STEMcult - Grand Finale Challenge

STEM + Culture + Digital Innovation: Problem Statement only for STEMcult 2026 Zonal winners.

Your Grand Finale Challenge

Your challenge is to **improvise and elevate the cultural performance presented during the Zonal Round**, making it more engaging, meaningful and strongly integrated with STEM concepts.

Your performance must retain the same theme and core idea selected and presented during the Zonal Round. You may enhance the storytelling, artistic expression, scientific explanation and presentation, but you must not change your selected theme.

Official Themes

Theme 1: Science in Our Tradition - *Discover the Science Behind India's Rich Heritage*

Explore the scientific principles, engineering techniques, mathematical concepts and technological knowledge embedded in India's traditions, art, architecture, festivals, practices and heritage.

Theme 2: AI in Innovation - *Explore the Power of Artificial Intelligence*

Showcase how Artificial Intelligence is transforming our lives, shaping industries, solving problems and creating new possibilities for the future.

Theme 3: Future of STEM in India - *Imagine Tomorrow, Inspire the Nation*

Present your vision of India's future through science, technology, engineering and mathematics, highlighting innovations that can contribute to a developed and sustainable nation.

Your Special Grand Finale Task: Create a Digital Backdrop!

As part of the Grand Finale, **every team must design and create an original Digital Backdrop** that visually represents its selected theme and complements the live cultural performance.

The digital backdrop will be displayed during your live performance and should be an integral part of your presentation, not merely a decorative background.

You can use:

- Animations and motion graphics.
- Digital illustrations and creative visual effects.
- Visual storytelling and thematic scenes.
- AI-generated or digitally created visuals.
- Scientific diagrams, models and infographics.
- Other creative digital elements that enhance the performance.

Important: The digital backdrop should be meaningfully connected to your performance, its message and the selected theme. It should support the storytelling and help the audience understand the STEM concepts being presented.

Note: The size of the stage is 21 feet by 7 feet

What Do We Expect from You?

Your Grand Finale performance should demonstrate how **Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, Creativity and Cultural Expression** can come together to communicate a powerful message.

Focus on the following:

1. **Stronger STEM Integration:** Make the scientific or technological concepts in your performance clearer, more meaningful and accurate.
2. **Creative Cultural Expression:** Use dance, music, drama, storytelling, poetry, art or any other cultural format to communicate your idea.
3. **Digital Innovation:** Create an original digital backdrop that enhances the audience's experience and strengthens your message.
4. **Clear Communication:** Ensure that the audience understands the central idea, its connection with STEM and the message you want to convey.
5. **Real-World Relevance:** Show how your idea connects with real-life applications, society, India's progress or future possibilities.

Remember: This is not just a cultural performance. It is an opportunity to demonstrate how culture, STEM and digital creativity can come together to inspire, educate and innovate!

STEMcult 2026 – Grand Finale Evaluation Rubrics

S. No.	Judging Parameters	Rubrics	Total Marks
1	**Theme Relevance**	• Performance aligns with the selected official theme — **10** • Communicates the theme's central idea or essence — **10**	**20**
2	**Concept Clarity & Scientific Accuracy**	• Central idea, purpose, and intended message are clear — **6** • Scientific concepts and explanations are correct — **8** • Information presented through the performance and digital content supports the concept — **6**	**20**
3	**STEM Integration**	• **Digital backdrop:** STEM ideas are represented clearly and meaningfully, and support the theme or concept — **10** • **Live performance:** STEM ideas are demonstrated or explained clearly and accurately — **10**	**20**
4	**Creativity & Originality**	• Shows original thinking and ideas — **4** • Uses innovative approaches in the performance — **3** • Uses engaging storytelling or digital presentation — **3**	**10**
5	**Cultural Expression, Artistic Quality & Stage Presence**	• Shows quality and skill in the chosen performance form, such as dance, drama, music, or storytelling — **5** • Uses the stage, space, props, costumes, or media effectively, as appropriate to the performance — **10** • Represents cultural elements thoughtfully and respectfully, where relevant, while creating an expressive and engaging experience for the audience — **5**	**20**
6	**Teamwork, Coordination & Technical Execution**	• Shows participation and coordination among team members — **5** • Uses digital backgrounds and other technical elements effectively — **5**	**10**
	TOTAL MARKS		**100**