



शिक्षा मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
EDUCATION



A SCHEME ON THE NATIONAL FOLK DANCE COMPETITION 2026-27

**National Population Education Project
Department of Education in Social Science
National Council of Educational Research and Training**



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Background:

Folk Dances in India represent diverse cultures and traditions of the country as a unique culture, specific folk music and dance, which prove to be a wonderful way of expression of their community and its traditions. Though these folk dances are not as complex as the classical dance forms, they are very beautiful, because of the essence of specific deep-seated beliefs and traditions of a particular culture in them.

Folk Dances are considered special by all communities in the country. The most interesting part of a folk dance is the colourful dresses required for its performance. Every folk dance has its own specific costume and jewellery, which differ from community to community. The various folk dances are not only the exclusive art of a particular community, but also an asset of India's cultural heritage. The folk dances of any community are performed on almost every special occasion and festival, to express joy. Folk Dance can also be performed to convey the messages related to population, adolescence and holistic health related issues of children in an effective manner. The NEP 2020 also focuses on using integration of art as pedagogy for classroom transaction and promotion of our culture.

1. National Competition on Folk Dance:

Under the National Population Education Project, a variety of curricular activities are organised. Among these, the National Folk Dance Competition holds a place of special importance. It has been observed that States/UTs, teachers, parents, and students show a high level of interest.

2. Specific Objectives:

1. To convey effectively various issues related to population, adolescence and holistic health by using their own folk Dance as medium.
2. To provide opportunities to students for experiential learning to develop the ability to apply life skills in various situations.
3. To validate the strategies of the folk dance for transaction of population, adolescence and holistic health issues.

3. What are Folk Dances?

Indian folk dances are simple dances, and are performed to express joy and convey the messages. Folk Dances are performed on every possible occasion. For example, folk dances are performed to celebrate the arrival of seasons, birth of a child, a wedding and festivals. Men and women, boys and girls perform some dances exclusively, while in some performances dance together. On most occasions, dancers sing themselves, while being accompanied by artist on the instruments. There are specific costumes used for folk dance as per the need of the situation. The skill and the imagination of the dancers influence the performances.

4. Themes:

The following are the themes for Folk Dance Competition:

1. Protection of Environment (Refuse, Reduce, Reuse and Recycle)
2. Growing up Healthy
3. Emotional Well-being and Mental Health
4. Interpersonal Relationship
5. Values and Responsible Citizenship
6. Gender Equality
7. Nutrition, Health and Sanitation
8. Prevention and Management of Substance Misuse
9. Promotion of Healthy Lifestyle

10. Reproductive Health and HIV Prevention
11. Safety and Security against Violence and Injuries
12. Promotion of Safe Use of Internet, Gadgets and Media

Each participating team shall select one of the above themes. The selected theme should be meaningfully integrated and reflected in the folk dance performance through choreography, music, narration (wherever applicable), expressions, costumes/makeup, and other creative elements / articles / artifacts etc closely associated and according to the need of that particular folk dance so that the intended message is communicated effectively to the audience.

Promotion of Thematic Diversity:

In order to ensure balanced representation of all themes, the Project Finance and Monitoring Committee (PFMC) of the National Population Education Project (NPEP) has suggested promoting thematic diversity in the National Folk Dance Competition by encouraging participation in less-represented themes through incentives. Accordingly, while preparing their performances teams may therefore be encouraged to select such themes that are comparatively less represented during the competition cycle.

As an incentive for thematic diversity, Special Appreciation Certificate and memento (optional) will be given to the three best-performing teams presenting less-represented themes.

5. Target group:

National Folk Dance Competition can be organized by States/UTs, involving students of classes VIII to IX or from both classes, studying in Government and Government aided schools. Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs) having Class VIII to IX students are also eligible to participate.

6. Basic requirements:

6.1 Space

It will be organized for students of class-VIII to IX of the school. However, students from other classes may be invited as audience. A hall/open space may be used for this activity.

6.2 Time

Each team will be given 5-6 minutes time for Folk dance at every level.

6.3 Language

The language of Folkdance will be local language. However, the script at the National Level will be provided in Hindi or English to the jury.

6.4 Number of Folk dancers

The number of folk dancers in each team of folk dance will be 4 to 6 students. Efforts should be made to include at least one child with special needs (CWSN) in the team. If there are boys and girls in the selected team, then two teachers one male and one female will escort the team for participation at the State/National level competition.

6.5 Costumes

- i. Folk dancers can use desired costumes/makeup and other creative elements / articles / artifacts etc closely associated and according to the need of that particular folk dance.
- ii. Folk dancers will **not be allowed** to show placards, handbills, poster or any other creative elements / articles / artifacts etc not closely associated and according to the need of that particular folk dance during the performance.

7. Guidelines for implementation:

This activity will be organized at five levels i.e., Schools, Block, Districts, States and UTs and National Level. However, the number of levels from school to State/UT may be determined by the concerned

implementing agency, taking into account the available resources and expenditure. In States and UTs where the number of schools is limited, the competition may be conducted at fewer levels.

At each level, only one team will be selected for the next higher level. For example:

- From each school, one team will be selected for the block level.
- From each block, one team will be selected for the district level.
- From each district, one team will be selected for the state level.

From the district level onwards, three teams (First, Second, and Third positions) may be selected for the purpose of awarding merit certificate and memento (optional); **special appreciation certificate and memento (optional) will be given to the three best-performing teams presenting less-represented themes.** While organising this competition, the following points should be considered:

A. Planning

- i. Population Education Cell (PE Cell) of State/UT has to translate the scheme, if need be, in their respective State/UT language.
- ii. Efforts need to be made by PE Cell to widely disseminate the scheme to all secondary school of State/UT.
- iii. PE Cell should organise sensitization programme with district level officials about the scheme and guidelines.
- iv. Date, time and venue for the folk dance should be fixed and communicated to all the concerned persons well in advance.
- v. PE Cell will also prepare and share the DOs and Don'ts of the competition during the sensitization programme. These DOs and Don'ts should also be shared at the time of competition.
- vi. Each team will come with recording of the song along with the music needed to be used during the performance. The team can bring the recording in CD or pen drive.
- vii. For each dance 4 to 6 students, boys, girls or both should be identified to constitute a team for enacting the folk dance. The selection should not be discriminatory in any way. Steps may be taken to include children with special needs in the folkdance team.
- viii. The folk dance may be in any language. However, the written script of the song needs to be in English or Hindi language at the National Level. In the presentation, originality of thoughts and actions needs to be reflected.
- ix. Students should be given appropriate time to be well prepared.
- x. Local educational functionaries, parents and other community members may be invited to this activity. For wide coverage of this activity, local media both (electronic and press) may be invited to the folk-dance competition.
- xi. Guidelines for judging the folk dance be shared and discussed before starting the folk-dance competition.

B. Conducting the Folk Dance Competition.

The team performing the folk dance may be positioned according to the need of the situation. It should be ensured that the group is visible to the rest of the students, teachers, parents and others who will constitute the audience. The jury has to evaluate the team as per the criteria and the originality in terms of content, presentation, responding to the questions and summarization. Every team has to adhere to the time allotted while performing folk dance.

C. Review and Feedback of Audience

- i. Once the folk dance is performed, the audience may be requested to make comments.
- ii. After the folk dance is performed, the audience may be requested to ask the questions to participants.
- iii. It can be evaluated based on the effectiveness, strengths and other relevant dimensions of the Folk Dance.

8. Selection of Judges:

There will be three judges at every level. The persons selected to judge the Folk dance may be drawn from the discipline of Health, Education and Performing Art, preferably both male and female and who are able to appreciate this aspect. The judges may be as follows at various levels:

- School Level:**
- (i) Principal
 - (ii) Two teachers nominated by the Principal
- District Level:**
- (i) DIET Principal or District Education Officers (DEOs)
 - (ii) Headmaster/Principal from the non-participating schools who has experience in Population / Adolescence Education/ Health and Wellbeing.
 - (iii) Person having background in performing Art.
- State/UT Level:**
- 1. (i) Experts in Population/Adolescence Education/ Health and Wellbeing
 - 2. (ii) Person with Education background
 - (iii) Person having background in Performing Art.
- National Level:**
- (i) Experts in Population/Adolescence Education/Health and Wellbeing
 - (ii) Person with Education background
 - (iii) Person having background in Performing Art.

9. A. Criteria for Evaluation of Folk Dance by Judges:

Each Folk Dance will be evaluated as per the criteria shown below:

	Marks
i. Coverage of theme	25
ii. Presentation of folk dance (costume, rhythm and choreography)	25
iii. Reflection of Life Skills during folkdance	30
iv. Reply to the questions asked by the Jury	10
v. Summarisation of the Folkdance theme by the team	10
Total (Marks)	100

B. Criteria and Process for Identifying three themes and three teams for Special Appreciation for Thematic Diversity:

1. Themes that have not been selected or performed by any participating team shall be excluded from consideration.
2. Themes selected or performed by the teams securing the first, second or third position shall also be excluded from consideration.
3. Out of the remaining themes, three themes selected or performed by the fewest number of teams shall be identified for Special Appreciation for Thematic Diversity.
 - 3.1. For each such theme, only teams securing a minimum of 60% marks shall be eligible for consideration.
 - 3.2. Where more than one eligible team has selected or performed on the same theme, only the highest-scoring team shall be selected for the Special Appreciation.

10. Registration and Monitoring:

For a more structured, clearly defined responsibilities at each level, to incorporate administrative checks and to make the reporting process robust; registration and monitoring of the National Folk Dance Competition will be done through NPEP online portal. The online portal shall serve as the official platform for registration, nomination, monitoring, and generation of participation statistics at all levels.

General Guidelines

1. Registration of teams shall be undertaken **only once at the School Level**. The registration details at the School Level shall remain valid throughout the competition, and shall be carried forward at all subsequent levels.
2. Submission of the prescribed competition report at each level shall be mandatory and nomination to the next higher level shall be permitted only after submission of the detailed report on the NPEP Portal.
3. Any change in the composition of the team after School Level shall be permitted only in exceptional circumstances with the approval and shall be recorded on the portal.

The registration, nomination, and monitoring of the Competition shall be carried out through the **online NPEP Portal** in the following manner:

Step 1: School Level Registration and Reporting

The School Principal, or a teacher nominated by the Principal as the **School Nodal Officer**, shall register the winning team at school level on the NPEP Portal, upload the details of all participating teams at the School Level, and forward the nomination of the School-level winning team to the Block/District Level, as applicable. The School Nodal Officer shall also prepare a detailed report of the School Level Competition, including the date and venue of the competition, the number of participating teams and students, the themes covered, the number of audience, and a brief summary of the event. The report shall be uploaded along with the nomination before the team participates at the Block/District Level.

Step 2: Block/District Level Registration and Reporting

The **Project Coordinator, Population Education Cell (PEC), State/UT** shall nominate a **District Nodal Officer** for conducting, coordinating, monitoring, and reporting the competition at the Block/District Level. The District Nodal Officer shall verify the nominations received from schools, conduct the competition, and forward the nomination of the winning team to the State/UT Level through the NPEP Portal. The District Nodal Officer shall also prepare a detailed report of the Block/District Level Competition containing the date and venue of the competition, the number of participating teams and students, the themes covered, the number of audience, and a brief summary of the event. This report shall be uploaded along with the nomination before the winning team participates at the State/UT Level.

Step 3: State/UT Level Registration and Reporting

The **Project Coordinator, Population Education Cell (PEC), State/UT**, shall function as the **State/UT Nodal Officer** for the competition and shall be responsible for conducting, monitoring, and reporting the competition from School to State/UT Level. The State/UT Nodal Officer shall verify the nominations received from the Districts and forward the nomination of the State/UT winning team to the National Level through the NPEP Portal. The State/UT Nodal Officer shall also prepare a detailed report of the State/UT Level Competition indicating the date and venue of the competition, the number of participating teams and students, the themes covered, the number of audience, and a brief summary of the event. The report shall be uploaded along with the nomination before the winning team participates at the National Level.

11. Appreciation:

There will be **NO CASH PRIZE at the school, Block, District, State/UT and National level.**

- District level - Merit and participation certificate. Memento (Optional).
- State / UT level - Merit and participation certificate. Memento (Optional).
- National level - Merit and participation certificate with Memento.

As an incentive for thematic diversity, Special Appreciation Certificate and memento (optional) will be given to the three best-performing teams presenting less-represented themes.

12. Remuneration to Judges:

Remuneration to judges will be as per State/UTs norms upto State/UT Level and at the National Level remuneration will be paid as per NCERT norms.

13. Time Schedule:

S. N.	Level of Folk Dance Competition	Duration
1	School	August – September, 2026
2	Block/Zone	September – October, 2026
3	District	September – October, 2026
4	State/UT	September – October, 2026
5	Intimation to NCERT about State/UT winning team along with detailed report.	31 October, 2026
6	National Level	December 2026 /January, 2027

14. Responsibility for Organisation and Implementation

The National-Level Folk Dance Competition shall be organised by NCERT, New Delhi, in accordance with the scheme above. The responsibility for organising the competition from School to the State/UT level shall rest with the Population Education Cell of the respective State/UT.

States/UTs can make suitable modifications to this scheme for implementation up to the State/UT level, taking into consideration the availability of resources, infrastructure and requirements. However, the organisation of the competition at the school level shall be mandatory.