

Development of Indian Sign Language (ISL) Videos

**Prof. Bharti Kaushik, Head MPD,
CIET-NCERT**



What is Indian Sign Language

Indian Sign Language (ISL) is a **visual-manual language** used by the Deaf community in India.

Functions as a primary **mode of communication** for millions of Deaf individuals and is also used by teachers, parents, siblings, and sign language interpreters to support communication and interaction.

Reflects India's rich **cultural diversity** and varied **regional influences**.

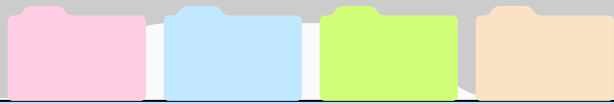


Significance of ISL

- Strengthens Deaf Identity and Culture
- Encourages Independence
- Aligned with NEP 2020
- Promotes Full Participation
- Promotes Inclusion and Equality

ISL vs. ASL

Basis	ASL	ISL
Full form	American Sign language	Indian Sign Language
Origin	Evolved from French Sign Language	Developed more naturally under the influence of India's rich cultural diversity.
Places	United States and parts of Canada.	India
Hand Usage	One-handed signs	Two-handed gestures



Why ISL is important for Person without HI & Deafness

- Promotes inclusive communication
- Builds an inclusive society
- Strengthen accessibility
- Raises awareness and sensitivity
- Encourages equal participation



NEP 2020 Vision for Indian Sign Language (ISL)

“Indian Sign Language (ISL) will be standardized across the country, and National and State curriculum materials developed, for use by students with hearing impairment. Local sign languages will be respected and taught as well, where possible and relevant.”

(NEP 2020, 4.22)



Initiative for Standardization of ISL by CIET-NCERT

In alignment with NEP 2020, CIET-NCERT has initiated the standardization of Indian Sign Language with the objective of developing a unified system.

The process aims to standardize the ISL by considering the regional variations in the signs used, in collaboration with relevant Institutions/ organizations working in States and UTs, etc.



Challenges faced while standardizing ISL

- *Building trust within the Deaf community during the standardization process*
- *Reaching consensus on regional variations of sign language across India*
- *Limited existing literature on sign language standardization*
- *Lack of proper documentation of Indian Sign Language*
- *Shortage of trained sign language interpreters*
- *Selection of appropriate organizations to collect and coordinate sign variations across states*



Final outcome

- **Finger Spellings**: 5 (Malayalam, Gujarati, Assamese, English & Hindi)
- **Sign words** : 200
- **District words**: 132 (Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Assam, Odisha and Uttarakhand)



Indian Sign Language Course

2025:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m4S0R9yXuIU&list=PLy6rPVeVWci3Z9ewn7X0KtNLKC7LyDUWa>

2026:

https://www.youtube.com/live/-WRtM-BgNag?si=q-8zZ3wkogQK_NGf

Available on DIKSHA Platform

https://diksha.gov.in/resources/play/collection/do_31452624605856563219153?contentType=Collection



What is ISL video?

Educational videos that are created in **Indian Sign Language (ISL)** to make information accessible for Deaf and Hard of Hearing learners and audiences.

Use visual communication through hand signs, facial expressions, body movements, text, graphics, and sometimes voice-over/subtitles.

Components of an ISL Video

An ISL video may include:

- ISL interpreter/sign presenter
- Visual demonstrations or animations
- Captions/subtitles
- Voice-over narration
- Images, graphics, and text
- Accessible screen layout and contrast



Stages of Script Development of ISL Videos

1.

Pre-production

2

Production

3

Editing

4

Vetting

5

**Revision &
Finalization**

6

Uploading

Pre-production

**Textbook
Selection**



**Divide the
Chapter in
chunks.**



**Discussion with
Interpreter and
Signer**



Rehearsal



Indian Sign Language Interpreter vs. Signer



2. Production

**Relay
Interpreter**

**Video Recording
of a signer who
do signing by
viewing the
content on
teleprompter in
Chunks**

**Sign Interpreter
at the backstage
for support**

**Day-wise
preparation of
LockSheet in
Hindi & English**

**Repeat till the
finalization of the
textbook**

3. Editing

- Visual animations
- Captions/subtitles
- Voice-over narration
- Images, graphics, and text
- Accessible screen layout and contrast

4.

Vetting

Third-party evaluation of the videos

5. Revision & Finalization

Changes, if required, in the video after seeking feedback from third-party evaluation

6.

Uploading

Uploading on DIKSHA, e-Pathshala , NCERT Official Youtube Channel.

Sample

Jingle

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1z7593P6N9y7cpjJm7f4i0jlku-meUfRfD/view?usp=drive_web

Montage

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ATLn9muZ51Z86k1_NqQ6BToKwU9BJCID/view?usp=drive_web

PM eVIDYA DTH ISL Channel Number 31

<https://www.youtube.com/@PMeV31-u9c/streams>

References

- <https://atypicaladvantage.in/atypical-blog/post/difference-between-american-and-indian-sign-language>
- <https://islrtc.nic.in/online-basic-isl-course-in-self-learning-mode/>
- https://www.education.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/NEP_Final_English.pdf

Thank you!
