

9,10,11 DECEMBER 2026

Hall 6, Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi

**Redevelopment &
Reconstruction
for the Future**

**Advancing Sustainable
Green Built
Environment**

**Registration Date
23 September 2026**

**Submission Date
31 October 2026**

**Resilient Future:
Climate & Disaster
Preparedness**

**Urban solutions
using AI**



9, 10 & 11 DECEMBER 2026

Hall 6, Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi

Knowledge
Partner



The Urban Innovation Challenge (UIC) brings together India's brightest students, young professionals, startups, architects, engineers, planners, and designers to solve real urban challenges through innovation, technology, and design, building cities that are sustainable, resilient, and inclusive.

TO PARTICIPATE* & FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT -

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**Good Governance
India Foundation**

**urban News
Digest**



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Registration Deadline - **26th October 2026**

Submission Deadline - **31st October 2026**

Awards Ceremony - **10th December 2026**

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*Terms & Conditions Apply

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Introduction

The Urban Innovation Challenge 2026

Presented by the Good Governance India Foundation (GGIF) and Municipalika in collaboration with Ethos Empowers.

India remains one of the fastest-growing economies in the world, and its cities are the engines of that growth. Over the past two decades the country has seen major gains in urban infrastructure, connectivity, and technological capability.

The trajectory of **India's urban transformation** is approaching a pivotal era. Projections suggest that a majority of the nation will reside in cities by 2047, making urban centres the primary drivers of economic growth, innovation, and opportunity. As citizens increasingly rely on these hubs for vital infrastructure from economic stability and transport to healthcare and public services, the need of the hour is a shift from horizontal expansion towards **intelligent, climate-resilient, and high-efficiency urban systems**.

Today, this challenge has a new dimension: **artificial intelligence and emerging technology are reshaping how cities are planned, built, and run**. From predictive flood-risk models to AI-driven energy grids and BIM/digital-twin planning tools, technology is becoming a core part of the urban innovation toolkit. UIC 2026 reflects this shift by welcoming, for the first time, a dedicated category for startups and technology companies building technology powered urban solutions, alongside the design and planning categories that have always defined this challenge.

The need of the hour remains a new urban visionary imagination, one that is innovative, implementable, technology-enabled, and inclusive, addressing the realities of rapid urbanisation while ensuring sustainability, climate resilience, and equity.



Premise

The **Good Governance India Foundation (GGIF)**, in association with **Municipalika**, and supported by **Ethos Empowers**, presents the **Urban Innovation Challenge (UIC) 2026**, a national design, technology ideas competition that seeks smart, practical, and implementable solutions to India's urban challenges.

The **Urban Innovation Challenge** is open to undergraduate and postgraduate students, as well as young professionals and startups from disciplines including architecture, urban design, planning, engineering, environmental studies, social sciences, and public policy.

“More than an ideas competition - it is where solutions begin.”

Participants are invited to **develop scalable, implementable solutions** which can be spatial or digital that can **transform** the way Indian cities build, rebuild, adapt, and operate.

The works of the shortlisted participants across all categories will be displayed at Municipalika 2026 in front of:

- Government officials and policymakers at national, state, and city levels
- Urban planners, architects, and engineers
- Industry experts, city solution providers, and developers
- Academia, think tanks, and research institutions
- Investors and incubators focused on urban-tech and civic-tech ventures

Competition Themes

India's urban landscape continues to **change rapidly- growing density, escalating resource demand, rising climate risk, and evolving governance and technology applications**. The Urban Innovation Challenge 2026 invites proposals under three core themes, plus a cross-cutting technology track for the new Startup & Technology Category.

**RESILIENT FUTURES:
DESIGNING FOR
CLIMATE AND
DISASTER
PREPAREDNESS**

**ADVANCING
SUSTAINABLE AND
GREEN BUILT
ENVIRONMENTS**

**URBAN
REDEVELOPMENT AND
RECONSTRUCTION FOR
THE FUTURE**

1. Resilient Futures: Designing for Climate and Disaster Preparedness

As climate risks intensify, the **built environment must be designed to anticipate, withstand, and recover from disasters**. Participants are invited to develop innovative urban design, architectural, and planning solutions and conceptual ideas that **strengthen resilience through adaptive design, community preparedness, and the integration of digital technologies** such as risk mapping, early-warning systems, and smart infrastructure.



2. Advancing Sustainable and Green Built Environments

With the building and construction sector responsible for a large share of global greenhouse-gas emissions, **green building design is no longer optional - it is a core parameter of spatial design.**

Participants are invited to present implementable ideas for a **sustainable, energy-efficient, low-carbon built environment.**

- Sustainable building materials and technologies
- Energy-efficient architecture and passive design strategies
- Smart energy systems and automation for efficiency
- Adaptive reuse and circular economy in construction
- Urban ecology and green infrastructure integration
- Resource efficiency including building materials and water



3. Urban Redevelopment and Reconstruction for the Future

As Indian cities evolve, **redevelopment must balance growth with liveability, inclusivity, and resilience.** Participants are invited to propose innovative urban design, architectural, and planning solutions for **urban renewal, adaptive reuse, housing, shelter options for students and migration workers, infrastructure, or transit-oriented development, leveraging technology** to create smarter, more equitable, and future-ready cities. Submissions may focus on urban renewal, adaptive reuse, housing, infrastructure upgrading, or transit-oriented development, addressing affordability, inclusivity, and resilience through smart, tech-enabled frameworks.

Special Track: Startup & Technology Category

(NEW: Urban Solutions Using AI)

New for **UIC 2026**, this track **invites startups to use Artificial Intelligence (AI), digital technologies, and other emerging technologies to solve real urban challenges**. Solutions can address any of the three themes previously mentioned or explore new areas of urban innovation.



Some areas to explore include:

- **Disaster Management:** AI-based tools for predicting disasters, issuing early warnings, and improving emergency response.
- **BIM/Digital Twins & Simulation:** Virtual models of cities, buildings, or infrastructure that can help planners test different scenarios and make better decisions.
- **Smart Resource Management:** AI-powered solutions to improve the use of energy, water, waste, and mobility in cities and buildings.
- **Monitoring & Safety:** Computer-vision and other technologies to monitor infrastructure, air quality, traffic, or public safety.
- **Citizen Services & Governance:** AI tools that make it easier for citizens to access public services, report problems, and governance redressal with urban authorities.

***Note:** These above focus areas are indicative rather than exhaustive. Participants are encouraged to **propose any AI- or technology-driven solution** that addresses urban development challenges, enhances the built environment, or improves the quality of life in cities. Solutions should be technologically credible, field-tested or field-testable, and designed for real-world deployment in Indian cities.

Who Can Participate

- **Student Category:** Undergraduate and postgraduate students of architecture, urban design, planning, engineering, social sciences, public policy, environmental studies, computer science and data science.
- **Young Professionals Category:** Graduates and young professionals (up to 35 years of age) from related disciplines.
- **Startup & Technology Category (NEW):** Registered startups, Micro Small Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), and technology companies (typically incorporated within the last 10 years) building AI-powered or technology-driven urban solutions, under the 'Urban Solutions Using AI' track.

* Note: Participation is in **teams of up to 3 members** (Student and Young Professionals categories).

Startup & Technology entries are submitted by the **company, represented by up to 3 team members** for the registration and at the showcase.

Why Participate

- **Registration is completely FREE.**
- **Shortlisted entries** will be **showcased at Municipalika 2026**, India's leading platform for safe, smart, and sustainable city solutions.
- Receive **expert feedback** from senior government officials and industry leaders.
- **Gain visibility** among top practitioners, policymakers, and institutions shaping India's urban future at Municipalika 2026.
- **Win cash awards, certificates, recognition, and opportunities** for collaboration and mentorship.
- **Startup & Technology finalists gain a platform in front of city officials and investors, with potential pilot and procurement conversations.**

Submission Details

Deadline: 31 October, 2026 (Saturday), 5:00 PM IST

- **Site Selection:** The **site may be selected at the discretion of the participant.** However, the selected site should ideally be situated within an **urban context**, enabling the proposal to directly engage with issues of density, infrastructure, resilience, and sustainability identified in the competition themes.
- **Area of Intervention:** The proposed area of intervention **should not exceed 2 hectares**, ensuring parity of assessment across submissions.

Student & Young Professionals Category

Step 01 : Once you **register**, you'll receive the **official submission form.**

Step 02 :



- Submit a **single PDF** comprising up to
- **6 Sheets in A3** size, landscape orientation, **200 to 300 DPI**, with the concept, design process and the drawings as applicable.
- Font size to be used-
Heading - 30 pt, Subheading - 24 pt, Body - 14 pt
- A maximum of **150 word count** per sheet
- Include a concise summary of the concept and key design features within the **6 permitted sheets.**
- Restrict your **file size** to a **maximum of 10MB**

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Entries must showcase: **need identification, aims and objectives, concept, and replicability on other sites.**

- All entries will be scrutinised for plagiarism, acknowledge references and adapted design ideas
- **DO NOT** include any identification details such as name, institution, or practice.
- Mention your **participant code** on the bottom-right corner of every sheet.



Startup & Technology Category (NEW)

Step 01 : Once you **register**, you'll receive the **official submission form**.

Step 02 :



- Submit a **single PDF pitch deck** up to **6 Slides in 16:9, Landscape**, covering: the urban problem addressed, the AI/technology solution and how it works, product screenshots, architecture, or demo visuals, evidence of testing, pilots, or deployment; scalability and business model; and team credentials.
- Include a **concise summary of the concept** and key design features within the **6 permitted slides**.
- An **optional 2–3 minute product demo video link** may be included as a clickable embedded link in the slides.
- **Restrict your file size to a maximum of 10MB**

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- It is **necessary** to include details such as when the startup was founded (and how old it is), its funding stage, whether it has live demos, whether the product is publicly available, and its target audience.
 - An **optional 2–3 minute product demo video** link may be included as a clickable embedded link in the slides.
 - Entries **must clearly attribute any third-party technology, data, AI or open-source components used**.

Evaluation criteria



Student & Young Professionals Categories

Innovation, implementability, scalability, contextual relevance, and social impact at urban level.

Startup & Technology Category

Innovation and technical novelty of the AI/technology solution; robustness and readiness of the technology; real-world implementability and scalability across Indian cities; social and civic impact; and business viability, including evidence of traction or pilots.



Important Dates



Registrations Open: **23 September 2026**

Registrations Close: **26 October 2026**

Submissions Close: **31 October 2026**
(Saturday), 5:00 PM IST

Awards

TOTAL CASH PRIZE OF **Rs 7.35 Lakhs**



Student Category

3 THEMES	Winner	1st Runner Up	2nd Runner Up	Commendation
Number/ Prize	3 Nos. (Rs 50,000)	3 Nos. (Rs 30,000)	3 Nos. (Rs 20,000)	3 Nos. (Rs 5,000)

Young Professionals Category

3 THEMES	Winner	1st Runner Up	2nd Runner Up	Commendation
Number/ Prize	3 Nos. (Rs 50,000)	3 Nos. (Rs 30,000)	3 Nos. (Rs 20,000)	3 Nos. (Rs 5,000)

Startup & Technology Category (NEW)

	Winner	1 st Runner Up	2nd Runner Up	Commendation
Number/ Prize	1 No. (Rs 50,000)	1 No. (Rs 30,000)	1 No. (Rs 20,000)	1 No. (Rs 5,000)

AWARDS CEREMONY: 10TH DECEMBER 2026

VENUE: Hall 6, Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi

Contact Us

For any queries related to the Urban Innovation Challenge 2026 feel free to reach out to us on:

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