NATIONAL DESIGNER AWARDS / 2025 REFERENCE

Creativity. Craftsmanship. Recognition.

Curated reference guide | Season 8 / 2025

This guide summarises the supplied 2025 guidelines and preserves its award names. It is an archive reference, not a current-edition prospectus. WDF must confirm dates, venue, fees, selection procedures and submission terms in writing before participation or payment.

Who the awards recognise

The National Designer Awards recognise creativity, innovation and craftsmanship in fashion, bringing together upcoming, emerging, established and institute designers.

Experience bands in the 2025 source

Upcoming Designer - 0–3 years

Emerging Designer - 4–8 years

Established Designer - 9+ years

Institute Designer - Any Indian institute

Four design families

Western | Indo-Western | Ethnic | Non-Wearable. The supplied document lists 25 category entries in each family (100 total).

Additional titles

Designer of the Year — Upcoming

Designer of the Year — Emerging

Designer of the Year — Established

How to enquire

Use the application enquiry form on the WDF website or contact business@worlddesigningforum.com, 022-69646422, or WhatsApp +91 9355702750. Website enquiries do not confirm selection, reserve a place or create a payment obligation.

SUBMISSION & EVALUATION

Prepare your design story.

Themes

Sustainable Fashion - Eco-friendly materials and sustainable practices.

Reviving Indian Textiles - Contemporary interpretations of hand-spun and handwoven fabrics such as Chanderi, Banarasi and Ikat.

Nature’s Palette - Inspiration from India’s flora and fauna, natural dyes and eco-friendly materials.

Timeless Basics - Everyday garments reimagined with an original design perspective.

Portfolio materials

Theme, concept or inspiration description; Garment sketches; Storyboard; Mood board; Collection and outfit plan, if showcasing.

Different submission routes in the source

Showcase route (page 5): five outfits; one design family; collection concept, mood board and storyboard at least 45 days before the event, submitted to the assigned relationship manager.

Nomination route (pages 12-14): two garment sketches, storyboard and mood board within four days of application. Page 12 permits any theme and nomination in any two categories. The source describes an email within 48 hours of submission.

The routes differ. Obtain written confirmation of the route, category allowance and deadlines that apply to you.

Judging criteria

Creativity - Originality and creative expression.

Innovation - Innovative techniques and concepts.

Technical Skill - Craftsmanship and technical execution.

Research & Analysis - Research, visual impact and concept development.

Styling - Overall styling, stage presence and concept justification.

FEES, RIGHTS & IMPORTANT CLARIFICATIONS

Know your participation terms.

Historical fees - not a current quotation

Page 14 lists ₹65,000 + GST after selection. Page 16 lists ₹64,999 + GST for an individual-designer package. The application fee amount is not specified. These references are inconsistent. Do not make payment against this archive; obtain a current written quotation and participation agreement.

Package described on page 16

Jury Round & QA; 5 Garments Showcasing and NDA 2025 Nomination; Models, Makeup, Choreography; Award Ceremony; Label Branding; Portfolio; Member of WDF with certification; Exclusive Place in WDF APP; Free Online Training Sessions and certificate.

These are historical inclusions and are not promised for the next edition. Third-party media placement, employment, commercial outcomes and awards are not guaranteed.

Late submissions and refunds

The nomination section states that missing the deadline may lead to disqualification and a non-refundable application fee. Confirm the actual fee, deadlines, cancellation and refund terms before any commitment.

Design rights and confidentiality

Designers retain intellectual property rights to their designs; the 2025 terms grant organisers promotional use of images and descriptions.

The 2025 guidelines state that sketches, illustrations and mood-board details will not be shared without the designer’s acknowledgment.

Submit only work you own or are authorised to use. Final promotional consent and permitted use should be defined in the participation agreement.

Copyright notice

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Source and editorial scope

Source: NDA 2025_Guidlines_com (1).pdf supplied by WDF, especially pages 5, 12-14 and 16. This curated guide does not reproduce unrelated organisations, promotional guarantees or obsolete event claims. The following pages preserve category spelling and family assignments; one category name appears in two families.

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Western Award Categories

25 category entries | Names preserved from the supplied guidelines

01	BEST WESTERN DRESS OF THE YEAR AWARD
02	ECO-FRIENDLY STREETWEAR AWARD
03	BEST OUTERWEAR DESIGN AWARD
04	MINIMALIST STYLE AWARD
05	BEST BASIC WESTERN WEAR AWARD
06	BEST USE OF ORGANIC FABRICS AWARD
07	UPCYCLED FASHION AWARD
08	BEST ATHLEISURE/SPORT DESIGN AWARD
09	NATURE-INSPIRED DESIGN AWARD
10	BEST CASUAL WEAR AWARD
11	BEST COLOR COMBINATION AWARD
12	BEST SUSTAINABLE FABRIC AWARD
13	BEST LAYERED LOOK AWARD
14	CREATIVE TEXTILE USE AWARD
15	BEST RECYCLED MATERIALS USE AWARD
16	BEST STATEMENT PIECE OF THE YEAR AWARD
17	BEST CO-ORD SET OF THE YEAR AWARD
18	BEST INNOVATION IN WESTERN FASHION AWARD
19	BEST SUSTAINABLE BRAND OF THE YEAR AWARD
20	BEST SEASONAL COLLECTION BRAND AWARD
21	BEST BRAND STORY OF THE YEAR AWARD
22	BEST NATURAL DYE USE AWARD
23	BEST INNOVATIVE DESIGN AWARD
24	MOST IMPACTFUL BRAND OF THE YEAR AWARD
25	RISING DESIGNER IN WESTERN FASHION AWARD

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Indo-Western Award Categories

25 category entries | Names preserved from the supplied guidelines

01	BEST FUSION WEAR AWARD
02	ECO-FRIENDLY INDO-WESTERN OUTFIT AWARD
03	BEST INDO WESTERN DESIGN AWARD
04	MODERN INNOVATIVE SAREE AWARD
05	BEST TRADITIONAL EMBROIDERY USE AWARD
06	BEST INDO CO-ORD STYLE AWARD
07	BEST LAYERED FUSION LOOK AWARD
08	NATURE-INSPIRED FUSION FASHION AWARD
09	BEST USE OF HANDLOOM AWARD
10	BEST ECO-FRIENDLY INDO-WESTERN DRESS AWARD
11	BEST ETHNIC DRESS OF THE YEAR AWARD
12	CREATIVE TRADITIONAL PRINTS AWARD
13	BEST CRAFT COLLABORATION AWARD
14	BEST HERITAGE DESIGN AWARD
15	BEST VERSATILE FUSION BASICS AWARD
16	BEST MULTI-FUNCTIONAL OUTFIT AWARD
17	UPCYCLED INDO-WESTERN DESIGN AWARD
18	BEST TEXTILE BLENDING AWARD
19	BEST SEASONAL FUSION WEAR AWARD
20	BEST DESIGN PATTERN OF THE YEAR AWARD
21	BEST CELEBRATION OF TEXTILES AWARD
22	BEST CONTEMPORARY ETHNIC WEAR AWARD
23	RISING DESIGNER IN INDO-WESTERN FASHION AWARD
24	BEST NATURE-INSPIRED PRINTS AWARD
25	BEST INNOVATIVE FUSION CONCEPT AWARD

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Ethnic Award Categories

25 category entries | Names preserved from the supplied guidelines

01	BEST ETHNIC DESIGN OF THE YEAR AWARD
02	BEST HANDLOOM DESIGN OF THE YEAR AWARD
03	BEST SUSTAINABLE ETHNIC DESIGN OF THE YEAR AWARD
04	BEST NATURAL DYE USE IN ETHNIC WEAR AWARD
05	ECO-FRIENDLY ETHNIC DESIGN AWARD
06	BEST HANDICRAFT REVIVAL AWARD
07	BEST SUSTAINABLE LEHENGA AWARD
08	BEST ETHNIC SAREE OF THE YEAR AWARD
09	BEST MODERN SHERWANI AWARD
10	CREATIVE USE OF TRADITIONAL FABRICS AWARD
11	BEST BRIDAL DESIGN OF THE YEAR AWARD
12	BEST ETHNIC DRESS OF THE YEAR AWARD
13	BEST HANDWOVEN FABRIC OUTFIT AWARD
14	BEST HERITAGE CRAFT DESIGN AWARD
15	BEST REIMAGINED ETHNIC DRESS AWARD
16	BEST NATURE-INSPIRED ETHNIC PRINT AWARD
17	BEST WEAVING TECHNIQUES AWARD
18	UPCYCLED ETHNIC WEAR AWARD
19	BEST CULTURAL NARRATIVE AWARD
20	BEST FESTIVE WEAR AWARD
21	BEST USE OF EMBELLISHMENTS AWARD
22	BEST SEASONAL ETHNIC DESIGN AWARD
23	BEST CULTURAL FUSION AWARD
24	RISING DESIGNER IN ETHNIC WEAR AWARD
25	BEST CREATIVE BASICS REDESIGN AWARD

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Non-Wearable Award Categories

25 category entries | Names preserved from the supplied guidelines

01	BEST FASHION INSTALLATION AWARD
02	BEST TEXTILE ART DESIGN AWARD
03	BEST ABSTRACT APPAREL AWARD
04	BEST ILLUSION WEAR DESIGN AWARD
05	BEST PHANTOM COUTURE AWARD
06	BEST AVANT-GARDE DESIGN OF THE YEAR AWARD
07	BEST UPCYCLING PROJECT AWARD
08	EXCELLENCE IN INNOVATION AWARD
09	BEST INTERACTIVE DESIGN AWARD
10	BEST INNOVATIVE TEXTILE USE AWARD
11	BEST STORYTELLING THROUGH DESIGN AWARD
12	BEST USE OF LOCAL CRAFT AWARD
13	BEST ENGAGING CONCEPT AWARD
14	BEST ARTISTIC EXPRESSION IN FASHION AWARD
15	BEST NATURE REPRESENTATION IN DESIGN AWARD
16	BEST DESIGN FOR SOCIAL CHANGE AWARD
17	BEST TEXTILE INNOVATION AWARD
18	BEST INNOVATIVE-INSPIRED DESIGN
19	BEST EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN AWARD
20	BEST CROSS-CULTURAL DESIGN AWARD
21	BEST CONCEPTUAL FASHION DESIGN AWARD
22	BEST SUSTAINABLE FASHION INITIATIVE AWARD
23	BEST VISIONARY DESIGN AWARD
24	BEST OVERALL DESIGN CONCEPT AWARD
25	BEST DESIGNER COLLECTIVES AWARD