

MAHARSHI DAYANAND UNIVERSITY, ROHTAK



CENTRE FOR DISABILITY STUDIES

Celebrating

INTERNATIONAL WEEK OF DEAF PEOPLE 2026

on

**"DECLARING DEAF PEOPLE'S HUMAN
RIGHTS"**

21-25 SEPTEMBER 2026

In observance of International Day of Sign Languages on 23 September

**A week of awareness, accessibility, sign language,
participation and human rights**

Organised by

**Centre for Disability Studies
Maharshi Dayanand University, Rohtak**

ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY

Maharshi Dayanand University, Rohtak

Maharshi Dayanand University, Rohtak (A⁺), initially known as Rohtak University, was established in 1976 with the object to promote inter-disciplinary higher education and research. The University derives its name and identity from Maharshi Dayanand Saraswati, a great freedom fighter, renowned social reformer and progressive thinker. Over the years, the University has progressed to emerge as a leading centre of higher education.

ABOUT THE CENTRE FOR DISABILITY STUDIES

The Centre for Disability Studies (CDS) at Maharshi Dayanand University, Rohtak, was established to promote education, training, awareness and inclusion in the field of disability studies. The Centre runs Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI)-approved Diploma programmes in Indian Sign Language, including Diploma in Teaching Indian Sign Language (DTISL) for Deaf candidates and Diploma in Indian Sign Language Interpretation (DISLI) for hearing candidates.

Sign language interpreting is a professional field with important opportunities in schools, colleges, institutions, government and private organisations. The Centre seeks to strengthen accessibility and meaningful participation of Deaf people through Indian Sign Language (ISL), training and community engagement.

ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL OBSERVANCE

The International Day of Sign Languages is observed annually on 23 September. It recognises the vital role of sign languages in ensuring equal participation, accessibility and human rights for Deaf people. The observance was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in 2017, with the first celebration held on 23 September 2018. The date also commemorates the establishment of the World Federation of the Deaf in 1951.

The 2026 theme announced by the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) is **"Declaring Deaf People's Human Rights"**. The observance promotes awareness, inclusion, appreciation of linguistic and cultural diversity, and the principle of **"Nothing About Us Without Us"**, emphasising meaningful participation of Deaf people in matters concerning their lives and communities.

OBJECTIVES OF THE WEEK

International Week of Deaf People 2026

- Create awareness about sign language as a human right and its importance for equal participation.
- Promote accessibility and inclusive communication through Indian Sign Language (ISL).
- Build understanding among university stakeholders and the wider community about the rights and needs of Deaf people.
- Highlight the role of ISL interpreters in education, healthcare and public institutions.
- Strengthen meaningful participation, social inclusion and legal empowerment of persons with disabilities.
- Encourage dialogue on human rights and inclusion in the era of Artificial Intelligence.
- Promote the principle of **"Nothing About Us Without Us"**.

PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE

DATE	ACTIVITY	KEY DETAILS
21.09.2026	Extension Lecture	Title: Sign Language as a Human Right: Recognition, Access & Inclusion
22.09.2026	Accessibility Awareness School Visit	Visit to 02 schools in Rohtak; ISL demonstration, role-play and awareness
24.09.2026	Workshop	Title: Sign Language for all: Inclusive MDU Around 150 participants; university employees, education-college staff, CDS staff & students
25.09.2026	National Seminar	Title: Beyond Protection to Participation: Human Rights, Legal Empowerment and Social Inclusion of PwD in the Era of Artificial Intelligence

DETAILED PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

21–25 September 2026

21 SEPTEMBER 2026

EXTENSION LECTURE

Sign Language as a Human Right: Recognition, Access & Inclusion.

- Participants: Staff and students of the Centre for Disability Studies.
- Focus: recognition of sign language, accessibility, inclusion and human rights.

22 SEPTEMBER 2026

ACCESSIBILITY AWARENESS PROGRAMME

Visit to 02 schools in Rohtak.

- Demonstration of accessible communication in Indian Sign Language (ISL).
- Role-play on access to public services.
- Discussion on the importance of ISL interpreters in education, healthcare and public institutions.
- Staff and students of CDS will participate.

24 SEPTEMBER 2026

WORKSHOP ON SIGN LANGUAGE FOR ALL: INCLUSIVE MDU

Around 150 participants.

- Participants invited from the Vice-Chancellor Office, Registrar Office, Boys and Girls Hostel, DSW Office, CDOE, COE, UTDs, education colleges running D.Ed./B.Ed. special education programmes, and staff and students of CDS.
- The workshop is intended to strengthen awareness and basic understanding of sign language and accessible communication.

25 SEPTEMBER 2026

NATIONAL SEMINAR

Title: Beyond Protection to Participation: Human Rights, Legal Empowerment and Social Inclusion of PwD in the Era of Artificial Intelligence.

- Around 150 participants, including students and staff of CDS.
- No fee charged from participants
- Resource persons and interpreters may be invited as per University rules.

NATIONAL SEMINAR

25 September 2026

Theme: Beyond Protection to Participation: Human Rights, Legal Empowerment and Social Inclusion of PwD in the Era of Artificial Intelligence

The seminar will provide a platform for academic discussion and exchange on human rights, legal empowerment, social inclusion and emerging challenges and opportunities for persons with disabilities in the era of Artificial Intelligence.

Sub-Themes

- Human rights and participation of persons with disabilities
- Legal empowerment and access to justice
- Social inclusion and inclusive education
- Employment, Economic, Inclusion and AI-Driven workplace
- Sign language, accessibility and communication rights
- Role of ISL interpreters in public services
- Artificial Intelligence and accessibility
- Assistive technology and disabilities
- Inclusive digital communication and information access
- Innovations for persons with disabilities
- Data Rights, Privacy and Disability Laws
- Health, well-being and independent living
- Accessible and inclusive institutions and public services
- Nothing About Us Without Us: meaningful participation of Deaf people

Participation

- Expected participation: around 150 persons.
- No fee will be charged from participants.
- TA/DA and remuneration for invited resource persons/interpreters will be governed by applicable University rules.

Key Date

- Abstract (in about 250 words) submission via google form link by 20.09.2026
- Notification of acceptance: 23.09.2026
- Announcement of final program details: 24.09.2026

Important Note

- The delegates will not be paid any TA/DA for participating in the seminar.
- The participants be ready to make oral presentations (even without power-point presentations).
- Time allotted for each paper presentation/talk – 07 to 10 minutes.
- Link for registration form - <https://forms.gle/3XTW9QBvJy54FQed9>
- **No registration fee for participation:** Only online registered participants will be allowed in the seminar.
- **Venue:** Conference Hall, CDOE, MDU Rohtak
- **Time:** 10.00 AM to 05.00 PM

WORKSHOP

24 September 2026

Theme: Sign Language for all: Inclusive MDU

The workshop is designed to bring together university offices, teaching and non-teaching staff, education colleges and the Centre for Disability Studies to promote awareness of sign language and accessible communication.

- Around 150 participants.
- At least one employee may be invited from identified University offices and units.
- Teaching and non-teaching staff of Education Colleges running D.Ed. and B.Ed. special education programmes may participate.
- Interested staff members and students of CDS may participate.
- The programme will emphasise practical awareness of Indian Sign Language and communication accessibility.

Important Note

- Link for registration form - <https://forms.gle/4YKGwJXNnex1n6oX9>
- No TA/DA shall be paid to participating employees and students.
- **No registration fee for participation:** Only online registered participants will be allowed in the workshop.
- **Venue:** Conference Hall, CDOE, MDU Rohtak
- **Time:** 10.00 AM to 05.00 PM

SCHOOL ACCESSIBILITY AWARENESS PROGRAMME

22 September 2026

- Visit to two local schools in Rohtak.
- Demonstration of accessible communication in Indian Sign Language (ISL).
- Role-play on access to public services.
- Awareness on the importance of ISL interpreters in education, healthcare and public institutions.
- Staff and students of CDS will participate.

EXTENSION LECTURE

21 September 2026

Extension Lecture on **"Sign Language as a Human Right: Recognition, Access & Inclusion"**. Staff and students of the Centre for Disability Studies will attend the lecture.

ORGANISING INFORMATION

The International Week of Deaf People 2026 is being organised by the Centre for Disability Studies, Maharshi Dayanand University, Rohtak. The programme is intended to advance awareness, accessibility, participation and recognition of the human rights of Deaf people and sign language users.

INSTITUTIONAL COLLABORATION & PARTICIPATION

- Centre for Disability Studies (CDS), M.D. University, Rohtak
- University Teaching Departments and relevant University offices/units
- Education Colleges running D.Ed. and B.Ed. special education programmes
- Local schools and community stakeholders
- Staff and students of CDS

Patron-in-Chief

*Prof. Milap Punia
Vice-Chancellor
M.D.U. Rohtak*

Patrons

*Prof. Randeep Rana
Dean Academic Affairs*

*Prof. Sandeep Bansal
Registrar*

Director

*Prof. Pratima Devi
Director (CDS)*

Convenor

*Prof. Yogender Singh
Add'l Director (CDS)*

Organizing Secretary

*Dr. Priyanka Yadav
IMSAR*

Members of Organizing Committee

*Mr. Ram Nath Singh, Mr. Neetesh Sharma, Ms. Mansufi Ali Ansari, Ms. Ragini Agarwal
Mr. Anurag, Ms. Manisha Rani, Mr. Sunil Kumar*

**Centre for Disability Studies
Maharshi Dayanand University, Rohtak**