



Government of Goa
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CIRCULAR

Subject: Invitation to Participate in "SWACHH BHARAT 2035 – THE WASTE-FREE INDIA CHALLENGE" – A National Working-Project Competition for Young Innovators

The Department of Science & Technology and Waste Management, Government of Goa, is organising a "Swachh Bharat 2035 – The Waste-Free India Challenge", a national working project competition aimed at encouraging young innovators to develop practical and sustainable solutions for waste management. The Challenge invites students to respond to the question:

"IF YOU WERE GIVEN THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MAKING INDIA SUBSTANTIALLY WASTE-FREE BY 2035, WHAT WOULD YOU DO?"

Students are encouraged to move beyond conventional display models and develop working projects, prototypes, processes or systems that address real-world waste-management challenges.

1. Eligibility

The competition will have two categories:

1. **School Category:** Students aged 10–16 years
2. **College Category:** Students aged 16–25 years
3. **Team Size:** 2–3 students per team
4. **Proposed Finalists:** 20 teams (10 School teams and 10 College teams)

Schools and colleges are requested to encourage interested students to form teams and participate.

2. Areas of Innovation

Projects may address one or more of the following areas:

1. Waste prevention and reduction
2. Waste segregation at source
3. Conversion of organic waste into useful products
4. Plastic recovery and recycling
5. Textile waste recovery
6. E-waste management
7. Construction and demolition waste
8. Refuse-Derived Fuel (RDF) and energy recovery
9. Wastewater and resource recovery
10. Agricultural waste utilisation
11. Waste-to-value products
12. Digital/AI-based waste-management solutions

13. Community participation and behavioural change
14. Waste collection and logistics
15. Zero-waste schools, colleges, institutions, campuses or villages
16. Circular-economy models
17. Employment and livelihood generation from waste

Projects need not be technologically sophisticated. Simple, affordable and practical solutions that solve genuine waste-management problems are strongly encouraged.

3. What Qualifies as a Working Project?

The most important consideration will be whether the proposed solution actually works.

A project should demonstrate at least one of the following:

1. **Physical Prototype:** A working device, machine, process or treatment system
2. **Biological/Chemical Process:** A demonstrated process for converting or treating a waste stream
3. **Digital Working System:** An operational software, AI, mobile or other digital solution
4. **Field-Demonstrated Model:** A functioning solution that has already been tested in a school, college, village, community, institution or enterprise

Projects that demonstrate practical application, affordability, environmental benefit and potential for wider implementation are encouraged.

4. Competition Process

Stage I: – Call for Ideas

Participating teams will submit an Idea & Project Proposal of approximately 500–750 words, covering:

1. Problem being addressed
2. Proposed solution
3. How the solution works
4. Waste stream involved
5. Photograph/video of the prototype, wherever available
6. Expected environmental benefit
7. Estimated cost
8. Possibility of scaling to a community, city or State
9. Contribution towards the vision of Waste-Free India 2035

A 2-minute demonstration video of the project/prototype will be encouraged and may be required for further selection.

A preliminary jury will shortlist promising proposals for the next stage.

Stage II: – Finalist Selection

A technical jury will evaluate the shortlisted projects based on their functionality, innovation, practicality, environmental impact, affordability and scalability. 20nos of finalist teams, will be invited to participate in the National Showcase in Goa on the 3rd and 4th of November 2026. (10 School teams and 10 College teams)

Stage III :- “WASTE RESOURCE SYMPOSIUM 2026” “GOA LEADS THE WAY: KEEP IT SIMPLE”

The selected finalist teams will be invited to Goa to present their projects as part of the National Symposium.

Each finalist team will be provided an exhibition space to showcase:

1. Working prototype/project
2. Project poster
3. Brief project description

4. Live demonstration
5. QR code linking to the project's 2-minute video

5. Role of Schools and Colleges

Schools and colleges are requested to:

1. Circulate this Challenge among eligible students
2. Encourage students to form teams of 2-3 members
3. Promote practical and innovative waste-management solutions
4. Provide necessary guidance and mentorship to participating teams
5. Encourage projects that can be tested and demonstrated in real-life situations

The Department invites educational institutions across India to become partners in nurturing the next generation of environmental innovators and contributing to the national vision of Swachh Bharat 2035.

6. Participation and Registration

Interested institutions and student teams may register through the official registration process:

Registration Link: <https://forms.gle/Mtg3M77c2kfby9gt8>

Last Date for Submission: 15th October 2026

Contact: 8796900548 / 9049896237

Email: dir-dstwm@goa.gov.in

All participating institutions are requested to give wide publicity to the Challenge and encourage maximum student participation.


I/c Director (S&T&WM) & Ex-officio
Jt. Secretary to Government

Copy to:-

1. Director, Directorate of Technical Education, Government of Goa
2. Director, Directorate of Higher Education - Government of Goa
3. Director, Directorate of Education - Government of Goa
4. Director, Goa Institute of Management
5. Chairman, Goa State Pollution Control board
6. Director Indian Institute of Technology, Goa
7. Director, National Institute of Technology, Goa
8. Director, Birla Institute of Technology, Goa
9. Department of Education, State of Maharashtra, with a request to circulate among all the schools /colleges and other educational institutions in your jurisdiction.
10. Department of Education, State of Karnataka, with a request to circulate among all the schools /colleges and other educational institutions in your jurisdiction.