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D.O.No. 1-2/2022-Sch-3/PMP- 2

07th October, 2025

Respected Ma'am / Sir,

This is regarding conduct of National School Band Competition among schools of States/UTs under different Education Boards as part of the Republic Day programme, 2026.

2. A school band evokes a feeling of oneness, belonging and a deep sense of pride in school children towards their school and country. The rhythm of a band rouses passion, courage and action in children and adults alike. An All-India national School Band competition of this kind will help rejuvenate and rekindle the spirit of constitutional values, patriotism and unity among children in schools throughout the country and motivate them on the path of holistic education.
3. The first level of the proposed National School Band Competition shall be conducted by all the States/UTs, among all the school of their respective States/UTs including schools from CBSE, ICSE, KVS, NVS, Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya, Neta ji Subhash Chandra Bose Awasiya Vidyalaya, PM-SHRI and Sainik schools etc. This will be followed by Zonal and National Level School band Competitions. The four Winner band Groups from each Zone (Easter Zone, Western Zone, Southern Zone, Northern Zone) i.e. a total 16 band teams shall participate in the Grand Finale of the event at New Delhi in the month of January 2026.
4. The expenditure for the State Level Competition will be borne by the respective States/Coordinating States. The expenditure for Zonal Level Competition upto Rs.15.00/- lakh only and for National Level competition will be borne by the Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education. The Guidelines of the National School Band Competition are attached herewith for reference and necessary action.
5. I would request you to ensure active participation of all schools under your jurisdiction in the competition and to direct all the concerned officials to promote/publicize the aforesaid band competition in your respective States/UTs to achieve maximum participation and adherence to Guidelines.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely,
Ansuu
7/10/25
(Dr. Amarpreet Duggal)

Enclosure: As above

To

The Additional Chief Secretary / Principal Secretary / Secretary (Education), Chairman CBSE, Commissioner / Directors of the State Governments / Union Territories Administration / Autonomous Bodies (KVS, NVS)

National School Band Competition

At

New Delhi

January, 2026

Guidelines: 2025-26

Department of School Education & Literacy

Ministry of Education

New Delhi

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1. Introduction:

1.1 The Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education in collaboration with Ministry of Defence has proposed to conduct a National School Band Competition at All-India level for Republic Day Celebrations, 2026.

1.2 A School band evokes a feeling of oneness, belonging and a deep sense of pride in school children towards their school and country. The rhythm of a band rouses passion, courage and action in children and adults alike. An All-India National School Band Competition during the Republic Day Celebration, 2026 will help rejuvenate and rekindle the spirit of constitutional values, patriotism and unity amongst children in schools throughout the country and motivate them on the path of holistic education.

1.3 The first level of the proposed National School Band Competition shall be conducted by all the States/UTs, among all schools of their respective States/UTs including schools from CBSE, ICSE, KVS, NVS, Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya, Neta ji Subhash Chandra Bose Awasiya Vidyalaya, PM-SHRI and Sainik schools etc. This will be followed by Zonal and National Level School Band Competition.

1.4 CBSE to oversee the competition in all schools under its jurisdiction in all the States and Union Territories and coordinate with MoE through its nodal officer.

2. Competition at various levels:

2.1 The National School Band Competition is proposed to be organized at three levels:

- Level 1: State Level – to be conducted by each State/UT

Level 2: Zonal Level – States/UTs will be divided into 4 zones

Level 3: National Level (Final) – Performance at New Delhi

2.2 A Band Group means one Brass Band Boys, one Brass Band Girls, one Pipe Band Boys and one Pipe Band Girls.

2.3 All competition levels will have the following 4 categories:

1. Brass Band Girls

2. Brass Band Boys

3. Pipe Band Girls ('Cymbal' should not be included)

4. Pipe Band Boys ('Cymbal' should not be included)

2.4 Maximum One Band Group from every school can participate in the above-mentioned categories of Bands; however, schools may also enter a band in single category as per availability.

2.5 State/UT have to conduct State Level Band Competition. In case if a State/UT has not conducted State level Band Competition, then the band from that State or UT will not be eligible to participate in the Zonal level Band Competition. Once awarded at the National Level, only after 3 years, unless it is for a different group i.e., if boys' band got it, girls' band can enter the competition. Four Winner Bands (1 from each category) at State Level Band Competition shall participate in the Zonal Level Band Competition.

2.6 Each zone has to conduct a Zonal Level Band Competition at the Zonal Coordinating State. The 4 zones are Eastern Zone, Western Zone, Southern Zone and Northern Zone. The States and UTs for each zone are given below: -

- **Eastern Zone:** Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, and Sikkim.
- **Western Zone:** Goa, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Daman & Diu, and D&N Haveli.
- **Southern Zone:** Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karnataka, Kerala, Andaman & Nicobar Island (UT), and Lakshadweep (UT).
- **Northern Zone:** Uttarakhand, Delhi (NCT), Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir (UT), Ladakh (UT) and Chandigarh (UT).

The Four Winner Band groups from each Zone (Eastern Zone, Western Zone, Southern Zone, Northern Zone) i.e. a total of 16 band teams shall participate in the National Level Band Competition to be held at New Delhi during January, 2026.

2.7 State/UT Level Band Competition is to be managed by the concerned State/UT.

2.8 The Zonal Level Band Competition is to be managed by the concerned coordinating State/UT at the Zonal Level.

3. **Registration:**

3.1 Registration form attached at **Annexure-I** should be filled properly by the principal of the school and should be submitted on email ID provided by respective State/UT Government.

3.2 List of participants and escorts should be forwarded along with the registration form as per **Annexure – II** (For National Level only, a copy of Aadhar card and a copy of the school ID for each participant/escort should be attached.)

3.3 Names of participants/escorts should be written in expanded form; abbreviations will not be accepted.

4. **Winning entries**

4.1 **State Level:**

The winning entries at the State/UT will be submitted separately for each category by the State Project Director, Samagra Shiksha of the State/UT to the Nodal Officer of the zonal level coordinating State as well as TSG-EdCIL / MoE in the format given in **Annexure-III**.

4.2 **Zonal Level:**

The winning entries for each category of the zonal level Band Competitions will be submitted by the State Project Director, Samagra Shiksha of the zonal level coordinating State to National level Nodal Officer as well as TSG-EdCIL / MoE in the format given in **Annexure – IV**.

5. Eligibility:

5.1 The competition will be open for all categories of schools. Education Departments of the States/Union Territories will conduct National School Bands Competition among all schools within their respective States/UTs including schools from CBSE, ICSE, KVS, NVS, Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya, Neta ji Subhash Chandra Bose Awasiya Vidyalaya, PM-SHRI and Sainik schools etc.

5.2 No professional groups/artists shall be allowed to participate / accompany the band groups.

6. Band members:

6.1 Each Band should have 25-33 participants including the Drum Major.

6.2 The Band can be accompanied by a maximum of 02 Escorts including the Band Master/Trainer.

7. Band Group:

7.1 The Band Group should consist of Pipe Band and Brass Band. **(As prescribed by MoD)**

7.2 The indicative strength is as follows:

- i. Pipe – 12,
- ii. Side Drums – 8,
- iii. Tenor Drum – 2,
- iv. Bass Drums – 1,
- v. Conductor (leader-stick)- 1,

Similarly, for Brass Band the same indicative strength may be followed.

8. **Theme:** Theme of the band should be patriotic.

9. **Tune:** Any tune based on patriotic songs, classical “dhun”, folk tunes etc.

Note: - “National Anthem tune is NOT ALLOWED for Band performance”

10. **Banners and any other documents:** Band groups should not use/display any banners, knife, khukhri or flags during the competition.

11. **Band Costume:** Wearing band costume is mandatory for the performance.

12. **Time limit:** Maximum time limit for the performance shall be **15 Minutes** for each Team. **(As prescribed by MoD)**

13. Jury:

13.1 **State and UT Level:** The States and UTs for the State Level Band Competition should arrange for independent jury comprising of officers from the Armed forces, CRPF, State Armed Police, etc. to judge the entries. The total officers in a Jury should be 5.

13.2 It is of paramount importance that high standards of fairness are maintained to ensure neutral and merit-based decision at all levels of the competition.

13.3 **Zonal Level:** The coordinating State for the Zonal Level Band Competition should arrange

for independent jury to judge the entries comprising of officers from the Armed forces and CRPF. The total officers in a Jury should be 5.

13.4 The decision of the Jury at Zonal Level Competition should particularly be free from any kind of regional biases and should not provide any chance to the participating States/UTs to raise an objection regarding the decision particularly in favour of the hosting State.

13.5 The Jury should, therefore, maintain complete transparency in providing results of the competition. The Jury should sit at different places while preparing the results of each band team performance.

13.6 The Zonal Coordinating State has to provide the details of results to the TSG-EdCIL/MoE.

13.7 **National Level:** The jury for the Finals – National Level will be appointed by the Ministry of Defence including members from each wing of the Defence forces.

13.8 The Jury should, therefore, maintain complete transparency in providing results of the competition. The Jury should sit at a different place while preparing the results of each band team performance.

13.9 The decision of the Jury would be final and binding, no representation of any kind would be entertained against the decision made by the Jury.

14. Various items to be seen during the performance (by the jury members):

- i. Band Master/Major and Contingent (band group members) (Body Language, Costume, Uniform, Hair Style, Decoration of Band Instruments)
- ii. Playing Rhythm, Music & Movements
- iii. March pasts by Stamping Heel & Hand Swing
- iv. Entry past by Stamping Heel & Hand Swing
- v. Accuracy of stamping in the Display area
- vi. Formations
- vii. Presentation
- viii. Time limit

The size of the performance area should be a minimum of 60 feet width x 40 feet length.

15. Criteria for evaluation:

Marking:

S. No.	Items	Marks
1.	Dress and equipment (Instruments)	15 marks
2.	Marches (a) Quick March – 15 marks (b) Slow March – 5 marks a+b = 20 Marks	20 marks
3.	Formation	20 marks
4.	Standards of playing – (Quality of tunes)	20 marks
5.	Presentation	15 marks
6.	Timely completion of the performance	10 marks
7.	Total	100 marks

16. Awards:

16.1 **State Level:** At the State Level, the winning teams, one each from each category, will be given a trophy and certificates, participating certificates is given to each band teams i.e. separate certificate to each student.

16.2 **Zonal Level:** At the Zonal Level, the winning teams, one each category, will be given a trophy and certificates. Participating certificates is to be given to each band teams i.e. separate certificate to each student.

At the Zonal Level, the winner teams in each category will be given a cash prize, a trophy as well as certificates.

- 1st Prize 10,000/-
- 2nd Prize 7,000/-
- 3rd Prize 5,000/-

16.3 **National Level:** At the National level, the winner teams in each category will be given a cash prize, a trophy, as well as certificates.

- 1st Prize 51,000/-
- 2nd Prize 31,000/-
- 3rd Prize 21,000/-

16.4 Consolation cash prize of Rs.11,000/- may be given to the participating band teams of national level, who have not received prizes.

16.5 Certificates are to be given to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize winners; besides, participating Certificates are to be provided to all the participating band teams, filler band team i.e. separate certificate to each student. Certificates provided in the finals to be jointly signed by the Secretary, Department of School Education & Literacy and the Secretary, Ministry of Defence respectively. Certificates jointly signed by Joint Secretary of the winning teams and consolation prize winning team in each category in the finals. Certificates jointly signed by Director (Ceremonials), MoD and concerned Director in the Ministry of Education will be given to all the participating band teams in the finals i.e., separate certificate to each student. Participation Certificates jointly signed by Director (Ceremonials) MoD and Director, Ministry of Education to be given to the Band Masters of the participating team in the finals.

16.5.1 The name of students participating in the finals of the National School Band Competition 2025-26 should be provided in the format attached as **Annexure - V** in Bilingual languages i.e. English and Hindi.

16.6 The cash award will be given to the school/team and not to individuals. The school has to use cash award for school band work purpose i.e., purchase of band instruments, band Accessories, repairs to the band instruments or anything relevant to Band.

17. Distribution of States and UTs and coordinating State for each zone

17.1 Distribution of States/UTs into four zones across the country and the coordinating State for each zone is as under: -

Sl. No.	Zones	No. of State/UTs	Coordinating State at Zonal Level	State / UT
1	Eastern	11	Jharkhand	Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, and Sikkim.
2	Western	06	Goa	Goa, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Daman & Diu, and Dadra & N. Haveli.
3	Southern	09	Telangana	Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karnataka, Kerala, Andaman & Nicobar Island (UT), and Lakshadweep (UT).
4	Northern	10	Delhi	Uttarakhand, Delhi (NCT), Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir (UT), Ladakh (UT) and Chandigarh (UT).
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18. Time Schedule:

18.1 The time schedule for holding the competition at State, Zonal and National level is given as under: -

Sl. No.	Activity	Date by which to be completed
1.	Registration of schools at State Levels as per Annexure- I	15.10.2025
2.	State to complete State Level Band Competitions at State Level and forward names of 4 winner teams (1 from each category as mentioned above) to Coordinating State to Zonal Level and TSG EdCIL/MoE	30.11.2025
3.	Zonal Level Band competitions (4 Zones) to be held and names of Zonal level winners forwarded to TSG EdCIL/MoE. Zonal level competitions dates (separate date for each zone) will be finalized by the zonal coordinating state and TSG EdCIL/MoE	31.12.2025
4.	National Level Band competition (Exact date will be intimated to the zonal coordinating state/UTs, winning team states/UTs)	January 2026, New Delhi

19. Budget:

19.1 **State Level:** The expenditure up to State Level will be borne by the respective State/UT. Under Samagra Shiksha, an amount of Rs.5.00 lakh has been allocated for State level Band Competition in the PAB minutes of the 2025-26. Any further expenditure is to be borne by the State/UT through their own funds.

The above amount of Rs.5 lakhs may be utilized by the States/UTs as per their requirement on the components of training, uniform, organizing the event. The decision as to whether the States/UTs want to purchase the pipe band / brass band instruments may be decided by them depending upon their need.

19.2 Zonal Level: Zonal Level Competition will be conducted by the Zonal Level coordinating States, the funding for the same shall be provided by MoE (expenditure limit Rs.15.00 lakh). The details of amount allocated for the various items are given below: -

- i. Rs.5.00 lakh for expenses like photography, video, certificates, trophy, cash prizes, stage arrangement, travel, and honorarium to the jury members or any other and conduct of Zonal Level Band Competition. The zonal level Competition may be organized at Head Quarter of the zonal Coordinating State. Preferably at SPD, Samagra Shiksha office open place or State SCERT/SIEMAT open place or any KVS/NVs/Government School open place or State Sports complex.
- ii. Rs.10.00 lakh for accommodation and local transport, food or any other. Accommodation may be arranged at school/KVS/NVs or state guest house or any other safe place. Safety of the participants is to be ensured by the Head of these institutions. Please avoid accommodation at private hotels for safety reasons.

19.2.1 The zonal level coordinating state after completion of competition, within 10 days has to submit original bills amounting to Rs.15.00 lakhs only along with photographs and video and report to TSG, EdCIL for reimbursement. The States/UTs have to meet travel expenses and etc. of the band teams of their State and UTs from the State funds for attending the zonal level competition.

19.3 National Level: Ministry of Education (Department of School Education and Literacy) along with Ministry of Defence will bear the expenditure relating to the organizing of the National level School Band Competition through TSG-SS, EdCIL. The Prize money for the National level School Band will be borne by Ministry of Defence. Ministry of Education will bear the expenses of travelling, accommodation and other logistics.

19.4 Travel expenses (by 2nd AC train or air fare) of the participating band teams of 25-33 Children and two escorts teacher and one band master for each team, may be reimbursed through TSG-SS EdCIL after receipt of the Travel bills (Original) as per the EdCIL travel format as provided by EdCIL. Further the local transport to participating teams may be provided by DoSE&L through TSG-SS, EdCIL.

20. Accommodation

20.1 Food and Accommodation for the teams participating at National Level may be provided at National Bal Bhavan / NCERT (subject to change).

20.2 The schedule for teams performing will be shared in advance and accordingly, they will be provided the lodging facilities.

21. Reports:

21.1 State level: The State and UT have to provide number of schools (along with school's name) participating along with band teams (boys and girls) & also the details of the 4 winner band teams (boys and girls) and results of the State Level Band Competition including photographs, video and report to the MoE by email (will be updated soon). In case, the details are not submitted, State/UT will not be eligible to participate in the Zonal Level Competition.

21.2 Zonal level: Each zonal coordinating state have to provide number of schools participated along with the band teams, the details of the 4 winner Band Teams (boys and girls) and zonal results of the Zonal Level Band Competition including photographs, video and report to the MoE by email (will be updated soon). In case, the details are not submitted, State/UT will not be eligible to participate in the Zonal Level Competition.

School Registration Form for National School Band Competition

1. Name of School.....
2. UDISE Code.....
3. Address of School.....
.....
4. District.....
State.....
5. Telephone No.....
6. Name of Principal and Telephone Number.....
.....
7. Name of Escort /Teacher.....
8. Number of Participants (List attached).....
9. Category (Boys/Girls).....

(Signature of Principal)

To be submitted on email id to the State/UT.

List of participants for National Level only-

Name of the School - 1) -----

UDISE Code:

Name of Escort / Teacher & Telephone No. 2) -----

List of participants: -

Sl. No.	Name of the Participants	Male/Female
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		
11.		
12.		
13.		
14.		
15.		

(Signature of Principal)

List of participants for Zonal Level Competition (Winning entries at the State/UT level)

Name of the School - 1) -----

Name of Escort /Teacher & Telephone No 2) -----

List of participants: -

Sl. No.	Name of the Participants	Male/Female
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		
11.		
12.		
13.		
14.		
15.		
16.		
17.		

(SPD, Samagra Shiksha)

Annexure-IV

List of participants by the coordinating States/UTs for National Level Competition

Name of the School 1) -----

Name of Escort /Teacher & Telephone No 2) -----

List of participants: -

Sl. No.	Name of the Participants	Male/Female	Aadhar No.	School ID
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
10.				
11.				
12.				
13.				
14.				
15.				
16.				
17.				

Nodal Officer of the Zonal Level Competition

Annexure V

Bilingual details of the participating teams in the finals of National Level School Band Competition 2025-26 in New Delhi

- Name of the School (Full Address in English):
- स्कूल का नाम (पूरा पता हिंदी में):

State/UT:

List of students participating in the National Level School Band Competition 2025-26

Sl. No.	Student Name in English	विद्यार्थी का नाम हिंदी में
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		

Principal

School Name