

DAKSHIN DESIGN AWARDS 2026

21 - 22
AUGUST 2026
VIT, VSIGN

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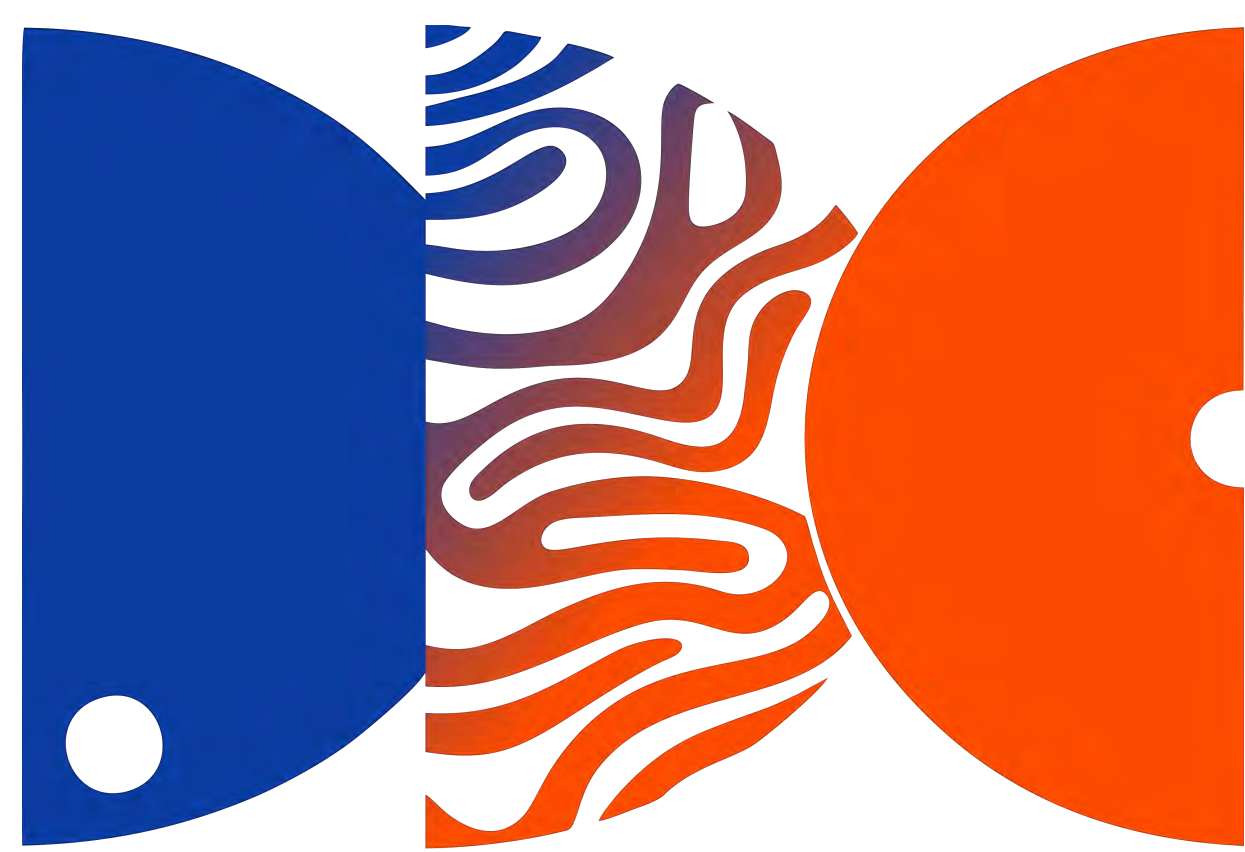
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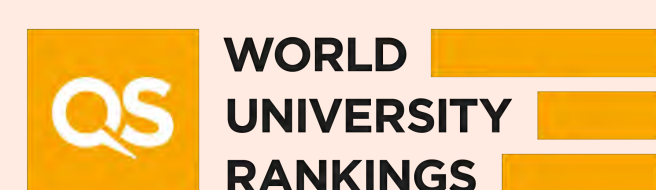


About Dakshin Design Conclave

Dakshin Design Conclave (DDC) is a two-day flagship event hosted by V-SIGN, VIT. This national design conclave is dedicated to **discovering, celebrating, and empowering emerging designers** from across India. It creates opportunities for students to learn from industry leaders, showcase their work, build meaningful connections, and explore the industry. For organizations, DDC offers a unique platform to engage with young creative talent, strengthen brand visibility, and contribute to the future of design and innovation.

V-SIGN (VIT School of Design)

VIT School of Design (V-SIGN) is one of the leading design schools in India, offering B.Des. and M.Des. programs at VIT, Vellore. Backed by VIT's multidisciplinary ecosystem of over **40,000 students**, V-SIGN fosters creativity, innovation, and interdisciplinary collaboration. With state-of-the-art studios, prototyping facilities, and strong industry partnerships, the school empowers students to create human-centered solutions for real-world challenges while preparing them for careers in design, research, and innovation.



Rankings

Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) is ranked **597 in the world** (QS World University Rankings 2026) and is the 14th best university in India (NIRF Ranking, Govt. of India 2026). In the QS World University Rankings 2026, V-SIGN ranked 201-300 in Arts and Design.



World Design Organization (WDO) Partnership

The World Design Organization (WDO) is a global organization that promotes the impact of industrial design. V-SIGN is an institutional partner of WDO, creating opportunities for international collaboration and exposure to global design practices.



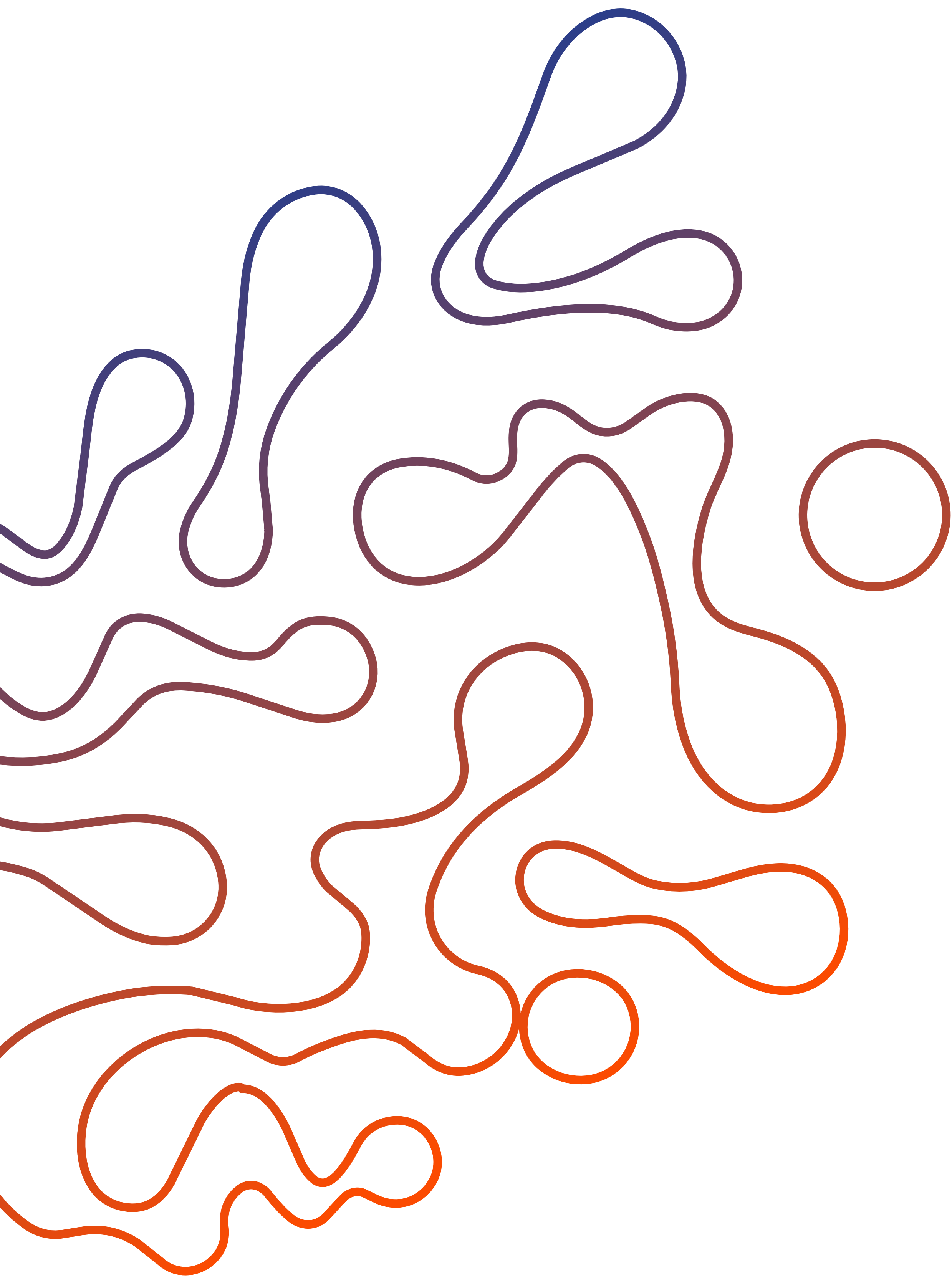
Industry Collaboration through CII

VIT actively engages with the **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** through industry interactions and collaborative projects that connect students with professionals and real-world challenges.



Industry-Oriented Learning

Through **workshops, guest lectures, design conclaves, exhibitions, and collaborative projects**, V-SIGN provides a platform for students to interact with industry experts and gain practical design experience.



DAKSHIN DESIGN AWARDS

The **Dakshin Design Awards** is an initiative of **VSIGN's Dakshin Design Conclave** that recognizes outstanding student achievements in design, innovation, and creativity. Celebrating excellence across diverse design disciplines, the awards honor impactful ideas that demonstrate functionality, sustainability, and social impact. By connecting academia and industry, the awards aim to inspire innovation and promote excellence in design.

AWARD CATEGORIES

Eco-Innovation Award

Recognizes environmentally sustainable designs that address real-world challenges through responsible innovation. Eligible entries include **sustainable products, circular design solutions, renewable energy technologies, eco-friendly materials, sustainable agriculture innovations, and resource-efficient systems** that create a positive impact on people and the planet.



Social Impact Award

Recognizes designs that address real-world social challenges and improve quality of life. Eligible entries include **education, healthcare, assistive technologies, public safety, rural development, public spaces, employment, disaster relief, and community-focused solutions** that create meaningful and lasting social impact.

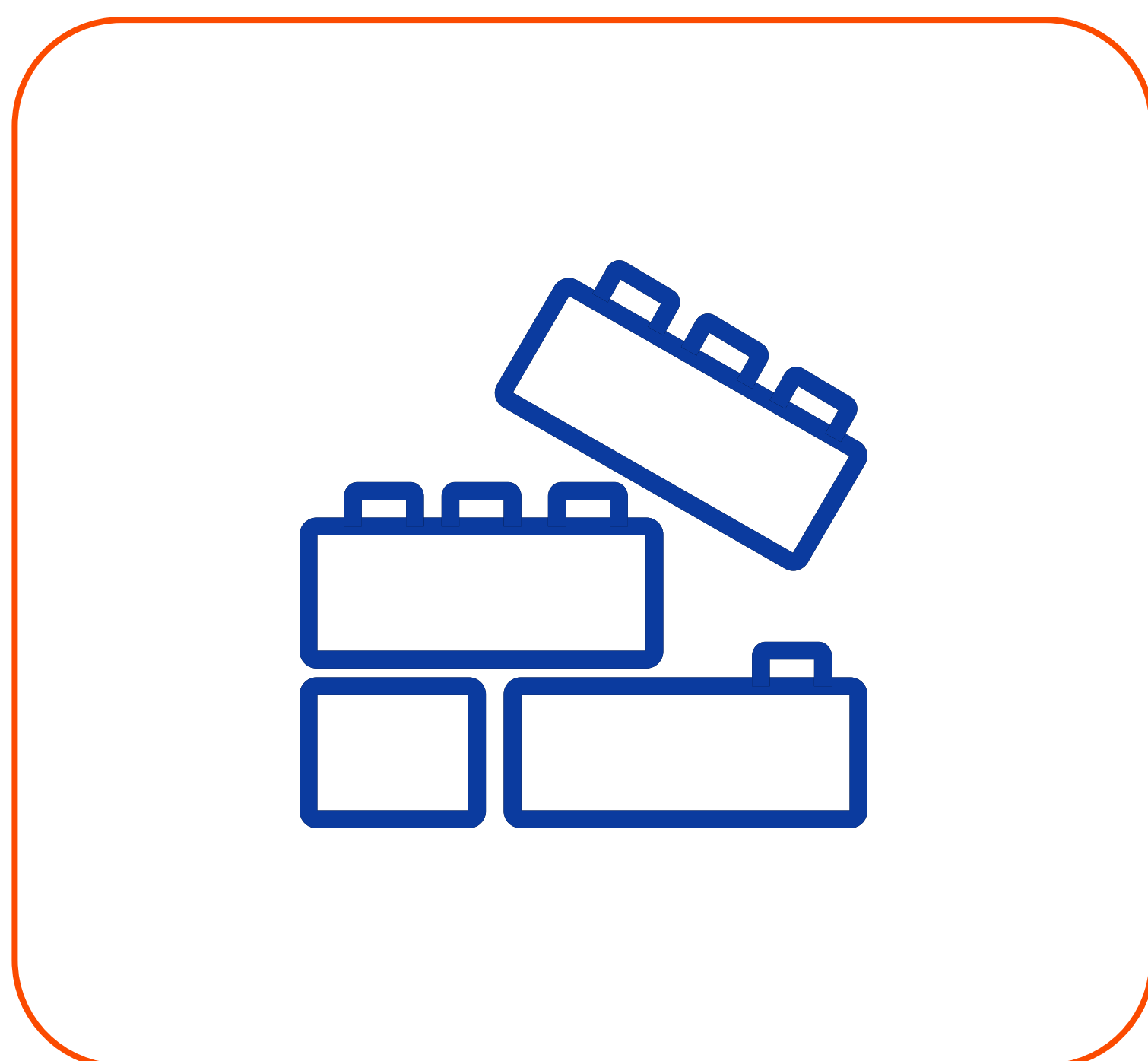


Everyday Innovation Award

Celebrates designs that enhance everyday living through innovation, functionality, and user-centered thinking. Eligible entries include **home and lifestyle products, kitchenware, furniture, consumer electronics, appliances, workspace solutions, storage, tools, luggage, footwear, sports equipment, and other consumer products** that improve convenience, comfort, and daily experiences.

Care Centric Design Award

Designs that enhance health, well-being, and quality of life through user-centered innovation. Eligible entries include **medical and healthcare products, assistive devices, accessibility solutions, personal hygiene, sanitation, pet care, fitness, and preventive healthcare** that prioritize care, comfort, safety, and inclusivity.

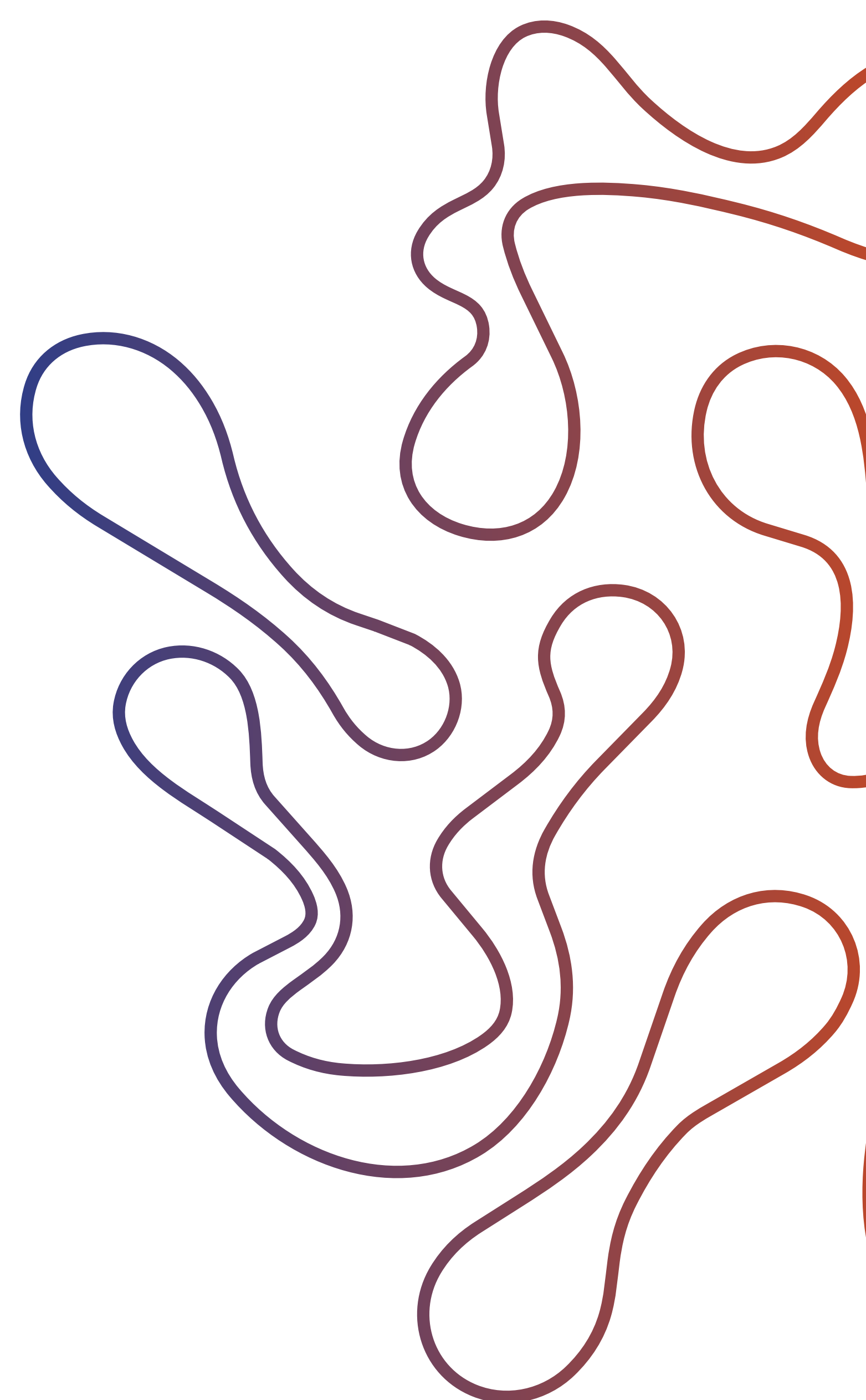


Playscape Design Award

Designs that inspire play, creativity, learning, and immersive experiences. Eligible entries include **toys, board games, animation, digital games, augmented reality (AR), virtual reality (VR), and interactive learning experiences** that entertain, educate, and engage users.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Students of design schools from any discipline of design.
- Students who have graduated in 2025 can also apply.
- Work should be original, plagiarism will lead to immediate disqualification.



Important guidelines

Important Dates

Registration Schedule:

Registration Phase	Date
Early Bird Registration	Till 2nd August (11:59 PM IST)
Registration Closes	14 August (11:59 PM IST)
Late Registration Closes	15 August (11:59 PM IST)

Submission Schedule:

Submission Stage	Date
Submission Opens	1st August
Final Submission Deadline	15 August (11:59 PM IST)

Registration Fees:

- Individual

Registration Phase	Date	Amount		
		1 Design	2 Designs	3 Designs
Early Bird Registration	Before 2 August (11:59 PM IST)	₹ 350	₹ 500	₹ 650
Registration	15 August (11:59 PM IST)	₹ 500	₹ 750	₹ 1000
Late Registration	3 - 14 August (11:59 PM IST)	₹ 650	₹ 900	₹ 1150

- **Group (2 to 5 members)**

Registration Phase	Date	Amount
Early Bird Registration	Before 2 August	₹ 1000
Registration	3 August - 14 August (11:59 PM IST)	₹ 1200
Late Registration	15 August (11:59 PM IST)	₹ 1350

Registration Guidelines:

- Scan the QR code/click on the link on the poster. It will lead to the VIT events registration page.
- Click on “New User”. Enter the required details and click “Register”.
- Sign in to your account. Complete your registration and click “Finish”.
- In the list of “Upcoming events”, find “Dakshin Design Conclave 2026 - Award Registration” and click on “View details”.

VAC	School of Electronics Engineering	Value Added Course VAC2335 : Internet of Things	22-08-2026 09:00	01-11-2026 18:00	View details
EVENT	VIT School of Design	Dakshin Design Conclave 2026 - Award Registration	21-08-2026 09:00	22-08-2026 18:00	View details
VAC	School of Electronics Engineering	Value Added Course VAC2335 : Internet of Things	22-08-2026 09:00	01-11-2026 18:00	View details

- Complete your registration.

Note: For an individual participant, you can choose to submit up to three designs in the “Participant category”.

If you are a group, the number of participants is not required to be filled.

- Go through the invoice and scroll down to click “Pay Now”
- You can see the event details in the “Registered Events” section.
- Further information will be sent to your registered email ID.

Submission guidelines

Eligibility Criteria

- Students of design schools from any discipline of design.
- Students who have graduated in 2025 can also apply.
- Work should be original, plagiarism will lead to immediate disqualification.

Submission Guidelines

- Submit your **presentation** as one of the following formats only:
 - .ppt
 - .pptx or
 - .pdf
- **No external links** are allowed.
- Use clear visuals with concise text.
- Only **original work** will be accepted.
- **Plagiarism or misrepresentation will result in immediate disqualification.**
- Ensure all submissions are uploaded before the deadline.
- You can submit **one design project to one category** only.
- If submitting **more than one project**, the same design cannot be entered in multiple categories. If it is done, **only the first category** entered will be considered.

Submission Deliverables

- **Project Title**

Mention the official title of your project.

- **Applicant(s)**

Provide the name(s) of the individual participant(s) or team members.

1. Core Objective (**Maximum 50 words**)

Summarize the project's objective and explain why it has been submitted under the selected award category.

2. Project Framing (**Maximum 100 words**)

Briefly outline the problem statement, project context, target users, and the need addressed by your design.

3. Design Solution & Application (**Maximum 100 words**)

Describe the proposed solution, its key features, functionality, intended application, and the value it creates.

4. Design Process & Final Outcome

Present your design journey through sketches, CAD renders, prototypes, and the final design using visuals supported by brief captions.

Evaluation Criteria

- 1. Feasibility** - How practical, functional, and realistic the design is to develop and implement.
- 2. Novelty** - How original and distinctive the design concept is compared to existing solutions.
- 3. Innovation** - How effectively the design introduces new ideas, methods, technologies, or approaches.
- 4. Impact** - The potential for positive influence the design can create for users, society, the environment, or industry.
- 5. Emotional and Symbolic Value** - The ability of the design to create emotional connections and communicate meaningful cultural or symbolic significance.

Prize Details

Awardees	Reward
1st	Cash prize, certificate, and website mention
2nd	Cash prize, certificate, and website mention
3rd to 5th	Certificate + Website mention
6th to 10th	Recognition on website

Frequently Asked Question

Can I?...

1. Submit more than one project?

As an individual participant, yes. But it has to be selected at the time of registration. Re-registration is not possible.

2. Submit the same project to multiple categories?

No. Each project may be submitted under only one category.

3. Submit more designs after I have registered and paid already?

No. You can only choose the number of designs during the registration and it cannot be edited after payment is done.

4. Edit my submission after uploading?

No. Changes cannot be made after the initial submission.

5. Know when the winners will be announced?

Winners will be announced during the Dakshin Design Awards Ceremony.

6. Submit an interdisciplinary project?

Yes. Interdisciplinary projects are welcome if they align with the chosen category.

7. Submit without a physical prototype?

Yes. Renders, CAD models, sketches, or prototype images are acceptable.

8. Submit a work-in-progress project?

Yes, provided the concept and design process are clearly presented, and the deliverables are submitted.

9. Retain my intellectual property rights?

Yes. You retain ownership while granting the organizers permission to display your work for judging and event promotion with due credit.

10. Get help with technical issues?

Yes, contact the inquiries team (for details, pg. 1) before the submission deadline.

Frequently Asked Question

11. Withdraw my submission after registering?

No, registration fees are non-refundable once registration is complete.

12. Receive feedback from the jury?

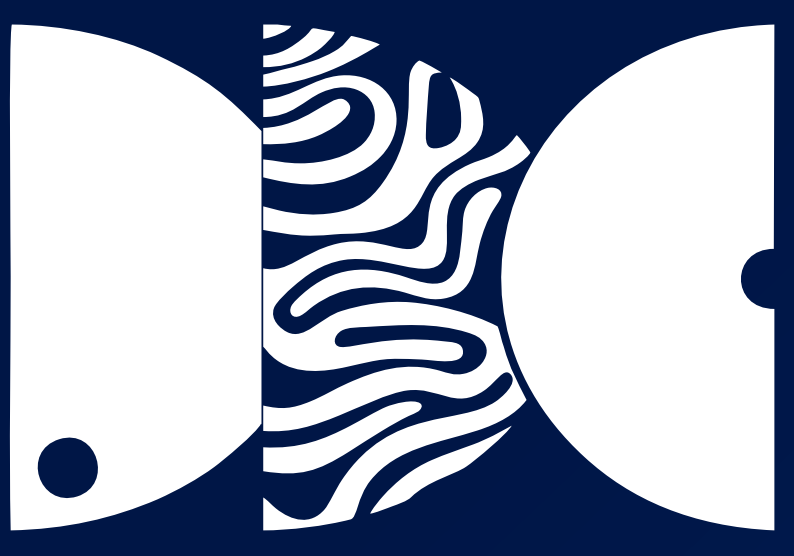
Due to the volume of submissions, individual feedback cannot be guaranteed.

13. Use AI tools in my project?

Yes, as a supporting tool. However, the usage of AI must be clearly mentioned in the specific places used.

14. Submit my presentation in another language?

No. All submissions must be prepared in English to ensure consistent evaluation.



“Every meaningful innovation begins with a conversation.”

Let's design the future together.

FOR QUERIES

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