



DIGITAL SIGN LANGUAGE PROJECT

Welfare Centre for Persons with
Speech and Hearing Impairment,
Gurugram

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- ❑ To create a **Digital Sign Language Lab** where the Core Curriculum for Haryana School Board/CBSE/NIOS/NCERT would be digitized in a deaf friendly format in Indian Sign Language (ISL).
- ❑ This digital curriculum would cater to **wide deaf audience** all over India.

A WORD ABOUT INDIAN SIGN LANGUAGE

- ❑ Indian Sign Language (ISL) is a fully fledged language with its own grammar and rules. Sign Languages are **already recognized in many countries**. (Australian Sign Language or Auslan- 1991, Canada -1993, Finland- Finnish Sign Language- 1995, Thailand- 1999, Czech Sign Language – 1998, New Zealand Sign Language- 2006, Austria- 2005, French and, Belgium LSFB- 2003, Brazil- 2005, Sri Lanka- 2010, Malta - 2016 and Nepal- Legislation underway)
- ❑ Sign Language was **recognized as a separate language in Madhya Pradesh** on Nov 30, 2015. As a result, **17 Sign Language Interpreters** were appointed to make ITI training accessible for the deaf across 7 centres in M.P.
- ❑ **Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC)**, New Delhi was set up on 22 Sep, 2015 to lead the way in academic development, training and propagation of the Indian Sign Language. This was a path-breaking step after years of movement and campaigning by Indian deaf leaders.
- ❑ **Rights for Persons with Disabilities (RPWD Act)**, 2016 (Passed by Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha in Dec, 2016) recognizes the rights of the deaf people for using **sign language** and making information accessible using **Sign Language Interpreters and Closed Captioning**.

JUSTIFICATION FOR DIGITAL SIGN LANGUAGE LAB

- ❑ There are **1,15,527 deaf people** in **Haryana** state and **50,72,914** deaf all over India as per **Census 2011** but majority of them face difficulties on a daily basis in schools because education and information is not made **accessible** in their language i.e. **Indian Sign Language**.
- ❑ Due to **lack of adequate Sign Language training** in teacher training courses - D.Ed., B.Ed. and M.Ed. in Special Education (H.I.) etc. and limited understanding of how deaf people learn, most special educators for the deaf are **not able to deliver concepts**.
- ❑ **Less than 2 %** of the deaf students pass class 12th and go for higher education due to absence of quality education through Sign Language medium.
- ❑ **No Indian state** has attempted to make the **curriculum accessible in Indian Sign Language** as yet, and Haryana state can be a pioneer in the field.
- ❑ The material would be extremely relevant in **teacher training courses** and classroom across all **deaf schools** in India.
- ❑ The digital content on **vocational education** and other relevant informational and educational content would also be sourced and made available in this digital lab.

STEPS IN DIGITIZING THE CURRICULUM IN INDIAN SIGN LANGUAGE

- ❑ The textbook lessons would be **broken up into core concepts** across **5 subjects** – English, Hindi, Social Science, Science and Mathematics **piloting from Class 10th** Curriculum to junior classes.
- ❑ These concepts/lessons would be **interpreted** in Indian Sign Language (ISL).
- ❑ Appropriate **Images/Pictures/Graphics** would be added connected with the topic.
- ❑ The language in the **captions** would be made **deaf friendly**. (English)
- ❑ **Subject related vocabulary** would be introduced in ISL.
- ❑ The material would be **reviewed by deaf experts**.
- ❑ When approved, the material would be digitized and released **online**.