

NATIONAL ANVESHIKA EXPERIMENTAL SKILL TEST

INFORMATION BROCHURE- NAEST 2026

NATIONAL ANVESHIKA NETWORK OF INDIA (NANI) , a unit of INDIAN ASSOCIATION OF PHYSICS TEACHERS(IAPT), in collaboration with SHIKSHA SOPAN, conducts this unique experimental skill test in physics annually, under the leadership of Dr. H. C. Verma (the eminent Physicist and recipient of the Padma Shri award 2020), with the help of its network of 28 Anveshikas all over India.



Eligibility

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ELIGIBILITY

The test is conducted in two categories:

Junior: Students enrolled or going to be enrolled in any class 9/10/11/12 for the academic session of 2026-2027, under any Indian educational board.

Students enrolled in class 12 as on January 1, 2026, are also eligible in the Junior category.

THE VARIOUS ROUNDS

PRIZES

Senior: Students enrolled in B.Sc/M.Sc for the academic session of 2026-2027, in any affiliated Colleges/ Universities of India.

TIMELINES

Students enrolled in B.Sc final year or M.Sc final year as on January 1, 2026, are also eligible in the Senior category.

NAEST national toppers of previous years will not be eligible.

THE VARIOUS ROUNDS OF NAEST

The first round: SCREENING (ONLINE)

A video-based round consisting of short one-minute type videos based on some observations in our day-to-day life or in the labs. Multiple choice questions having one or more correct answers will be framed on the basis of the videos. The questions aim to test some concepts of physics. Time duration of the test will be 90 minutes.

The second round: PRELIMS(ONLINE)

Students will receive write ups of three experiments in consecutive weeks, once this round begins. They have to perform these experiments at home. They are required to make and send a report for each experiment within a week which includes their observations, analysis and videos.

These experiments are designed to be performed using available household materials. Innovation required in designing the setups of these experiments tests the skills of the student.

Channels of entry to the Prelim round

1. **Screening round cutoff:** Students shortlisted from the screening round on the basis of their performance. Policy for representation from various Anveshikas will be as decided by the NAEST committee.
2. **LEPTON Programs:** Toppers of the LEPTON program as per policy.
3. **Large institutional enrollment:** If more than 50 students of the same institution appear for screening, the top scorer of that institution will have an ensured entry in the prelim round.

Verification of eligibility is through Institution IDs/ marksheets. If a student is found ineligible at any stage of the competition, he/she will not proceed further.

LEPTON ((Learning physics through nature)

LEPTON is an offline experiment-based program conducted by the Anveshikas in the various institutions of their regions. It includes video-based quizzes designed to test students' physics concepts. Top performers in LEPTON are eligible for directly participating in the online Prelim round of NAEST 2026 as per the LEPTON norms.

Evaluation process in Prelim round

For the evaluation of the reports, the students are grouped into various centres. There is a centre-wise evaluation of the reports independently at each centre. An online interview of first three toppers of each centre will also be held. Two centre toppers will be selected for the semifinal round from each centre. Due to some reason if either of the two toppers is unable to participate, the same opportunity will be extended to the next highest scorer.

Regional prizes at each centre of Prelims round are given as a token of appreciation

First: Rs. 1,000

Second: Rs. 750

Third: Rs. 500

A unique opportunity:

Semifinal and the final rounds

These rounds are conducted in person in Kanpur under the direct guidance of Dr. H. C. Verma. In the semifinal round, the students have to perform three new experiments on the set-ups which are made in the divine premises of Sopan Ashram. Students who qualify in the Semifinal round go into the Final round to work on new experimental set-ups. The National winners in each category are declared on the basis of their performance.

Depending on the enrollment, the number of winners can be changed.





National level prizes

IAPT-Shilpa Nandakumar Memorial Award

Junior Category:

First: Rs. 5,000

Second: Rs. 3,000

Third: Rs. 2,000

Senior Category:

First: Rs. 5,000

Second: Rs. 3,000

Third: Rs. 2,000

Shiksha Sopan Award

(sponsored by Pragati foundation)

Junior Category:

First: Rs. 10,000

Second: Rs. 5,000

Third: Rs. 2,500

Senior Category:

First: Rs. 20,000

Second: Rs. 10,000

Third: Rs. 5,000

Scholarships for school students by Shiksha Sopan (sponsored by Pragati foundation)

- *Scholarships of Rs. 50,000 per year will be available for four consecutive years. This can be availed by all the top three winners in the Junior category (class 9 - 12) for their higher studies.*
- *Scholarship amount can be raised up to Rs. 80,000 per year based on the adjudged economic condition of the student.*
- *The National winners will be felicitated at the National convention of IAPT*
- *Participation/excellence certificates will be issued at various levels of the competition. In addition, certificates will be issued for individual experiment toppers of each centre in the prelim round.*

How can you participate in NAEEST?

- Visit the site naest.shiksha-sopan.org to register
- Appear for the screening test on the scheduled date

The timeline for NAEEST 2026 is as follows:

- *Registration begins on April 1, 2026, and will be open till the third week of May 2026*
- *Screening round: Early June 2026*
- *Prelim round: July 2026*
- *Semifinal and Final rounds: September 2026*

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