

F. No. IS-01005/3/2023-ISLRTC-D/ 5191
Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre
Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment

Module No. 403-406, Fourth Floor,
NSIC Business Park,
Okhla Industrial Estate
New Delhi - 110020
Dated: 20/03/2026


Minutes of Meeting

Subject: 14th Minutes of Meeting of General Council of Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC), New Delhi, held through hybrid mode on 2nd Feb, 2026.

14th Meeting of General Council of Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC), New Delhi, was held through hybrid mode on 2nd Feb, 2026 at 10:00 AM under the Chairpersonship of Ms. V. Vidyavathi, Secretary, DEPwD and President, General Council of ISLRTC.

2. A copy of the duly approved minutes of the meeting is forwarded herewith for information and necessary action of all concerned.

Encl: As Stated


(Kumar Raju)
Director

To,

- 1) Joint Secretary & FA, M/o Social Justice and Empowerment, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110001.
- 2) Ms. A Srija, Economic Advisor, Department of School Education and Literacy, Room No. 107-D Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
- 3) Sh. Ajay Tewari, JS & Director General of Labour Welfare, Ministry of Labour and Employment, Jaisalmer House. CISF, New Delhi, Delhi- 110001
- 4) Sh. Vishal Chauhan, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi.
- 5) Sh. Mrutyunjay Behera, Economic Advisor (HE), Dept of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, 109-C, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
- 6) Prof. M. Pushpavathi, Director, All India Institute of Speech & Hearing (AIISH), Mysuru, Karnataka- 570006
- 7) Dr. Suman Kumar, Director, Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for Speech and Hearing Disabilities (Divyangjan) AYJNISHD, Mumbai
- 8) Sh. K. Murali, Director, Deaf Leaders Foundation, Coimbatore-641025.
- 9) Sh. Zorin Singha, President, NAD, Mayur Vihar, Phase-I, Delhi-110091.
- 10) Shri Sandeep T.K.M. President, Deaf Enabled Foundation, Domalguda, Hyderabad
- 11) Executive Director, National Institute of Speech & Hearing, Sreekrayam P.O. Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
- 12) Smt. Usha Punjabi, Superintendent, MBS, Indore.
- 13) Shri Umesh Grover, President, Deaf Welfare Association, Dehradun (Uttarakhand)

Copy to:-

- 1) PPS to Secretary, DEPwD, Govt. of India
- 2) PPS to AS (MKN), DEPwD, Govt. of India
- 3) Deputy Director, ISLRTC

Minutes of the 14th Meeting of the General Council of Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC), New Delhi held through Hybrid mode on 02nd February, 2026 at 10:00 A.M.

The 14th Meeting of the General Council of ISLRTC, New Delhi was held through Hybrid mode on 02nd February, 2026 at 10:00 A.M. under the Chairpersonship of Ms. V. Vidyavathi, Secretary, DEPwD and President, General Council, ISLRTC. The list of participants is at Annexure-I.

At the outset, with the permission of the Chair, Sh. Kumar Raju, Director, ISLRTC introduced himself and welcomed all other Members/participants, thereafter, agenda items were discussed and considered.

Item No.14.1

Confirmation of the minutes of 13th meeting of GC held on 28th November, 2024.

Minutes of 13th General Council meeting held virtually on 28th Nov, 2024 and the minutes circulated vide mail dated 05th Dec, 2024 was considered by the GC and confirmed.

Item No.14.2

Action Taken Report on minutes of 13th GC held on 28th Nov, 2024

<u>13.3</u>	Modification of Recruitment Rule of the post of “Assistant Professor”
	Resolution: The Council considered and approved the Modification in Maximum age limit for the selection of Assistant Professor (Sign Linguistics, Educational Interpreting and Deaf Studies) from 40 to 45 years of Recruitment Rule of the post of “Assistant Professor”(Interpreting) and asked the Centre to send it to Department for getting approval from Competent Authority.
	Action Taken: The Centre sent a letter to DEPwD on 13 th December 2024 and reminder letter sent on 1 st Jan 2026. The Council noted the action taken by the Centre.
<u>13.4</u>	Budget for the FY 2024-25. The Council considered and approved the proposed budget of the Centre for FY 2025-26: Salaries Head - 350 Lakh General Head 668 Lakh Creation of Capital Asset 30 Lakh

	Total 1048 Lakh
	<p>Action Taken: BE for the Centre for F.Y. 2025-26 of Rs. 1048 Lakh was forwarded to Department against which the Notional Allocation for the F.Y. 2025-26 was Rs.628.78 lakh. Till date an amount of Rs. 551.52 Lakh has been received by the Centre and an amount of Rs. 77.26 Lakh is yet to be received as per Notional Allocation. The expenditure incurred by the Centre as on 20th Jan, 2026 are as follows:</p> <p>Salaries Head - 195.77 Lakh General Head – 338.73 Lakh Creation of Capital Asset –3.74 Lakh Total – 538.24 Lakh</p>
	The Council noted the action taken by the Centre.
13.5	<p>Annual Report and Annual Accounts for the FY 2023-24.</p> <p>The Council approved the Annual Report and audited Annual Accounts for the FY 2023-24 and directed that henceforth Annual Report of the ISLRTC may be converted into ISL and the QR code should be added in the printed report.</p>
	<p>Action Taken: Annual Report of the ISLRTC for the FY 2023-24 was translated into ISL and the QR code has also been added in the printed report.</p>
	The Council noted the action taken by the Centre.
	Additional Points of 13th GC Meeting
1.	<p>The Council decided that henceforth in all EC meeting, the 1st Agenda should be the status on compliance of the decision taken by GC and the agenda for the EC and GC to be got approved by the Chairperson of respective Council, one month in advance and to be circulated to all members 02 weeks in advance before the meeting is scheduled.</p>
	Action Taken: The above direction is being followed.
	The Council noted the action taken by the Centre.
2.	<p>The Council noted that still some of the colleges are not engaging deaf teacher as per the mandate hence RCI be requested to issue circular with instructions that if no deaf teachers is engage as per the mandate the permission to conduct the course will be cancelled.</p>
	Action Taken: The Centre had communicated with RCI and sent a follow-up email on 12.12.2024 accordingly, RCI had issued a circular for the engagement of Deaf teachers. Further, Centre sent a reminder letter dated 21 st Oct, 2025, regarding Non-compliance of engagement of Deaf teachers in RCI approved institutions.
	The Council noted the action taken by the Centre.
3.	<p>The Council decided that to improve the quality education to the deaf and to promote use of Indian Sign Language, the Centre must work on options of community involvement.</p>
	Action Taken: i) ISL Training Programme (14–18 July 2025): Under the DEAF-NP Project, a five-day Indian Sign Language training was conducted with Amar Jyoti School, New Delhi, for parents and family members of Deaf

	<p>children. Forty-four participants learned basic ISL for education, daily life, and family communication, fostering stronger bonds and effective interaction.</p> <p>ii) Purple Fair (10–11 September 2025): The Purple Fair was successfully organized in collaboration with Amity University, Noida, with the participation of 240 attendees.</p> <p>The Council noted the action taken by the Centre.</p>
4.	<p>The Council decided that, to ensure the quality education at the Centre conducting DISLI and DTISL course, the Centre may engage Deaf Experts of Executive Council/General Council and best Organizations to Mentor the institutes in their nearby locality.</p> <p>Action Taken: ISLRTC developed ISL videos for DISLI and DTISL course content with the support of General Council/Executive Council members, Deaf experts, National Institutes (NIs), and CRCs, which were launched on ISL Day, 23rd September 2025.</p> <p>A National Committee on Indian Sign Language (ISL) is also being constituted comprising EC/GC members and Deaf experts to further strengthen ISL-related initiatives.</p> <p>Additionally, ISLRTC organized a CRE Programme on “English Education for Deaf Students” on 10th & 11th July, 2025, featuring experts such as Ms. SharayuKadam, Dr. Sibaji Panda, Sh. Sunil Sahasrabudhe, and Sh. Rajesh Ketkar, along with panel discussions, hands-on workshops, and participation from organizations like TEACH Mumbai, Happy Hands Foundation, and Orjet Foundation, who shared their valuable experiences.</p> <p>The Council noted the action taken by the Centre.</p>
5.	<p>The Council urged the Deaf Experts of the Council, to see the feasibility of conducting DISLI and DTISL course in the Deaf Schools run by reputed NGOs. RCI may also grant approval to such schools in order to promote ISL and giving accessibility of ISL to the deaf student at its doorstep.</p> <p>Action Taken: An email was sent to RCI on 12.12.2024, and subsequently, a formal letter was issued to NGO-run schools and select CRCs where DISLI and DTISL courses are presently not operational.</p> <p>The Council noted the action taken by the Centre.</p>
6.	<p>The Council asked the Centre to collaborate with TEACH and start 03-06 month course for the Deaf, to teach them English, Maths and basic Computer, which will help them to get better placement and pursue further studies. If required the demand for funds may be sent Department for funding under SIPDA scheme.</p> <p>Action Taken: A programme for English teaching of deaf students has been launched and the classes commenced from 17th November, 2025.</p> <p>The Council noted the action taken by the Centre.</p>

7.	<p>The Council decided that ISLRTC to conduct Awareness Generation Programme in collaboration with Deaf institutes and plan a purple fest at North East Nagaland in collaboration with CRC Nagaland, exclusively for Deaf and the organization working for the deaf.</p> <p>Action Taken: Purple Fair (10–11 September 2025): The Purple Fair was successfully organized in collaboration with Amity University, Noida, with the participation of 240 attendees.</p> <p>The Council noted the action taken by the Centre.</p>
8.	<p>The Council asked the Centre to prepare a data of students who are having UDID Card and issued with Swavlamban card.</p> <p>Action Taken: Completed & list of 89 UDID Card holder attached.</p> <p>The Council noted the action taken by the Centre.</p>
9.	<p>The Council asked the Centre to establish the center of technology in the field of Deaf and Sign Language.</p> <p>Action Taken: A proposal for Establishment of Disability Technology Cum Experience Centre for Deaf & Sign Language at ISLRTC has been prepared with a budget of Rs 14.5 lakhs and submitted to SIPDA section, DEPwD on 3rd Feb 2025. In the first meeting of the Scrutiny Committee for SIPDA held on 6th March 2025, the proposal was dropped since two proposals were submitted by the same PI and only one was taken up. However, the proposal was later again taken up by SIPDA in June 2025, and in the second meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held on 11th June 2025, it was directed that the technology Centre should include not just technology related aspects but also information relevant for deaf people (such as driver's license related information), as well as demonstrations of communication practices and language use in real-life scenarios and experiences of living in a visual world.</p> <p>Further, as per the minutes of the said meeting, it was directed to explore other sources of funding such as CSR.</p> <p>Thereafter, the stall at International Purple Fest, Goa from 9th to 12th Oct 2025 was set up as a smaller model of the DTEC.</p> <p>Presently we are looking for more space to establish the Centre of Technology.</p> <p>Decision: The Council noted the action taken by the Centre.</p>
10.	<p>The Council asked the Centre to start ISL training course with an initial target of training 150 Deaf Blind students.</p> <p>Action Taken: The revised proposal on "Tactile Sign Language Dictionary Development & Training for Children with Deaf blindness" has been submitted to DEPwD on 03.10.2025.</p> <p>The Council noted the action taken by the Centre.</p>
11.	<p>Ms. RajiGopal, Head-Degree(HI), NISH, Kerala, suggested that RCI and ISLRTC may develop the graduate course in ISL and apprised about the Degree Course conducted by their Institute. The Chairperson directed the Centre and RCI to plan a visit to NISH in next 01 month and to collaborate with them for starting Graduate Course and also to visit AIISH, Mysuru.</p>

	<p>Action Taken: Director, ISLRTC visited NISH, Kerala on 26th August, 2025 and had a mutual discussion with the Director, NISH and Ms. RajiGopal, Head – Degree (HI), regarding a proposed MoU. The draft MoU has been finalized and will be sign in 2nd week of Feb, 2026.</p>
	The Council noted the action taken by the Centre.
12.	<p>The Chairperson directed each Assistant Professor of the Centre may take substantial number of projects for promoting/research in ISL.</p> <p>Action Taken: The following research projects have been submitted:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Proposal for development of Assessment Tool for ISL Development in Deaf Children with total budget of Rs 24.20 lakhs submitted under RCI's REACH research scheme. 2. Proposal for Tactile Sign Language Dictionary Development & Training for Children with Deafblindness with total budget of Rs 18.80 lakhs submitted to SIPDA, DEPwD. 3. Proposal submitted in RCI for Evaluating the Effectiveness of Literacy Skills of Students with Hearing Impairment Following Different Methods of Communication in the Classroom with total budget of Rs. 19,90,000/- 4. Proposal submitted in RCI for Evaluating the Effectiveness of a Translation Method to Teach Tense of English to Children with Deafness with total budget of Rs. 9,75,000/-
	The Council noted the action taken by the Centre.
13.	<p>Ms. Monica Punjabi on behalf of Ms. Usha Punjabi, Superintendent, IDBA, Indore apprised the Council that there is essential requirement of Video content for the DISLI and DTISL students. The Chairperson asked IDBA to submit a proposal to ISLRTC for recording of DISLI and DTISL syllabus.</p>
	<p>Action Taken: 80 draft videos out of 135 have been prepared and shared with TTIs for teacher/student feedback and finalization. Identified ~25 ISL signers and ~30 reviewers/ editors from ISL Master Trainers, Instructors, and TTIs across India (NIs, CRCs, NISH, IDBA).</p>
	The Council noted the action taken by the Centre.
14.	<p>Considering the suggestion of Ms. Monica Punjabi on behalf of Ms. Usha Punjabi, Superintendent, IDBA, Indore the Council directed the Centre to plan Training for Trainers for DISLI and DTISL students.</p> <p>Action Taken: The Faculty Development Programme (FDP) was conducted across all NIs & CRCs for 40 faculty members of DISLI & DTISL from 16th to 20th June, in collaboration with CRC, Lucknow. & CRE-accredited 5-Day Indian Sign Language Skill-Up Training for Special Educators from the North-East Region, from 14–18 July 2025 at the State Academy Training Institute, Imphal, in collaboration with CRCSE, Imphal.</p>
	The Council noted the action taken by the Centre.

Item No. 14.3

Annual report & Annual Accounts for Financial year 2024-25

The Council approved the Annual Report of the institute for the year 2024-25. The council also considered and adopted audited Annual Accounts for the FY 2024-25.

Item No. 14.4

Budget Financial Year 2026-27: The GC considered the proposal within the Budget allocation for financial year 2026-27. Further, in accordance with the instructions issued by the Department vide letters No. N-2206/61/2025-NI and N-2206/22/2020-NI dated 10.03.2026, the National Institute is required to revise its Annual Action Plan and obtain approval from its Executive Council, after which the same may be placed before the General Council for approval.

Item No. 14.5

Revision of Pass Marks for ISL Proficiency Test for the Post of Assistant Professor (Interpreting)

The Council noted the decisions taken by the Executive Council in its 4th Meeting held on 29.07.2016 regarding conduct of proficiency test for selection to the post required ISL Skills. Based on the Recruitment Rules and the criteria given for ISL skill, the post was divided in Level-3 and Level-5 for the purpose of proficiency test. In the said EC meeting, it was decided that, the Proficiency test will be for 100 marks which will have 30 marks theory and 70 marks practical. Pass marks for level-3 and level-5 will be 60% and 75% respectively for the following post.

S. No	Post(s)	Level approved by Executive Council
1.	Director	Level 3
2.	Consultants	-do-
3.	Associate Professor - Sign Linguistics	-do-
4.	Associate Professor - Sign Linguistics(Deaf Studies)	-do-
5.	Associate Professor -Interpreting	-do-
6.	Associate Professor Interpreting (Educational)	-do-
7.	Assistant Professor - (Sign Linguistics)	-do-
8.	Assistant Professor - (Sign Linguistics) Deaf Studies	-do-
9.	Assistant Professor - (Interpreting)	-do-
10.	Assistant Professor – Interpreting(Educational)	-do-
11.	Instructor - Sign Linguistics	Level5
12.	Research Assistant - Sign Linguistics	Level 3 or 4
13.	Interpreter	Level 5
14.	Master Trainer (DEAF)	-do-
15.	Master Trainer (Hearing)	-do-

2. Later in 9th EC meeting held on 20.08.2018 and in the 5th GC Meeting held on 03.05.2019 the RR for the post of Assistant Professor (Interpreting) was revised and it was approved in the said meetings by incorporating following condition:

“Excellent Communication skills in Sign Language required (to be tested through proficiency test for Sign Language, minimum acceptable level: C of ISL)’, against the existing minimum acceptable level B of ISL”.

3. Due to change in ISL Skill criteria given above for the post of Assistant Professor (Interpreting), now the pass marks for proficiency test also required to be updated from Level – 3 to Level -5.

4. Accordingly, during the recent selection process held in September 2025 for the post of Assistant Professor (Interpreting), the Centre had conducted the proficiency test as prescribed for Level-5 and the EC in its 32nd meeting held on 21st October, 2025 accorded ex post facto approval.

5. Considering the above facts apprised during the meeting, the Council accorded ex post approval for revision of qualifying marks of 75% in the ISL Proficiency Test for the post of Assistant Professor (Interpreting) considering it under Level -5. It was further resolved that this criteria of proficiency test shall be applied in all future recruitments.

The meeting concluded with vote of thanks to the Chair.

Annexure-I

List of Participants

Sl. No.	Name & Designation	President/Member
1.	Ms. V. Vidyavathi, Secretary, DEPwD	President, General Council
2.	Ms. Manmeet Kaur Nanda, Additional Secretary, DEPwD	Member
3.	Shri Shubhabrata Karmakar, Deputy Secretary, DEPwD, M/oSJE, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi	Member
4.	Sh. Kumar Raju, Director, ISLRTC	Member Secretary
5.	Ms. M. Lata Gautam, Director (Emp) Directorate General of Employment (DGE), Ministry of Labour & Employment Govt. of India, Shram Shakti Bhawan Rafi Marg, New Delhi-110001	Member
6.	Shri JK Bhojal, Under Secretary Dept of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, 109-C, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi	Member
7.	Dr. Suman Kumar, Director, Director Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for Speech and Hearing Disabilities (Divyangjan) AYJNISHD, Mumbai- 050.	Member
8.	Sh. K. Murali, Director, Deaf Leaders Foundation, Coimbatore-641025.	Member
9.	Ms. Shanti P.S. National Institute of Speech & Hearing, Sreekaryam P.O. Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala	Member
10.	Smt. Usha Punjabi, Superintendent, MBS, Indore.	Member

Following officials were also present in the meeting:

Sl No	Name and Designation
1.	Shri Ashish Thakre, Director, DEPwD
2.	Sh. Sanjay Kumar, Dy. Director, ISLRTCSh.
3.	Sh. Anumpam Shukla, Under Secretary, DEPwD
4.	Sh. Aviz Chaudhary, Section Officer, ISLRTC