

Report of international day of sign language 2024

Theme: "Sign Up for the Sign Language Rights"

Organized by:

- Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) of respective states
- National Association of the Deaf (NAD)
- State / Local Deaf Associations affiliated to NAD

Event Date: 23rd September 2024

Objective of the Event :

To promote the use of Indian Sign Language (ISL) and advocate for the rights of the Deaf community. The event aimed to celebrate linguistic diversity, promote inclusion, and emphasize the need for accessibility in education and public life for hearing impaired individuals.

Key Highlights :

- Discussions on Sign Language Rights
- Participation of deaf individuals, state officials, and sign language experts
- Rallies, Marches, and Awareness Sessions across different states
- Commitment to introducing sign language in legislative proceedings and public services

Acknowledgments :

- Support from Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) of respective states.
- Contributions from state-level DEPwD in selected states, State / Local Deaf associations and Volunteers

Report on Celebration of International Day of Sign Language 2024



The International Day of Sign Languages is celebrated annually with the aim of raising awareness about the development of and encouraging early access to sign languages and services. On the occasion of International Sign Language Day 2024, the Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre, under the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Government of India, organized Sign Language Day with a variety of events, including awareness and orientation programs in New Delhi from 23rd September 2024. This year's theme is "Sign Up for Sign Language Rights."

Union Minister of State for Social Justice & Empowerment (SJE), Shri B.L. Verma, presided as the Chief Guest at the Sign Language Day 2024 celebrations held today at Bhim Hall, Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, Janpath, New Delhi. Shri Rajesh Aggarwal, Secretary (DEPwD), graced the occasion as the Guest of Honour. The theme for this year's event is 'Support Sign Language Rights'.



Sign Language Day – 2024

Union Minister Shri B.L. Verma launched several new initiatives aimed at enhancing education and employment opportunities to make them more inclusive for the Deaf community. Posted On: 23 SEP 2024, 6:03 PM by PIB Delhi

In collaboration with the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE), the Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC) organized the event to mark International Sign Language Day today. During the event, Shri B.L. Verma launched several new initiatives aimed at enhancing education and employment opportunities to make them more inclusive for the Deaf community.

Key Highlights:

1.

Launch of 100 foundational concept videos in Indian Sign Language (ISL) for Class 6 subjects, including Science, Social Science, Mathematics, and English.



2.

DEPwD, in collaboration with Yunikee, India, Signing Hands, Bridge Connectivity Services and Anuprayaas, has already developed 2500 ISL dictionaries.

भारतीय सांकेतिक भाषा अनुसंधान एवं प्रशिक्षण केंद्र
INDIAN SIGN LANGUAGE RESEARCH AND TRAINING CENTRE
Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India

Indian Sign Language Dictionary

2500 New Terms

Developed and added to ISL Dictionary

Words developed in collaboration with organizations:

- 1000 Words: Yunikee
- 500 Words: India Signing Hands
- 500 Words: Bridge Connectivity Services
- 500 Words: Anuprayaas

Areas:

- School subjects (Maths, Science, Social Science, Language, etc.)
- Higher Education (Philosophy, Linguistics, Computer Science, etc.)
- Sports
- Transportation and Infrastructure
- Accessibility
- Lifestyle & Entertainment

Access the words at: <https://divyangjan.depwd.gov.in/islrctc/>

Feedback if any on the 2500 new words can be given till 31st Oct, 2024 on the email id: isldictionary2021@gmail.com

3.

Unveiling of the ISL Dictionary, now available in 10 different languages.

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Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India

INDIAN SIGN LANGUAGE DICTIONARY

NOW AVAILABLE IN 10 DIFFERENT LANGUAGES

- தமிழ் /Tamil
- తెలుగు /Telugu
- অসমীয়া /Assamese
- বাংলা /Bengali
- मराठी /Marathi
- ଓଡ଼ିଆ /Odia
- ગુજરાતી /Gujarati
- ਪੰਜਾਬੀ /Punjabi
- ಕನ್ನಡ /Kannada
- മലയാളം/Malayalam

Access the ISL Dictionary in 10 different languages on website: <https://divyangjan.depwd.gov.in/islrctc/>

Any feedback/corrections in the 10 languages may be informed by email at isldictionary2021@gmail.com

4.

Released of Deaf Role Model Videos, developed by India Signing Hands Private Limited, to inspire our community.



5.

Signing Hands Foundation, in partnership with the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), is pleased to announce the launch of accessible educational stories in Indian Sign Language (ISL) for all age groups, developed by ISH Kids, to promote inclusive learning



6.

Inauguration of the SWAAS platform, offering access to websites of 25 National Institutes/Composite Regional Centers and the Ministry.



Shri B.L. Verma, Hon'ble Minister of State for Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India, emphasized the government's ongoing commitment to the Divyangjan community, stating, **"Sign language is not just a language for the Deaf but must become a language for everyone, promoting inclusivity across society."** He stressed the importance of using sign language widely to advance the progress of the Deaf community. The Minister also praised the talent within the Divyangjan community, noting that with the right platforms, they can amaze the world with their abilities. Referring to the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games, he highlighted how India's Divyang athletes made history by securing 29 medals—a remarkable achievement. He further stated that empowering the Divyangjan community will propel India forward, in line with Prime Minister Modi's vision of **'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.'**



Shri Rajesh Aggarwal, Secretary of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Government of India, emphasized the need for parents and society to learn and use sign language to better integrate Deaf children into the mainstream. He also pointed out that technology and English education will play a pivotal role in helping Deaf children become self-reliant.

During the programme, Mr. A.S. Narayanan, President of the National Association of the Deaf, Ms. Uma Kapoor from the All India Foundation of Deaf Women (AIFDW), and Ms. Usha Punjabi from Indore Deaf Bilingual Academy (IDBA) shared their thoughts, stressing the importance of sign language and its continued development for an inclusive society.

The event was attended by several dignitaries, including Shri Rajeev Sharma, Joint Secretary, DEPwD, Dr. Jitendra Kumar, Director of ISLRTC, as well as many students, teachers, and parents from the Deaf community.

DELHI

Shine a Blue Light On Sign Languages !

Deaf and hearing participants took part in the Blue Light event on the International Day of Sign Language 2024 at India Gate, Delhi (India).

International Day of Sign Languages 2024 with theme "Sign Up for the Sign Language Rights" programme Rally Event, Delhi



CHHATTISGARH

International Day of Sign Languages 2024 with the theme "Sign Up for Sign Language Rights" Program in Collaboration with the Social Welfare Department, Government of Chhattisgarh

International Day of Sign Languages 2024 with theme "Sign Up for the Sign Language Rights" Program Collaboration with the Social Welfare Department, Government of Chhattisgarh



On 24th September 2024, an awareness program for Deaf participants and hearing individuals from the Department of Social Justice, Government of Chhattisgarh, was organized on the International Day of Sign Language at Raipur (Chhattisgarh). The details of the program are as follows: The program was moderated and introduced by Ms. Laxmi Rajwade, Hon'ble Minister of Social Justice Welfare Department, Government of Chhattisgarh, followed by Shri Ramesh President of CDA, who delivered an introductory speech on the theme of the program.

MADHYA PRADSH

Mr. Narayan Singh Kushwah, Hon'ble Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Department, Government of Madhya Pradesh, was the Chief Guest, and Mrs. Sonali Ponkshe Vayangankar, IAS, Principal Secretary, Social Justice and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Department, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Dr. Ram Rao Bhonsle, IAS, Commissioner, Social Justice and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Department, Government of Madhya Pradesh, and Mr. Sandeep Rajak,

International Day of Sign Languages 2024 with theme "Sign Up for the Sign Language Rights" Program Collaboration with the Commissioner Social Justice, Government of Madhya Pradesh



Commissioner, State Commission for Persons with Disabilities, Government of Madhya Pradesh, were the Guests of Honour on the occasion of the International Day of Sign Languages on 23rd September 2024 at Bhopal (MP).

After the speeches, the discussion and participative session was held by Shri Saju Stephen, Secretary, National Association of the Deaf, at Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh). He explained the basic knowledge and impact of Indian Sign Language and demonstrated various communicable words in sign language. The National Anthem in sign language was also demonstrated by Shri Kamlesh Dongre, Secretary, Madhya Pradesh Association of the Deaf, and Mrs. Priti Shah, General Secretary, Deaf Can Foundation. The event concluded with the singing of the National Anthem in Indian Sign Language by all the participants.

MANIPUR

International Day of Sign Languages 2024 with theme "Sign Up for the Sign Language Rights" Program Collaboration with the Social Welfare Department, Government of Manipur



Chief Guest: Shri Helkham Dingo Singh, Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare Department, Government of Manipur, was present on the occasion of the International Day of Sign Languages celebration on 23rd September 2024 at Manipur Press Club, Imphal (Manipur).



PUNJAB

The Minister of Social Security and Women and Child Development and Social Justice & Empowerment Department of Punjab, Dr. Baljit Kaur, has said that deaf people are also an important part of our society, so the Punjab government under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann is giving full priority to sign language. Dr. Baljit Kaur had arrived at Patiala to attend the state-level function of International Sign Language Day on this occasion. Dr. Baljit Kaur said that, soon with the advice of the Speaker of the Punjab Vidhan Sabha, sign

International Day of Sign Languages 2024 with theme "Sign Up for the Sign Language Rights" Program Collaboration with the Social Security and Development of Women & Children, Government of Punjab



language will be implemented in the Vidhan Sabha to aid in the proceedings of the House for the hearing and speech-disabled people. Apart from this, Punjab Police will also be trained in sign language to give justice to such people.

On this occasion, Chairman of Improvement Trust Mehal Chand Sharmapta, Chairman of District Planning Committee Jasvir Singh Jassi Sohianwala, DIG Dr. Nanak Singh, IPS, ADC (Urban Development) Navreet Kaur Sekhon, SDM Arvind Kumar, District Social Security Officer Jobandeep Kaur Cheema, District Program Officer Pardeep Singh Gill, Colonel Charanjit Kaur (Retd.), Secretary for Welfare of Handicapped Jagdeep Singh, and Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Jaspal Singh were present. Besides speech and hearing-impaired people from all over Punjab, a large number of attendees participated.

HIMACHAL PRADESH

International Day of Sign Languages 2024 with theme "Sign Up for the Sign Language Rights" Program Rally Event, Himachal Pradesh



International Day of Sign Languages is celebrated on September 23 each year. Nearly 100 Deaf people from different regions participated in the awareness march from IIT Shimla to Church Jodha Niwas via Ram Mandir, located at Chhota Shimla, Himachal Pradesh. This event aimed to promote awareness of sign languages and their importance in the lives of individuals, highlighting the need for inclusivity and diversity of the deaf community while advocating for their rights through sign language.

KERALA

The International Day of Sign Languages provides an opportunity to celebrate linguistic diversity and promote inclusion. Smt. R. Bindu, Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education and Social Justice, Government of Kerala, emphasized in her video message:

"I solemnly take a pledge to learn and promote the use of Indian Sign Language with family and community for making the environment and education accessible for the deaf."

International Day of Sign Languages 2024 with theme "Sign Up for the Sign Language Rights" Program Hall Event, Kerala



JAMMU & KASHMIR

International Day of Sign Languages 2024 with theme "Sign Up for the Sign Language Rights" Program Rally & Hall Event, Jammu and Kashmir



The International Day of Sign Languages was celebrated on 23rd September 2024 in Jammu & Kashmir. Nearly 250 deaf and hearing individuals participated in the march from city to city across the region. Social media and published platforms supported the event by featuring interviews of Deaf persons to highlight their experiences and challenges.

RAJASTHAN

The International Day of Sign Languages was celebrated on 23rd September 2024 in Rajasthan. Nearly 250 deaf and hearing individuals participated in an awareness march from city to city across the state. Social media campaigns and interviews with deaf individuals were supported and published.

International Day of Sign Languages 2024 with theme "Sign Up for the Sign Language Rights" Program Rally Event, Rajasthan



UTTAR PRADESH

International Day of Sign Languages 2024 with theme "Sign Up for the Sign Language Rights" Program Rally Event, Uttar Pradesh



The ISL awareness rally, organized under the aegis of the Uttar Pradesh Deaf Federation, was held from KD Babu Stadium to Gandhi Park GPO in Lucknow. State government ministers were present at the rally. After the event, the President of the Federation met with Mr. Bhupendra Ji, Director of the Directorate of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Lucknow, who promised to celebrate 23rd September every year as International Deaf Day and ISL Day in every district of Uttar Pradesh, under the initiative of the Office of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, UP.

WEST BENGAL

International Day of Sign Languages 2024 with theme "Sign Up for the Sign Language Rights" programme Rally Event, West Bengal



Over 1,100 Deaf individuals from West Bengal rallied in Kolkata on 23rd September 2024, advocating for equal rights and government support. The event emphasized accessibility and inclusion for the deaf community. A meeting with the Secretary of Social Welfare, Government of West Bengal, resulted in a commitment to provide a response within six months.



UTTARAKHAND

Nearly 250 Deaf and hearing individuals participated in an awareness march across cities in Uttarakhand as part of the International Week of the Deaf. Social media campaigns were launched, and interviews with Deaf participants were conducted and published, highlighting the importance of accessibility and inclusion for the Deaf community.

International Week of the Deaf People 2024 Program Hall Event, Uttarakhand

