COMMONWEALTH
HERITAGE SKILLS
TRAINING
PROGRAMME

IMAGINING
TIMELESS
PLACES

IFA
2.0

Design Competition Brief

Commonwealth
Heritage Forum
www.commonwealthheritage.org

Christian Burial Board

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DA
NEETA SHUBHRAJIT
DAS ASSOCIATES

AUDA
THE ARCHITECTURE+ URBAN
DESIGN ACADEMY

BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR
CEMETERIES IN SOUTH ASIA

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ABOUT ITA

The Imagining Tomorrow Awards was initiated to encapsulate AUDA's vision for a future where design is not just a profession but a trans-formative force that enhances our lives. The 1st edition of this competition was launched last year to ignite the creative potential of aspiring designers to seek solutions that address pressing global challenges and envision a more sustainable and equitable future. From climate change and sustainability to healthcare and transportation, the competition focused on visionary designs under six key categories. It was a call to action, challenging participants to break free from the constraints of conventional design and explore uncharted territories of creativity. This is more than a platform; it's a transformative journey that encourages emerging designers to grapple with the complexities of tomorrow's challenges and translate them into innovative and sustainable design solutions. The competition attracted a remarkable response and the received entries showcased a multitude of design approaches. It was a resounding success, drawing nearly 200 participants from over 50+ colleges and universities around the world. This diverse participation showcased an incredible range of ideas and perspectives, from different global contexts. With the launch of ITA 2.0, the brand continues its commitment to inspire and amplify voices that will help shape a better tomorrow.

PARTICIPANTS (National & International)	COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES (Around the World)	WINNING ENTRIES	JURORS
150+	50+	08	06

LOWER CIRCULAR ROAD CEMETERY

SOUTH PARK STREET CEMETERY

SCOTTISH CEMETERY

TOWARDS SEALDAH

TOWARDS ESPLANADE

AJC BOSE ROAD

AJC BOSE ROAD

TOWARDS BALLYGUNGE

TOWARDS PARK CIRCUS 7 POINT

NORTH

IMAGINING TIMELESS PLACES

Colonial heritage sites often evoke conflicting emotions, representing historical significance for some and oppression for others. This tension, rooted in questions of identity, justice, and narrative control, is particularly evident in British-era cemeteries across Indian cities. The South Park Street Cemetery in Kolkata, the first colonial capital of India, exemplifies this complexity. While these cemeteries hold deep cultural meaning for the British, they often lack resonance with contemporary Indian society.

The "Imagining Timeless Places" competition invites participants to critically re-imagine Kolkata's iconic South Park Street Cemetery and its surroundings, envisioning a future where this historic landmark resonates with contemporary urban life. The competition challenges designers to weave the cemetery into the evolving urban fabric of Kolkata—balancing heritage preservation with the city's developmental needs, community aspirations, and real-estate dynamics.

Participants are expected to craft a robust framework that can transform the site into a vibrant cultural anchor, fostering dialogue between history and modernity while celebrating Kolkata's layered identity. The proposals must envision the cemetery not merely as a relic of the past but as a bridge across time, cultures, and communities , ensuring its relevance for generations to come and redefine the essence of "timelessness" in the city's urban landscape.

This second edition of AUDA's Imagining Tomorrow Awards (ITA) builds upon the "Community Sensitisation and Training Program for the Conservation of Historic Cemeteries in Kolkata", organized by NSDA in collaboration with the Commonwealth Heritage Forum, BACSA, and the Christian Burial Ground. Participants will utilize comprehensive research and base materials developed by program interns to craft visionary proposals addressing this pressing issue.
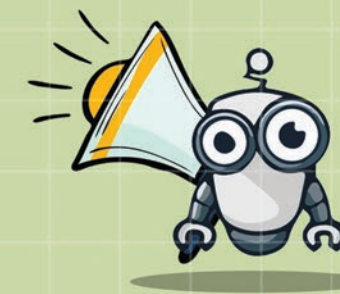
Reinventing the role of these cemeteries in today's community life:

These cemeteries not only represent the city's historic past but also its religious plurality. The design should thus explore the modern connotations of these structures and should integrate the past and the present in one seamless storytelling. Proposals may even explore the possibility of a tourist trail connecting local landmarks and the nearby cemeteries with the site with pockets of unique experiential spaces.

01

A Cultural anchor triggering balanced neighbourhood development:

Beyond its historical significance, the South Park Street Cemetery can serve as a key cultural hub for the city. Its role as a 'visual landmark', especially when viewed from surrounding high-rises, presents opportunities to integrate heritage into booming real-estate markets around the cemetery. Proposals should explore these connections, establishing meaningful links between the city's past and its future growth.

02

Enhancing environmental sustainability:

Proposals can re-imagine the South Park Street Cemetery along with nearby historic cemeteries, as interconnected green corridors within Kolkata's urban fabric. These spaces can serve as vital ecological buffers, absorbing pollutants, mitigating heat, and enhancing biodiversity. Thus, participants are encouraged to integrate the cemetery network into the city's broader open-space system, linking the Maidan to the East Kolkata Wetlands, and reinforcing its role as a sustainable green lung in a densely populated metropolis.

03

Integration with a broader Tourism plan:

Participants are encouraged to explore ways to connect the South Park Street Cemetery and neighboring burial grounds to Kolkata's larger network of tourism trails and cultural landmarks. Proposals can focus on creating seamless pathways, intuitive signage systems, and interactive digital tools-such as maps, databases, and augmented reality experiences-that enhance accessibility and engagement. The aim is to design pedestrian-friendly amenities and immersive storytelling features that captivate visitors, transforming these heritage spaces into vibrant touch-points within the city's cultural and historical narrative.

04

ELIGIBILITY

The competition is open to:

-**Current Undergraduate students** (pursuing 3rd year and above B.Arch/ B.Plan/ B.Landscape/ B.Des or any other equivalent bachelors degree in design or related fields)

-**Current Postgraduate students** (pursuing Masters in Architecture/ Planning/ Urban Design/ Landscape Architecture/ History theory/ Conservation or any other related design and research fields)

-**Young professionals** who have finished their Bachelor's or Master's degree in 2019 or later.

-Both **individual** and **group entries** (up to 3 members) are welcome from India and abroad. For Group entries, participants are encouraged to form **interdisciplinary teams** and **collaborate across countries** wherever possible to foster better idea exchange and knowledge sharing.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Participants must submit:

-**DESIGN BOARDS: Five A1** panels (**in landscape orientation & PDF format**) presenting the proposal, including the site analysis, multi-scalar interventions, and design and high-level implementation strategy.

-**CONCEPT NOTE:** A maximum **1000-word document** outlining the design concept, strategies, and key interventions. Participants can explore **creative writing** - whether as **a poem, essay,** or **conversation** - to **express their ideas as a story** .

-**DESIGN VIDEO:** An optional **short video** summarizing the **proposal**, featuring **3D visualizations** and **compelling storytelling**.

All the deliverables should be mailed to
auda.ita2324@gmail.com with the **UNIQUE REGISTRATION ID**.

Please note, these are the submission requirements for Stage 1. Once the shortlisting is complete, additional submission guidelines for Stage 2 will be provided to all shortlisted candidates.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

The winning project will be decided on the basis of the ingenuity of the proposed design solutions and the overall completeness of the work. The following criteria will be considered in the assessment of the project,

DESIGN SENSITIVITY
The degree to which the design respects the cemetery's historical integrity while reinventing its role in contemporary city life.

INNOVATION IN BALANCED DEVELOPMENT
Proposals must investigate a range of sustainable uses of such high potential sites and demonstrate how they can best absorb rising urban needs.

## FEASIBILITY, PRACTICALITY AND MULTI-SCALAR APPROACH
Proposals should be practical, with an emphasis on feasible high-level implementation strategies considering the local context. Design interventions should be proposed across different functional and spatial scales, from within the cemetery premises to integrating with adjacent neighborhoods, the other two historic cemeteries and their adjacent communities, and aligning with the broader Kolkata context.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
The extent to which the project enhances the ecological value of the cemetery, contributing to Kolkata's overall **open space structure**.

CULTURAL SENSITIVITY AND PEOPLE-CENTERED APPROACH
Proposals that engage with the local community and respect the cemetery's role as a place of remembrance will be favored.
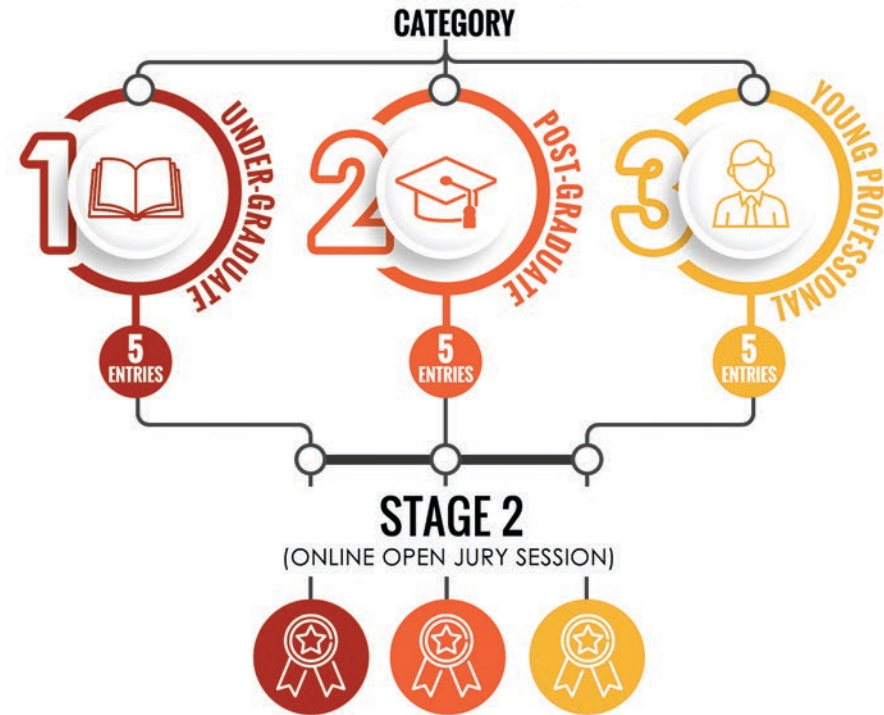
SUBMISSION GUIDELINES
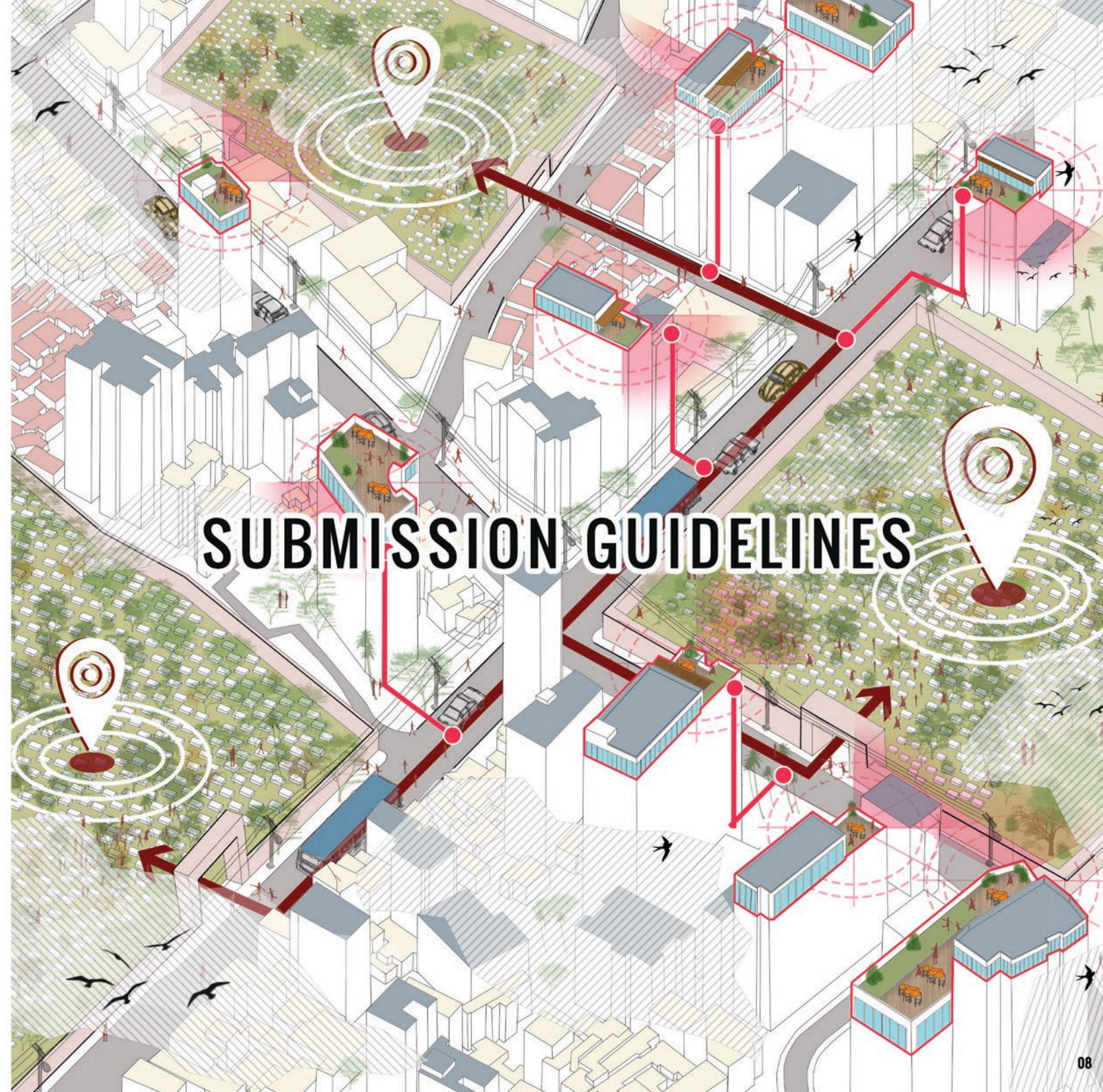
EVALUATION PROCESS

The competition will be conducted in **2 STAGES** across **3 CATEGORIES**

STAGE 1

A preliminary evaluation will shortlist the **15 BEST ENTRIES**- 5 from each category based on **CREATIVITY, ORIGINALITY, AND IMPACT.**

CATEGORY

1 UNDER-GRADUATE — 5 ENTRIES

2 POST-GRADUATE — 5 ENTRIES

3 YOUNG PROFESSIONAL — 5 ENTRIES

STAGE 2
(ONLINE OPEN JURY SESSION)

After the **Stage 2 shortlisting** , selected candidates will receive **additional materials** to further develop their proposals over the **course of one month** . The finalists will then present their ideas in an **Online Open Jury Session** , where the esteemed jury panel will evaluate their work. Ultimately, **3 winners -1 from each category**- will be announced as the best entries of the competition.

HOW TO REGISTER

Participants can register Online via the AUDA website at
https://www.audacademy.org/ita24-25

- For **bulk registrations (three or more participating groups) from any university** , special discounts will be offered. To avail this discount, **at least one participant from each group should mail** to auda.lfa2324@gmail.com to receive the **discount code.**

- If any university includes this project as part of their current semester exercise , all students of that batch will be automatically eligible for the competition. A **bulk discount** will be provided, and **a studio faculty member must send a confirmation email** to auda.lfa2324@gmail.com to receive the discount code.

- All registered participants will be provided with a copy of the studies conducted as part of the **"COMMUNITY SENSITISATION & TRAINING PROGRAM FOR THE CONSERVATION OF HISTORIC CEMETERIES IN KOLKATA,"** organized by **NSDA** in collaboration with the **COMMONWEALTH HERITAGE FORUM, BACSA**, and the **CHRISTIAN BURIAL GROUND.**

JURORS

JAGAN SHAH
Senior Expert,
Urban Development Policy & Practice

KT RAVINDRAN
Senior Expert and Professor,
Urban Design and City Planning

LIANE BAUER
Co-Director,
The Architecture Fringe

NEETA DAS
Founder,
Neeta Shubhrajit Das Associates

SARAH NEVILLE
Project Development Consultant,
Commonwealth Heritage Forum

SUNEET MOHINDRU
Founder,
Oracles

VICTORIA HELLEWELL
Training and Skills Consultant,
Commonwealth Heritage Forum

YATIN PANDYA
Founder,
Footprints E.A.R.T.H

AWARDS

A total of **3 ENTRIES** will be adjudicated as the **WINNING ENTRIES**,
1 from Under-Graduate, 1 from Post-Graduate and 1 from the Young Professionals' pool.

PRIZE MONEY

For UG & PG categories
Each best entry will get
Rs.20,000.00

For Young Professional category,
Best entry will get
Rs.30,000.00

CERTIFICATES

Winning certificates will be issued by
**AUDA,
COMMONWEALTH HERITAGE FORUM,
BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR
CEMETERIES IN SOUTH ASIA,
CHRISTIAN BURIAL BOARD &
NEETA SHUBHRAJIT DAS ASSOCIATES.**

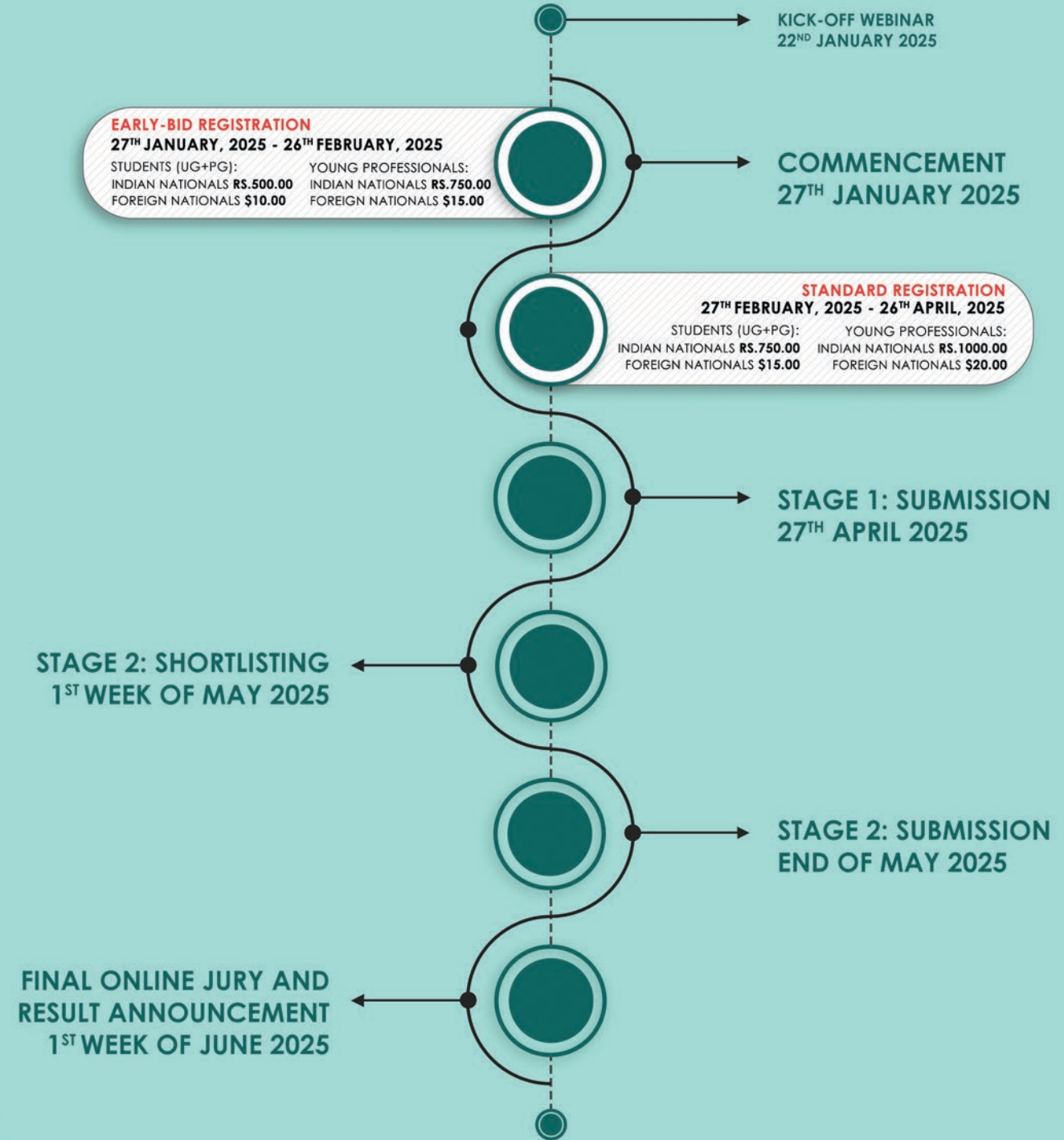## FREE COURSES

2 free **AUDA COURSES**
can be availed in 2025

PUBLICATIONS

Publication in the reputed
LA JOURNAL

OUTREACH

Showcasing proposals on
AUDA WEBSITE & **INSTAGRAM PAGE**

AUDA will award certificates to all Stage 2 shortlisted candidates as a recognition of their achievement.
Furthermore, summaries of these shortlisted entries will be featured in the final article to be published in LA Journal.

TIMELINE

KICK-OFF WEBINAR
22ND JANUARY 2025

EARLY-BID REGISTRATION
27TH JANUARY, 2025 - 26TH FEBRUARY, 2025
STUDENTS (UG+PG):   YOUNG PROFESSIONALS:
INDIAN NATIONALS **RS.500.00**   INDIAN NATIONALS **RS.750.00**
FOREIGN NATIONALS **$10.00**   FOREIGN NATIONALS **$15.00**

COMMENCEMENT
27TH JANUARY 2025

STANDARD REGISTRATION
27TH FEBRUARY, 2025 - 26TH APRIL, 2025
STUDENTS (UG+PG):   YOUNG PROFESSIONALS:
INDIAN NATIONALS **RS.750.00**   INDIAN NATIONALS **RS.1000.00**
FOREIGN NATIONALS **$15.00**   FOREIGN NATIONALS **$20.00**

STAGE 1: SUBMISSION
27TH APRIL 2025

STAGE 2: SHORTLISTING
1ST WEEK OF MAY 2025

STAGE 2: SUBMISSION
END OF MAY 2025

**FINAL ONLINE JURY AND
RESULT ANNOUNCEMENT**
1ST WEEK OF JUNE 2025

COMMONWEALTH HERITAGE SKILLS TRAINING PROGRAMME

QUEEN ELIZABETH II PLATINUM JUBILEE

2.0 ITA

IMAGINING TIMELESS PLACES

FOR ANY QUERIES:
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ORGANIZERS

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BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR CEMETERIES IN SOUTH ASIA

landscape

SUPPORTER

Dronah FOUNDATION
Development and Research Organisation for Nature, Arts and Heritage