



Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC)

Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)

Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India

Module No. 403-405, 4th Floor, NSIC Business Park, Okhla Industrial Estate,

New Delhi- 110020

Telephone: 20883013, Email- islrtnewdelhi@gmail.com

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ANNOUNCEMENT

9TH INDIAN SIGN LANGUAGE COMPETITION 2026

Theme: Declaring Deaf People's Human Rights

ISLRTC is happy to announce the 9th Indian Sign Language Competition 2026. The competition is an opportunity for deaf/hard of hearing students across India to demonstrate their skills, creativity and knowledge in ISL.

2. ISLRTC invites entries from the following **04 categories**.

- 1) Group A: Deaf children studying in classes 1-12 across India
- 2) Group B: Students of DTISL programme across India
- 3) Group C: Students of DISLI programme across India
- 4) Group D: Students of D.Ed Special Education (Hearing Impairment), B.Ed Special Education (Hearing Impairment) and M.Ed Special Education (Hearing Impairment) of academic sessions 2025-27 & 2026-28 and Teachers of Deaf across India

3. There are total **08 competition areas**. For details of the competition areas and categories, please refer to the Annexure I Rules and Guidelines.

4. ISLRTC will conduct an online session to explain the announcement and clarify any doubts. Details about the session (date, time, etc.) will be announced on ISLRTC's website soon.

5. Deadline for submission of entries - **5 pm on 05th August, 2026**.

6. Please go through the **Rules and Guidelines (Annexure I)** carefully before submitting your entry.

7. All video entries must be enclosed with the completed and signed **Forms (See Annexure I Rules and Guidelines)**.

8. ISLRTC may also modify, interpret, or cancel any aspect of the competition, including timelines and procedures, if deemed necessary in administrative or unforeseen circumstances, and the decision of ISLRTC in such matters shall be final and binding."

9. For any queries, please email competition.islrtc@gmail.com

ANNEXURE I (Rules and Guidelines)

9TH INDIAN SIGN LANGUAGE COMPETITION 2026

RULES AND GUIDELINES

I. BACKGROUND

The Indian Sign Language Research & Training Centre (ISLRTC) is pleased to announce the 9th ISL Competition 2026 to encourage the skills of school students and to popularize Indian Sign Language. The Competition focuses on skills involving the use of Indian Sign Language for storytelling, jokes, essay, etc.

II. ELIGIBILITY

The following 04 categories are eligible to participate in the Competition.

- 1) **Group A:** Deaf children studying in classes 1-12 across India
- 2) **Group B:** Students of DTISL programme across India of academic sessions 2025-27 & 2026-28
- 3) **Group C:** Students of DISLI programme across India of academic sessions 2025-27 & 2026-28
- 4) **Group D:** Students of D.Ed Special Education (Hearing Impairment), B.Ed Special Education (Hearing Impairment) and M.Ed Special Education (Hearing Impairment) of academic sessions 2025-27 & 2026-28 and Teachers of Deaf across India

III. RULES FOR ENTRIES

- 1) A school/training institution can submit maximum 03 entries in each of the 8 competition areas.
→ *Note – ISLRTC encourages schools and training institutes to conduct ISL Competitions at their level to motivate students to apply and to select the best 3 entries in a category from your school.*
- 2) One student can submit entry in only one category. Multiple entries from one student will be disqualified.

IV. AREAS & CATEGORIES

The Competition has the following areas and categories:

S.No.	Code	Competition Area	Category	Time limit*
			Group A: Deaf students of classes I-XII	
1.	A1	Storytelling	Classes I-III	Maximum 3 minutes
2.	A2	Storytelling	Classes IV-V	Maximum 3 minutes
3.	A3	Joke	Classes VI-VIII	Maximum 3 minutes
4.	A4	Essay	Classes IX-XII Choose ONE topic:	Minimum 2 minutes and maximum 4 minutes

			1. Mahatma Gandhi 2. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel 3. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar 4. Jawaharlal Nehru	
	Group B: Students of DTISL programme			
5.	B1	Visual vernacular	DTISL	Minimum 1 minute and maximum 4 minutes
6.	B2	Essay	DTISL Choose ONE topic: 1. The Right to a Quality Multilingual Inclusive Education (CRPD Article 24) 2. Declaring Deaf People's Human Rights 3. No Access Without National Sign Language (CRPD Article 9) 4. Nothing About Us Without Us (CRPD Articles 4.3 & 33) 5. Deaf Culture Is a Human Right (CRPD Article 30)	Minimum 3 minutes and maximum 4 minutes
	Group C: Students of DISLI programme			
7.	C1	Storytelling	DISLI Topic: Moral Story	Maximum 3 minutes
	Group D: Students of D.Ed, B.Ed and M.Ed Special Education (HI) & Teachers of Deaf			
8.	D1	Any ISL story or Poem targeted of grades 1 and 2	D.Ed, B.Ed, M.Ed Special Education (HI) and Teachers of Deaf	Minimum 1 minutes and maximum 3 minutes

***The minimum and maximum time limits include the introduction. Therefore, the total video duration, including the introduction, must be within the specified time limit.**

➔ For reference, please see the videos of winners of the 6th ISL Competition 2023 uploaded on ISLRTC's YouTube channel at: <https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLFjydPMg4DapK4IRNVcUZGTMcQfAYIzNP&si=Oc8ytOac58bcgBI0>

V. INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE VIDEO

1. The entry (video) must be presented individually (by one person only).
2. Attire:
 - a. For school students, the signer must be in school uniform.
 - b. DISLI/DTISL students, teacher trainees and teachers must be in plain dress. The colours should be solid colours contrasting with the background.

3. Background: Use a solid color plain background.
4. Video frame: Please give enough space in all directions so that signs do not go out of the video frame. The video frame should cover the signer from head to waist, with appropriate space. An example picture is given below:



5. The video recording should be done in appropriate lighting so that the signer's face and hands are clearly visible (should not be dark or too bright).
6. No props/items/accessories can be used in the videos.
7. No special effects can be used in the videos.
8. Presentation:
 - a. Stand straight with both feet flat on the ground.
 - b. All signs must be performed naturally. Copy-signing another individual is not permitted.
 - c. The signing should be appropriately paced (not too fast or too slow to be distracting).
9. The entries must be practiced and delivered in a single telling (no editing).
10. At the beginning of the video, the student must sign an introduction. The signed introduction must include:
 - a. The signer's full name.
 - b. Class and school in which student is studying OR course and institute in which the student is studying OR school where teacher is working.
 - c. The title of the story/joke/essay/visual vernacular/etc.
11. After the introduction, pause for 2-3 seconds before beginning the story/joke/essay/visual vernacular/etc.
12. Videos should be in MPG or MP4 format.
13. The video should not be edited in any way. The focus is on the sign content, so there should not be any editing of the signing (combining clips, changing speed, adding images, etc. are not permitted).
14. The video should not contain any logos of the school/institution/etc.

VI. FORMS

i. Group A category (classes I-XII):

Students of classes I-XII can submit their entries in two ways:

OPTION 1: SUBMISSION VIA SCHOOL

Please fill in **FORM 'A' at Annexure II**. The form must be signed by the teacher/HoD/principal. Please also attach photocopy of the student's ID card issued by the school.

OR

OPTION 2: INDIVIDUAL SUBMISSION THROUGH PARENT

Please fill in **FORM 'A' at Annexure III**. The form must be signed by the parent/guardian. Please also attach photocopy of the student's ID card issued by the school.

➔ Please select **only one option** for submission.

ii. **Groups B, C and D category (DTISL, DISLI, D.Ed/B.Ed/M.Ed/Teachers):**

Please fill **Form 'C' at Annexure IV**. The form must be forwarded through the training institution/employing institution. Photocopy of ID card issued by training institution / school should be attached.

VII. SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Please choose **any one** of the following methods for submission of entries:

- 1) The video entries and scanned copies of the forms can be attached and emailed to competition.islrtc@gmail.com. The school/institute name, student name, class, and category should be clearly mentioned in the email.
- 2) The video entries and scanned copies of the forms can be uploaded to Dropbox/Drive/YouTube, etc. and the link can be emailed to competition.islrtc@gmail.com
 - On Google Drive, the share setting should be "ANYONE WITH THE LINK".
 - On YouTube, the privacy setting of the video should be "UNLISTED".
- 3) The forms and videos can be submitted on pen drive (standard USB drive) or DVD to ISLRTC office by hand or by post at the following address: **Module no. 403-406, Fourth Floor, NSIC Business Park, Okhla Industrial Estate, New Delhi -110020.**

VIII. JUDGING CRITERIA

- (a) ISLRTC will screen the entries to ensure that all eligibility criteria, rules for number of entries, time limits, topics, etc. are followed as per the rules and guidelines. Entries that meet the criteria will be categorized as qualified for the competition.
- (b) In case the number of qualified entries is large, a shortlisting of entries will be done by ISLRTC based on the sign content (clarity, comprehensibility, etc.).
- (c) Winners will be decided by a Judges Panel of external ISL experts. The Judges Panel will judge the shortlisted entries on the following criteria.

1. Clarity

- a) The signing should be clear and comprehensible.

2. ISL Production

- a) Signs should be well-formed (handshapes, location, etc.).
- b) The signs should be smoothly delivered rather than appearing jerky, confused, or with uncertain movements.
- c) Proper use of ISL grammar (use of space, facial expressions and non-manual movements, role shift, classifiers, etc.) should be demonstrated.

3. Content and Structure

- a) Storytelling and Jokes:

- (i) Ideas and creativity will be considered while judging.
 - (ii) Stories and jokes translated from English/Hindi source material will be accepted, but preference will be given to content originating in ISL, or to content based on the participant's experience, or ideas.
 - (iii) For the jokes, the creativity and humour will be evaluated.
- b) Essay:
- (i) Demonstration of knowledge, research done to understand the topic and critical thinking skills will be evaluated.
 - (ii) It is also important to organize the essay content with an introduction, main body and conclusion.
- c) Visual vernacular: Creativity and use of various VV devices such as classifiers, characterization/personification, perspective, etc.
- d) Storytelling for Group D: Use of ISL grammar and devices including use of space, characterization, role shift, visual descriptions, etc. to make the story appropriate for a deaf child of grades 1 and 2.

IX. CERTIFICATES

The winners of 1st, 2nd and 3rd ranks will receive a certificate. There will be no consolation prize.

Important note: *Securing the 1st, 2nd, or 3rd rank shall not automatically entitle participants to take part in the Sign Language Day programme organized by ISLRTC.*

X. TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- 1) ISLRTC reserves the right to request verification from any contestant to determine their eligibility. ISLRTC may request to show the ID card or any other relevant documents, or may contact the school/training institute to verify eligibility.
- 2) Incomplete entries without the form/incomplete form, etc. will be summarily rejected.
- 3) Participants should ensure that the correct information is provided in the form. In case of any discrepancy between the form and the video entry, the entry will be rejected.
- 4) ISLRTC and the Judges Panel reserve the right to disqualify any entry due to poor quality, incomplete content, poor taste, inappropriateness of content, or cheating.
- 5) In case a school/institute submits more than the eligible number of entries (3 per category per school/training institute), ISLRTC reserves the right to disqualify all entries of that category from that school/training institute.
- 6) In case a student submits multiple entries, all entries submitted by that student will be disqualified.
- 7) It is the sole responsibility of the participant to submit videos without any quality defects. ISLRTC is not responsible for any technical problems with the pen drive, or if the video data is inaccessible.
- 8) Once the video is submitted, it will be considered as final and no changes will be entertained after submission.
- 9) Videos that do not meet the eligibility criteria or other rules and guidelines given in this document will be disqualified.

- 10) The decision of the Judges Panel will be final. No communication regarding the result declared by ISLRTC will be entertained.
- 11) In case of any changes or amendment in the deadline, rules, etc. related to this announcement, it will be displayed on ISLRTC's website only. For detail and updates, please see ISLRTC's website www.islrtc.nic.in.
- 12) The Competent Authority reserves the right for any amendment, cancellation or change in this announcement in whole or part thereof without assigning any reason.
- 13) By submitting an entry in ISLRTC's 9th ISL Competition 2026, the participant acknowledges and accepts the following.
 - (a) The entry video may be posted on ISLRTC's website and other media and social media sites.
 - (b) The entry becomes the property of ISLRTC and will not be returned.
 - (c) ISLRTC has the right to edit the entry video (eg. to add voice, subtitles, etc.).
 - (d) ISLRTC has the right to use the information in the form and the entry video for various purposes, eg. publicity, awareness, developing teaching material, etc.
 - (e) The decision of the Judges Panel will be final.

XI. DEADLINE

The deadline for submission of entries **is 5 pm on 5th August, 2026.**

For any queries, please email at competition.islrtc@gmail.com



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9TH INDIAN SIGN LANGUAGE COMPETITION 2026

FORM 'A' - SCHOOL STUDENT ENTRY FORM (Group A - Submitted via School)

To be filled in by the student/teacher.

1. Student's full name: _____

2. Class: _____ 3. Gender (tick): Male / Female 4. Date of birth: _____

5. Competition area/category (Tick): A1 / A2 / A3 / A4

Signature of student: _____

To be filled in by the school.

6. Teacher/HOD/Principal's full name: _____

7. School's full name and complete address: _____

8. Phone number: _____ 9. Email: _____

10. I, _____, verify that the student _____ is currently enrolled in class _____ at _____ (name of the school).

11. **Attach one photocopy of the student's school ID card.**

12. IMPORTANT: By submitting this form, the student and the teacher/HOD/principal **acknowledge and accept** the following statements:

- (a) The entry video may be posted on ISLRTC's website and other media and social media sites.
- (b) The entry becomes the property of ISLRTC and will not be returned.
- (c) ISLRTC has the right to edit the entry video (eg. to add voice, subtitles, etc.).
- (d) ISLRTC has the right to use the information in the form and the entry video for various purposes, eg. publicity, awareness, developing teaching material, etc.
- (e) The decision of the Judges Panel will be final.

Date: _____

Signature of teacher/HOD/Principal: _____



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9TH INDIAN SIGN LANGUAGE COMPETITION 2026

FORM 'B' - SCHOOL STUDENT ENTRY FORM (Group A - Submitted via Parent)

1. Student's full name: _____

2. Class: _____ 3. Gender (tick): Male / Female 4. Date of birth: _____

5. Competition area/category (Tick): A1 / A2 / A3 / A4

6. School's full name and address: _____

7. Full name of parent/ legal guardian: _____

8. Home address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Pin code: _____

9. Phone number: _____ 10. Email: _____

11. **Attach one copy of the student's school ID card.**

12. I, the undersigned, certify that I am the parent / legal guardian of the above-mentioned student. I hereby authorize my child/ward named above to participate in the said competition conducted by ISLRTC, and will ensure that my child/ward must obey all rules of the competition.

13. IMPORTANT: By submitting this form, the student and the parent/guardian acknowledge and accept the following statements:

- (a) The entry video may be posted on ISLRTC's website and other media and social media sites.
- (b) The entry becomes the property of ISLRTC and will not be returned.
- (c) ISLRTC has the right to edit the entry video (eg. to add voice, subtitles, etc.).
- (d) ISLRTC has the right to use the information in the form and the entry video for various purposes, eg. publicity, awareness, developing teaching material, etc.
- (e) The decision of the Judges Panel will be final.

Date: _____

Signature of student: _____

Signature of the Parent/Guardian: _____

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