



Deadline for queries
10th September 2026



Stage 1 submission deadline
11th September 2026



Shortlisted teams announced
25th September 2026



Stage 2 submission deadline
23rd September 2026



Jury Presentation & Final Evaluation
2nd November 2026



Exhibition at 18th GRIHA summit
3rd November 2026



Announcement of winners
4th November 2026

02

Stage 2: Detailed Design

For shortlisted participants only



All dates are subjected to change. Any changes will be updated on official website.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENT

STAGE 1 – CONCEPT PROPOSAL

8–10 numbers of A1 sheets (841 × 594 mm). The submission must include:

- Site Selection & Context
- Site Analysis
- Concept Scheme

The participant's may communicate the proposal through plans, diagrams, visualisations or other techniques.

STAGE 2 – DETAILED DESIGN (only for shortlisted entries)

6 numbers of A1 sheets (841 × 594 mm). The submission must include:

Plans, sections and elevations

Detailed views

3D visualisations

Walkthrough

3D scaled physical model

Participants may present their ideas using any other additional techniques of their choices.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Submit all sheets as a single PDF.

Mention the Team Code (UIC) on the top right-hand corner of every sheet.

Submissions must be anonymous; no name, organisation or college details.

All dimensions must be in metric units.

HOW TO SUBMIT

Unique Identification Code

*A1 Sheet
594 x 841 mm*

The Competition will begin with a formal announcement made by the GRIHA/COA on its website, and on other social media platforms.

All intending competitors will be required to register with the COA website to clear their eligibility and be assigned a Unique Identity Code to ensure their anonymity.

The entries should be presented with a level of detail appropriate to the character as a design concept presentation. Queries will also be answered during this time. All communications should be made with assigned code only.

The entries should be presented with a level of detail appropriate to the character as a design concept presentation.

All the stage wise entries are to be submitted at:
<https://ecoa.in/samarthaya/>



QUERIES

Competition-related questions may be submitted to:

Email: events@grihaindia.org

Deadline for queries: 10th September 2026



Frequently Asked Questions

1. Can participants select their own street?

Yes. However, the street must be in India and between 20 to 40 meters wide and 500 to 1000 meters long (including right of way).

2. Can a participant submit more than one proposal?

No. Each participant may submit only one proposal.

3. Are team entries allowed?

Yes but a maximum of 5 team members are allowed.

4. Is a site visit compulsory?

No. A site visit is recommended but not mandatory. The organisers will provide a site dossier to support participants who cannot visit the location.

5. Can the existing road configuration be changed?

Yes. Participants may propose redistribution of the available right-of-way, subject to proper justification and continued provision of necessary access and services.

6. Can adjoining private properties be redesigned?

Participants may illustrate suggested improvements to building edges and interfaces. However, interventions within private property must be clearly distinguished from proposals within the public right-of-way.

7. Is the winning proposal guaranteed to be executed?

No. This is an ideas design competition. Participation or selection does not constitute a commitment by the organisers or any authority to execute the proposal.

8. Can artificial intelligence tools be used?

Digital and artificial intelligence tools may be used. However, the registered participant remains solely responsible for the originality, accuracy and authorship of the submission. Any substantial use of generative tools should be disclosed in a note on the final sheet.



RULES & REGULATIONS

- Participation in the competition constitutes acceptance of the complete brief, Site Addendum, clarifications and regulations.
- Each participant/team may register and submit only one entry.
- The registered participant must be the sole author of the submitted design.
- All submitted material must be original or used with appropriate permission and attribution.
- Plagiarism, unauthorised reproduction or misrepresentation of authorship will result in disqualification.
- The Unique Identification Code will be the only means of identifying entries during evaluation.
- Any personal or institutional identification appearing on the submission may result in disqualification.
- Entries submitted after the stated deadline will not be accepted.
- Contacting jury members regarding the competition is strictly prohibited.
- The jury's decision will be final and binding.
- Participants will retain the intellectual property rights to their original designs.
- By submitting an entry, participants grant the organisers a non-exclusive right to reproduce, display, publish and communicate the submitted work for competition-related, educational and promotional purposes, with appropriate credit.
- Publication or exhibition of an entry does not transfer ownership of the design to the organisers.
- Any future development or execution of a proposal will be subject to separate agreements with the author and relevant authorities.
- Participants are responsible for the accuracy of the information, dimensions, assumptions and claims presented in their submissions.
- The organisers will not be responsible for copyright violations or disputes arising from material submitted by participants.
- The competition is conceptual in nature and does not guarantee implementation of any submitted proposal.

RULES & REGULATIONS

Intellectual Property Rights and Confidentiality

- The Intellectual Property Rights of the ideas, concepts, designs and other materials submitted by participants shall remain with the respective participants. By submitting an entry, participants grant GRIHA Council and COA a non-exclusive right to reproduce, publish, display and use the submitted material, with due credit to the participant(s), for purposes related to the competition, including publicity, exhibition, documentation, publications and promotional activities.
- Participants shall ensure that all submitted material is their original work and does not infringe upon the Intellectual Property Rights of any third party. Any use of external references, images, data or other copyrighted material shall be appropriately acknowledged and used with necessary permissions, wherever applicable.
- The information, drawings, documents and other materials provided by GRIHA Council and COA in connection with the competition shall be treated as confidential by the participants and shall not be reproduced, distributed or disclosed to any third party without prior written permission, where such information is specifically identified as confidential.
- The provisions of this section shall remain applicable after the completion of the competition. GRIHA Council reserves the right to cancel, modify, suspend or withdraw the competition at any time, if required, without assigning any reason.

Disclaimers

- GRIHA Council shall not be responsible or liable for any erroneous, damaged, destroyed, lost, late, incomplete, illegible or misdirected entries, or for any damage, loss or delay arising from or relating to participation in the Competition, submission of entries, or any technical failure or circumstances beyond its reasonable control.
- GRIHA Council, at its discretion, reserves the right to cancel, modify, suspend, extend or withdraw the Competition, including any stage, timeline, requirement or award, if circumstances so require. Participants shall not be entitled to any compensation as a consequence of such cancellation, modification, suspension or withdrawal.
- GRIHA Council, its employees, advisors, representatives, consultants, Jury Panel members and associated personnel shall not be liable for any loss, damage, cost or expense arising from or in connection with participation in the Competition, except where such liability cannot be excluded under applicable law.
- GRIHA Council and COA shall not be responsible for any technical issues, internet connectivity failures, platform errors or other circumstances beyond its reasonable control that may affect the submission or receipt of entries.
- The decisions of the Jury Panel and/or GRIHA Council in matters relating to the evaluation, selection and outcome of the Competition shall be final and binding on all participants.



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A STREET IS MORE THAN A ROUTE BETWEEN TWO PLACES.

IT IS WHERE A CITY MOVES, MEETS, TRADES, PAUSES AND
GROWS.

Reallocate space. Restore ecology. Support public life.



Register by: 10th September 2026



Queries: events@grihaindia.org

