



## Peer-Review Statements

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All of the articles in this proceedings volume have been presented at the *International Seminar on Designing the Future (ISDF 2026)* during *18th to 20th March, 2026* in *New Delhi*. These articles have been peer reviewed by the members of the *Academic Advisory Committee* and approved by the Editor-in-Chief, who affirms that this document is a truthful description of the conference's review process.

### 1. REVIEW PROCEDURE

The reviews were *double-blind*. Each submission was examined by *at least 2* reviewer(s) independently.

The submissions were first screened for generic quality and suitability to the conference themes. After the initial screening, they were sent for peer review by matching each paper's topic with the reviewers' expertise, taking into account any competing interests. A paper could only be considered for acceptance if it had received favourable recommendations from the two reviewers.

Authors of a rejected submission were given the opportunity to revise and resubmit after addressing the reviewers' comments. The acceptance or rejection of a revised manuscript was final.

### 2. QUALITY CRITERIA

Reviewers were instructed to assess the quality of submissions solely based on the academic merit of their content along the following dimensions:

1. Pertinence of the article's content to the scope and themes of the conference;
2. Clear demonstration of originality, novelty, and timeliness of the research;
3. Soundness of the methods, analyses, and results;
4. Adherence to the ethical standards and codes of conduct relevant to the research field;
5. Clarity, cohesion, and accuracy in language and other modes of expression, including figures and tables.

In addition, all of the articles have been checked for textual overlap in an effort to detect possible signs of plagiarism by the publisher.

### 3. KEY METRICS

|                                                |        |
|------------------------------------------------|--------|
| <i>Total submissions</i>                       | 55     |
| <i>Number of articles sent for peer review</i> | 33     |
| <i>Number of accepted articles</i>             | 11     |
| <i>Acceptance rate</i>                         | 33.33% |
| <i>Number of reviewers</i>                     | 14     |

### 4. COMPETING INTERESTS

One of the authors, Pradeep Kaur, was supervised by the Editor-in-Chief, who has recused himself from handling her submissions and has delegated them to colleagues with no personal interests in them.

The conference was funded by the Department of Youth Affairs, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Govt. of India that did not participate in the research submitted to the conference.

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