



RENEWABLE ENERGY ACADEMIC TEAM CHALLENGE 2026

Submission Guide for Institutes

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India, is organising the Bharat Renewable Energy Summit & Expo (BRE Summit) 2026 from 2nd to 5th November 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. The Summit is being organised alongside the 9th Session of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Assembly and the International Conference on Green Hydrogen (ICGH), bringing together policymakers, industry leaders, investors, researchers, innovators, technology providers and other stakeholders from across the global renewable energy ecosystem.

This competition seeks to identify and support research teams from leading institutes with demonstrated prototypes or validated research that can address pressing renewable energy challenges.

Who should apply?

We invite research groups, labs, and student teams from premier Indian institutes (IITs, IISc, IISERs, NITs, central research labs, and equivalent) that have an existing prototype, demonstrator, or validated experimental results in any renewable energy area (solar, wind, storage, grid integration, hydrogen, bioenergy, energy efficiency, smart controls, microgrids, AI in RE, Small Hydro, etc.).

Submission requirements (what to include)

- Single PDF (max 5 pages) or a shared drive folder link with clearly labelled files. All sections below must be present.
- Project Snapshot: Project title (short), one-sentence summary, institution, research group/lab name, and core team members (students + faculty PI).
- Proof of Work: A demo video (≤ 3 minutes) OR live demo link showing the prototype in operation; supporting data or short test results (figures/tables) that demonstrate current performance.
- Technical Summary (max 300 words): Clear description of the system, key technologies, TRL/stage (simulation, lab prototype, field test), and experimental/quantitative results.
- Problem & Impact (max 200 words): Which problem the work addresses, target application or beneficiary, and evidence of relevance (experimental validation, pilot, partner interest, or literature gap).
- Innovation & IP status: Brief note on novelty (scientific/technical contribution) and IP status (patent filed, published paper, or open research).
- Research Roadmap & Feasibility: Short plan for next 6 months and whether the core team and lab facilities are available to iterate work within the competition timeline.
- Industry Collaboration: Institutes may submit a detailed note describing any industry collaboration explored to date for this work, or any industry recognition received for the work done.
- **Optional: Supporting publications, letters of support from faculty or industry partner, and any safety/installation constraints for exhibiting the prototype at the Summit.**





Submission logistics

- **Deadline for submissions: October 5, 2026**
- Submission channel: (email: reinvest.mnre@gov.in. Use the subject line: BRE Summit – Competition Submission – (Institution) – (Project Title).
- Format: Single shared folder link with labelled items. Demo video must be accessible without special login.
- Safety & logistics: If the prototype requires special installation, list required utilities (power, gas, ventilation) and any safety certifications or support needs in your submission.

Selection process and timeline

The internal BRE Summit committee will evaluate all submissions and shortlist candidates in two stages:

1. **Stage 1 - Shortlist Top 50:** The committee will review all submissions and select the Top 50 based on the scoring rubric below. Selected teams will be notified within one week after the submission deadline.
2. **Stage 2 - Select Top 15 for Expo:** From the Top 50, the committee will evaluate feasibility for a 10 - 14 day sprint and select Top 15 teams who will be invited to exhibit at the BRE Summit. The Top 15 will receive the competition Problem Statement 14 days prior to the Summit.
3. Onsite event sequence: **Day 2 (3rd November 2026)** – Teams present their submitted work and explore the exhibition to identify elements they will incorporate; **Day 3 (4th November 2026)** – Final presentation to the jury that combines their submitted work and solutions developed in response to the Problem Statement.

Scoring dimensions (Top 50 selection)

Each submission will be scored by the committee using the table below. Scores will be aggregated to determine the Top 50.

Dimension	What We Will Assess	Weight
Industry Relevance & Collaboration	Evidence of industry engagement, including collaborations explored, MoUs, industry mentorship, recognition/awards, and alignment with real-world market or deployment needs	25%
Prototype Stage & Readiness	Maturity of the solution, from simulation/lab-scale prototype to field-tested pilot or deployment-ready solution; demonstrated functionality under realistic conditions	25%
Scalability & Deployment Feasibility	Potential for real-world scale-up; cost-effectiveness; and ease of integration with existing systems or infrastructure	25%
Sustainability & Resource Efficiency	Resource efficiency, environmental footprint, and alignment with circular-economy and clean-energy goals	15%
Team Capability & Mentorship	Strength of the team, faculty mentorship, institutional support, and clarity of the development roadmap	10%

Notes: The committee will use objective scoring rubrics for each dimension (for example 0–10 per dimension) and average reviewer scores. To promote diversity, the committee may apply selection caps per institute where required.



Top 15 - problem statement, on-site requirements, and judging

- Problem Statement release: The Top 15 will receive a new Problem Statement **14 days before the Summit**. This problem will be aligned to BRE thematic priorities and designed to be addressable within the 10–14 day sprint window.
- **Day 2 presentation (existing work):** 10-minute presentation + 5-minute Q&A. Must cover problem statement, technical approach, results to date, TRL, industry relevance, and immediate next steps.
- Exhibition exploration: After Day 2 presentations, teams spend the remainder of Day 2 exploring the exhibition to identify components, partnerships, or constraints they will incorporate into their 14-day solution.
- **Day 3 presentation (14-day solution):** 10-minute presentation + 5-minute Q&A. Must explicitly include one slide titled “Exhibition Insight” showing what was taken from the exhibition and how it changed or improved the solution.
- Final assessment: The jury will evaluate both presentations and award ranking/prizes based on combined merit across Day 2 and Day 3 using the scoring dimensions above.
- Judging criteria for final selection: The jury will evaluate (a) Technical quality and robustness of the combined solution, (b) Degree and quality of integration of Expo insights into the solution, (c) Feasibility for real-world deployment/pilot, and (d) Scalability potential.

Awards, follow-up and expectations

All Top 15 teams must commit to attending the Summit (both Day 2 and Day 3) and to a short post-Summit follow-up (virtual progress update) if selected for post-event support.

Contact & important notes

- Ensure demo videos are accessible and any installation needs are declared during submission to allow the Summit team to plan utilities and safety support.
- The committee's decisions are final. The committee will communicate shortlists and next steps with sufficient notice to invited teams.
- All Top 50 teams will be given free entry to the BRE Summit & Expo 2026. However, only the Top 15 will proceed to Round 2 for the presentation. Prize money will be awarded to all Top 50 teams; the Top 15 will, in addition, make a presentation followed by further rewards.
- The entire logistics for the event- stay, travel, and local travel from the institute to the BRE Summit venue are to be arranged and borne directly by the institute. However, entry to the BRE Summit will be arranged by the organizers.
- Any expense incurred towards the development of the prototype, or otherwise, has to be borne by the college/institute itself. No expense will be borne by MNRE or the organizers.
- We look forward to receiving your submissions and to showcasing India’s top renewable energy research at the Bharat Renewable Energy Summit.

