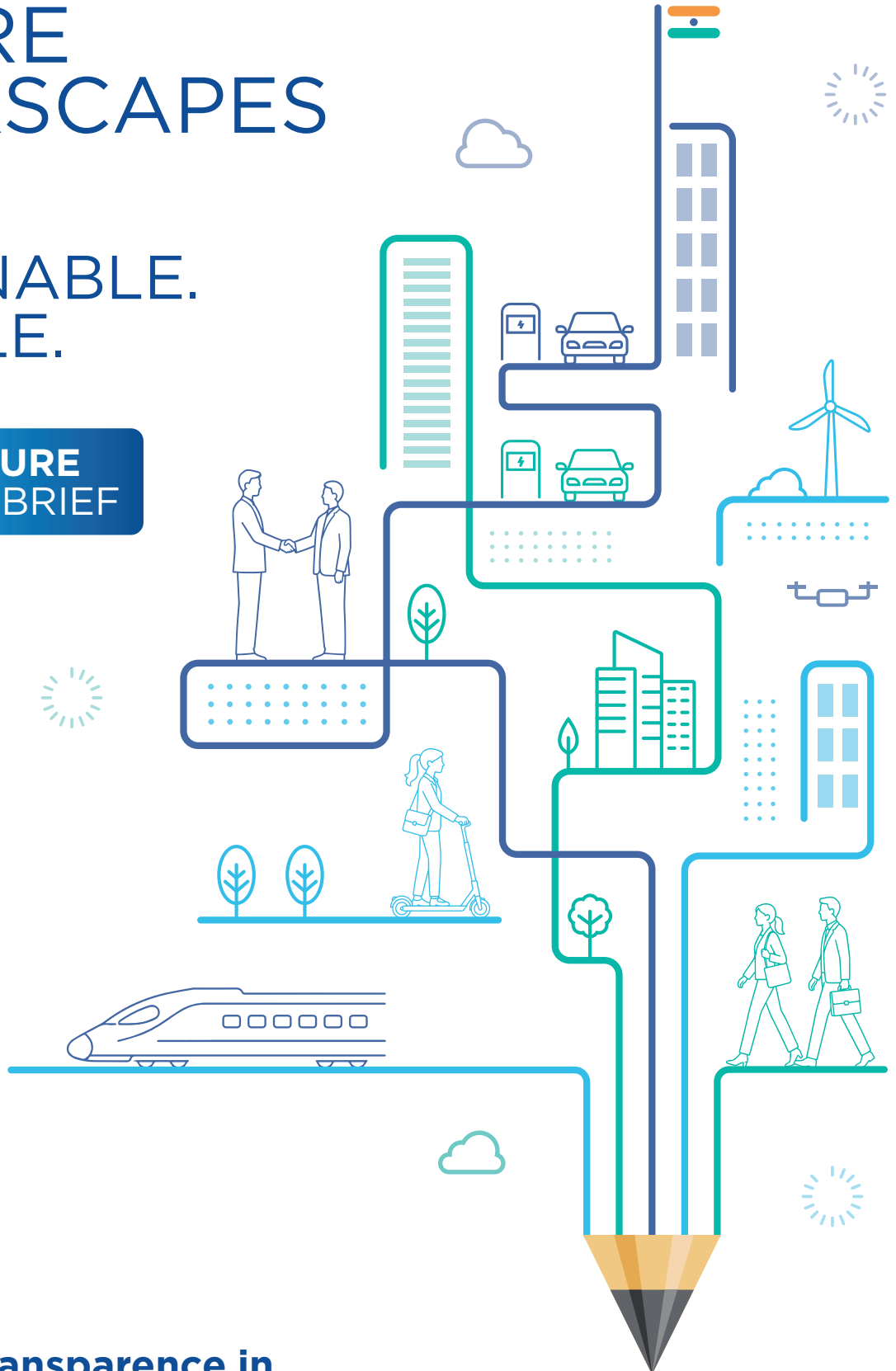


FUTURE WORKSCAPES

LIGHT.
SUSTAINABLE.
DURABLE.

ARCHITECTURE
CATEGORY BRIEF



To Register,
visit: www.transparency.in



OUR CITIES ARE, IN MANY WAYS, THE PHYSICAL EXPRESSION OF WORK.

Our cities have always evolved around the way we work. Wherever people gathered to create, manufacture, trade, research and collaborate, settlements grew into thriving urban centres. Today, as work cultures rapidly evolve, the workplaces that shape our cities must too.

India stands at the threshold of unprecedented transformation. Rapid urbanisation, expanding digital infrastructure and the rise of Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities are creating new centres of innovation and economic growth. Emerging IT parks, Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and mixed-use business districts have the opportunity to become more than places of employment, they can become vibrant urban ecosystems that foster productivity, collaboration, wellbeing, learning and community. **Sustainable building solutions can create climate-resilient spaces that consume up to 40% less energy, reduce embodied carbon, improve circularity, enhance durability, and deliver healthier, more comfortable environments. Advancing sustainable and energy-efficient construction while placing wellbeing at the centre is fundamental to shaping the workplaces of tomorrow.**

To realise this vision, the workplaces of tomorrow must move beyond conventional design and construction. They must embrace **light, sustainable and durable** building systems that reduce embodied carbon, optimise resources, accelerate construction and create healthier, more adaptable environments. Lightweight materials, high-performance façades, dry construction technologies, durable structures and circular design strategies will be fundamental in shaping resilient commercial developments.

Transparence 21.0 invites participants to envision India's future workplaces as integrated urban destinations that drive business growth while strengthening communities and contributing to a more sustainable built environment. Through innovative architecture and interior design, participants are challenged to demonstrate how **light, sustainable and durable materials and construction systems** can be used to create spaces for the wellbeing and comfort of its users.



THE CHALLENGE

You're invited to imagine and **design a future-ready workplace** building that has the potential to redefine the future of work in India's emerging cities. A workplace that is more than just an office: it is a catalyst for innovation, collaboration, wellbeing and community. Through thoughtful architecture, your proposal should demonstrate how workplaces can shape healthier people, stronger communities and more sustainable cities while establishing India as a leader in light, sustainable and durable construction.



Light



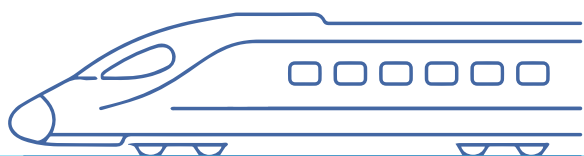
Sustainable

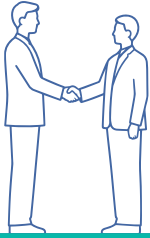


Durable

You are required to select a site within an **existing or proposed IT Park, Special Economic Zone (SEZ), Commercial Zone, Business Park or Innovation District** located in a Tier-2 or Tier-3 Indian city.

Participants should develop an overall master plan for the selected site; however, only one workplace building within the master plan is required to be designed in detail. The detailed building may be a corporate headquarters, multi-tenant office building, research and development centre, innovation hub, business centre, co-working facility, incubation centre or any future workplace typology that responds to the vision of the competition.





***YOUR DESIGN SHOULD EMBODY
THE VISION FOR INDIA'S FUTURE
WORKPLACES***



Community First

Workplaces should extend beyond productivity to become vibrant destinations that encourage interaction, collaboration, learning and recreation, while strengthening the social and economic fabric of the city.



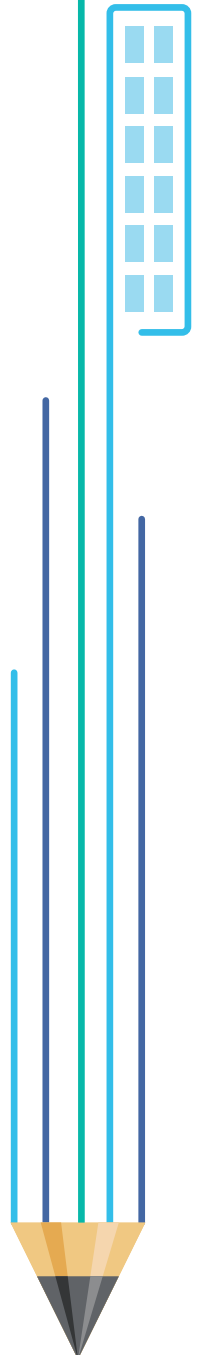
User Wellbeing & Comfort

Design spaces that prioritise the wellbeing, comfort and safety of users by enhancing daylight, thermal and acoustic comfort, indoor environmental quality, accessibility and overall user experience, creating healthy and inclusive environments for all.



Built for the Future

Your proposal should demonstrate a holistic approach to light and sustainable construction, integrating high-performance building systems that deliver superior comfort, energy-efficiency, durability and lower environmental impact. The design should showcase how innovative construction technologies can create workplaces that are resilient, adaptable and future-ready.





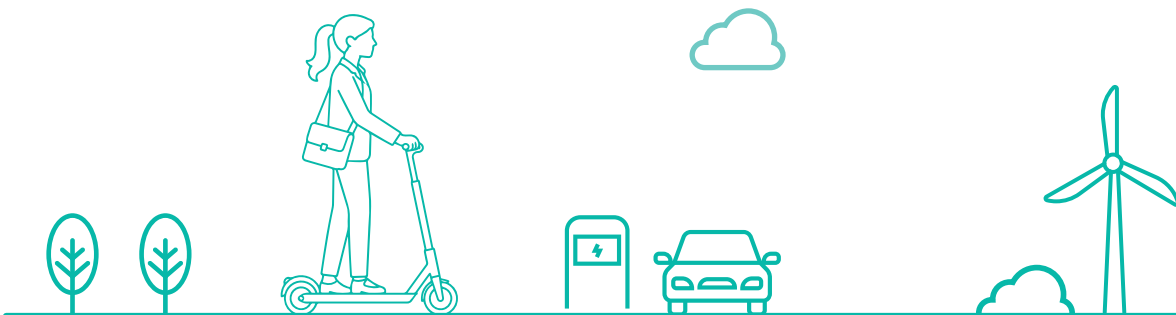
Light, Sustainable & Durable construction for a circular economy

Develop a thoughtful material palette that reflects the principles of lightweight, low-carbon and resource-efficient construction. Explore high-performance materials and integrated building systems that enhance daylight, solar and acoustic comfort, safety, indoor environmental quality, circularity, durability and ease of construction, while contributing to a healthier and more sustainable built environment.



Contextual Impact

Your design should respond meaningfully to its urban context by contributing positively to the growth of emerging cities, creating healthier public realms, supporting local economies and enhancing the everyday experience of those who work, visit and interact with the development.



**LIGHT.
SUSTAINABLE.
DURABLE.**



*YOUR PROPOSAL SHOULD INCLUDE
A LARGER MASTER PLAN FOR THE
SELECTED WORKPLACE DISTRICT*

The selected building may be:



Office
buildings



Innovation
hubs



Business
centres



Co-working
spaces



Retail



Hospitality



Public plazas



Green
infrastructure



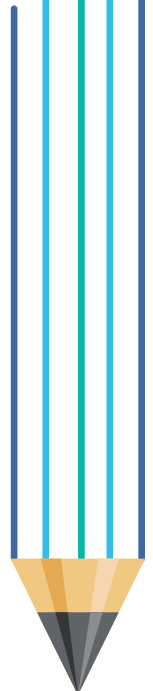
Recreation
spaces



Community
amenities



Transit
integration





HOWEVER, ONLY ONE ARCHITECTURAL BUILDING FROM THE PROPOSED MASTER PLAN IS REQUIRED TO BE DEVELOPED IN DETAIL.

The selected building may be:



Corporate Headquarters



Multi-tenant Office Building



Research & Development Centre



Innovation Hub



Business Centre



Incubation Centre



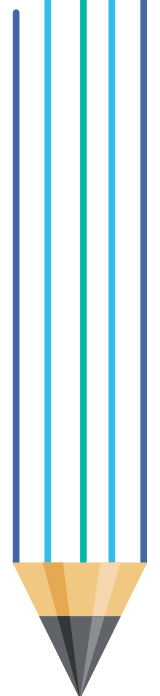
Knowledge Campus



Co-working Facility



Any future workplace typology that supports the vision of the project.

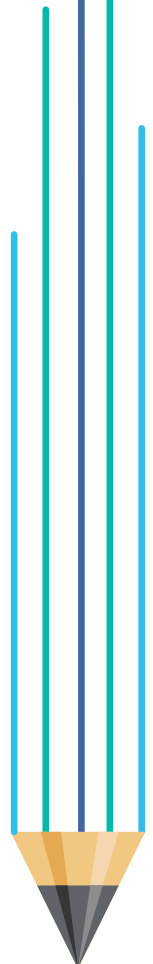


SITE & GUIDELINES

While you have complete freedom to develop your workplace building and its supporting master plan, please follow the guidelines below while selecting your site and defining your proposal.

- ▶ Select a site within an existing or proposed IT Park, Special Economic Zone (SEZ), Commercial Zone, Business Park or Innovation District located in a Tier-2 or Tier-3 Indian city.
- ▶ Your site should be accessible through existing or proposed modes of public transport, within a 5 km radius, encouraging sustainable mobility and connectivity.
- ▶ Your site area should be between 8-10 acres.
- ▶ Develop a master plan for the overall site. However, only one workplace building within the master plan is required to be designed in detail.
- ▶ The minimum FAR of your design should be 1.5. Follow the applicable local development regulations.
- ▶ Ground coverage should be between 30% and 50%. Setbacks are to be according to the applicable local by-laws.
- ▶ Incorporate public spaces, green zones, wellness amenities and recreational areas in at least 20% of the site area, encouraging interaction between employees, visitors and the wider community.
- ▶ Follow local by-laws, development control regulations and parking calculations. Refer to the National Building Code (NBC) in case local regulations are unavailable.
- ▶ The proposed workplace building should demonstrate the thoughtful integration of Saint-Gobain's ecosystem of products and solutions, including glazing, dry construction systems, acoustic solutions, construction chemicals, insulation and other relevant building technologies, to create a light, durable, high-performance and sustainable workplace.

Based on the above, your **total built-up area should be approximately between 30,000 sq.m and 70,000 sq.m.** The detailed workplace building should form part of this overall master plan while demonstrating innovation in architecture, construction, sustainability, occupant wellbeing and the integrated application of Saint-Gobain's building solutions.



ELIGIBILITY & TEAMS

Architecture Category

- ▶ All Undergraduate Students of Architecture and Design in India and those graduating in 2026 can register under this section.
- ▶ Participation is allowed in teams of up to three members, provided all members are eligible for the same sub-category.
- ▶ Students are allowed to make teams across different academic years (in the same sub-category) and different colleges.

- ▶ Registrations are opening in **August, 2026.**
- ▶ To Register, **visit: www.transparence.in**
- ▶ **Remember to register under the correct category.**

COMPETITION FORMAT

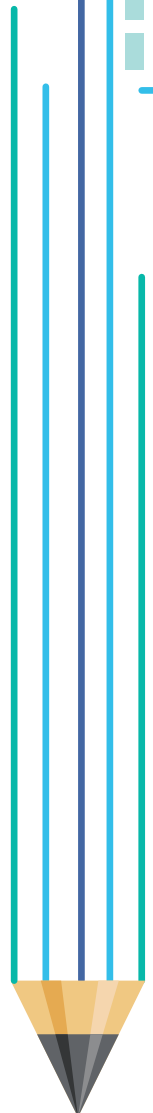
It is a two-stage competition:

- 1 First Stage (Regional Juries)**
Up to 2 teams will be shortlisted by a regional jury panel in the North, South, East, and West zones each. The finalist teams from each region would be invited to the Grand Finale to present before a selected panel of jurors.
- 2 Second Stage (The Grand Finale)**
The shortlisted teams compete before the jurors for the coveted national awards.



SUBMISSION FORMAT

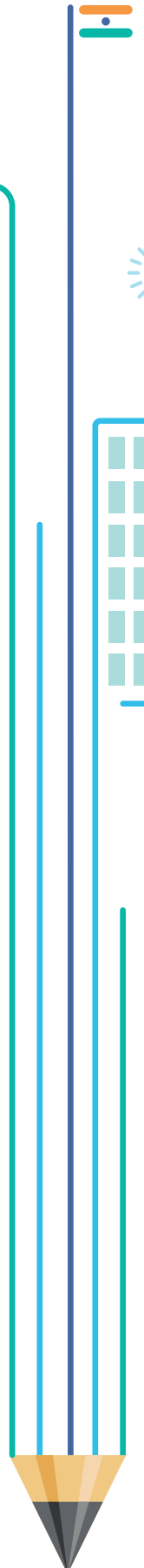
- 1 Submission will be completely ONLINE. Plan your content and graphics to be viewed accordingly.
- 2 The submission link will be provided in the confirmation email sent after successful registration.
- 3 Include the following within your submission (single PDF file):
 - ▶ **Concept Statement:** Your vision, intent, and how your design will impact the site and its users
 - ▶ **Architectural drawings:** Site plan(s), key sections and elevations, conceptual sketches and diagrams (as needed to explain your design).
 - ▶ **Visual Representations:** Sketches, renderings, graphics and collages to communicate the experience of the spaces.
 - ▶ Your **strategy for a light-weight design, focusing on sustainability, resilience, durability, accessibility and inclusivity** on your site.
 - ▶ A **summarised area statement** with reference to the by-laws in a space not larger than an A4 sheet. (Compulsory)
 - ▶ AI-generated content may be used as a design aid for ideation, visualization and communication; however, the concept, design development and final submission must remain the original work of the participants.
- 4 Your submission should be in the following format:
 - ▶ Up to 12 A3 sheets in landscape orientation ONLY
 - ▶ The drawings and text should be legible and high-resolution.
 - ▶ Your sheets should be compiled into a single PDF file up to 20 MB in size.
 - ▶ Name your submission file in the format ABC_XYZ, where 'ABC' is the name of your team members and 'XYZ' is the name of your college(s). Your entry will be assigned a unique ID to ensure anonymity.
 - ▶ Limit the amount of text per A3 sheet to 100-150 words.
 - ▶ Remember to include the North Arrow and a Graphic Scale where relevant.



- 5 Mentioning your name, college, or any other identification in your sheets will be grounds for DISQUALIFICATION.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

- 1 **Concept, Vision & Impact** - Does the proposal present a compelling vision for the future of workplaces in India's emerging cities? Does it demonstrate how architecture can create healthier work environments, stronger communities and a more sustainable built environment?
- 2 **Context & Site Strategy** - How effectively does the proposal respond to its chosen site, urban context and surrounding infrastructure? Does it strengthen connectivity, public realm and the relationship between the workplace and its community?
- 3 **Architectural Innovation** - Does the design challenge conventional workplace typologies and introduce innovative, flexible and future-ready architectural solutions?
- 4 **Light, Sustainable & Durable Construction** - Does the proposal demonstrate an integrated approach to light, high-performance and sustainable construction? Does it respect the minimum performance requirements, while ensuring the quality and consistency of the proposed construction details with regard to building physics, including thermal performance, acoustics, daylight, fire safety and durability?
- 5 **Human Experience & Wellbeing** - Does the workplace promote collaboration, flexibility, inclusivity, wellness and recreation while creating healthy, comfortable and inspiring environments for its users?
- 6 **Visual Coherence & Representation** - How effectively does the submission communicate the concept through drawings, graphics, renderings and overall presentation quality?



AWARDS

National-Level Prizes



National Winner
Rs. 1,50,000/-
per team, a trophy,
and a certificate.



National First-Runner-Up
Rs. 1,00,000/- per team,
a trophy and a certificate.



National Second-Runner-Up
Rs. 50,000/- per team,
a trophy and a certificate.

Regional Level Prizes

- ▶ All national finalist teams will each receive a cash award of **Rs. 20,000/-** per team and a certificate.
- ▶ **Jury's Commendation:** Certificate of Commendation in both sub-categories.
- ▶ **Special Recognition:** Certificate of Recognition in both sub-categories.

Studio Project

The first 25 colleges that submit five entries or more in the Architecture category will qualify for studio project entitlements listed below, apart from an opportunity for students winning regional/national prizes:

- ▶ Acedge Offerings worth **Rs. 20,000/- for the College** with a minimum of 5 entries.
- ▶ **'Best Studio Award Certificate'** for the best entry from among those submitted by your college if taken as a Studio Project, along with a recognition for the Studio Faculty.

COMPETITION TIMELINE

Architecture Category

- ▶ Registrations Open: **19th August, 2026**
- ▶ Registrations Close: **15th December, 2026**
- ▶ Submissions Close: **22nd December, 2026**
- ▶ Regional Level Results: **8th February - 10th February**
- ▶ National Finale: **Early March**



OTHER CATEGORIES

Interior Design Category: To create human-centric workplace interiors that foster collaboration, wellness and flexibility, while showcasing the thoughtful design of light, sustainable and durable interior spaces to enhance comfort, performance and user experience.

ABOUT SAINT-GOBAIN

Saint-Gobain is a global leader in light and sustainable construction, designing, manufacturing and distributing innovative building materials and solutions for residential, non-residential and infrastructure markets. Through its integrated approach, the Group delivers solutions that enhance sustainability, performance and wellbeing while addressing the evolving needs of the built environment.

Guided by its purpose, **'Making the World a Better Home'**, Saint-Gobain is committed to advancing sustainable construction and creating healthier, more resilient spaces for people and the planet.

With €46.5 billion in sales in 2025, a global workforce of 162,000 employees, and operations in 81 countries, Saint-Gobain continues to lead the transformation of the construction industry, with an ambitious goal of achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

For more information, **visit www.saint-gobain.co.in**

ABOUT ETHOS EMPOWERS

Ethos Empowers is a bridge that creates avenues of engagement for the ACED community that help unite and facilitate an environment of collective learning and growth. Ethos connects its vast reach and understanding amongst the architecture, construction, engineering and design community to bring about value exchange.

Gita Balakrishnan started Ethos in 2002, as a response to a need for raising awareness about our built environment. Ethos is an initiative to bridge the gap between professionals, academicians, students and industries in the ACED community (Architecture, Construction, Engineering and Design) and is an engaging and empowering platform for young professionals who are to be decision-makers in the years to come.

For more information, **visit www.ethosempowers.com**

