

ICMR S.H.I.N.E.

NATIONAL-LEVEL STUDENT COMPETITION 2026

1. COMPETITION OVERVIEW



The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) S.H.I.N.E. (Science, Health and Innovation for NextGen Explorers) National-Level Competition invites students from Grades 9 to 12 studying in government and private schools to apply scientific thinking to real-world public health challenges.

Aligned with India's **Viksit Bharat 2047** vision, this competition aims to encourage scientific curiosity for public health solutions through the use of scientific literature, peer discussion and observation.

2. COMPETITION FORMAT



Theme:
"Igniting Scientific
Curiosity Among
Youth for a
Viksit Bharat 2047"



Note:

The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) is encouraged to support the research and ideation process, but students are expected to develop and articulate their own arguments in the final submission.

3. ELIGIBILITY



Grade Levels: School-going students enrolled in Grades 9 to 12



Schools: Government, semi-government/ government-aided and private schools across India



Entry Fee: There is no entry fee or charge for participation.



4.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS



Each participant must identify **one relevant public health challenge** and share solutions in line with existing evidence.



Students are encouraged to arrive at their research question through classroom or peer discussion and reading digital and printed literature. They may also use **AI** tools to support this process, including developing or refining their research question and exploring potential solutions. Students should transparently acknowledge any use of AI in their submission document.



Students are required to frame their research question, challenge and solutions in a **two-page document** containing the following sections:

i.

About yourself:

100 words telling about yourself

ii.

Background:

Detail the identified problem – context-specific causes, root cause, health behaviours around the problem, past and present government and non-profit/ for-profit efforts to address the problem and persistence of the problem.

iii.

Problem Identification:

Explain your reason for selecting the public health problem and briefly describe the steps you took to arrive at your research question.

iv.

Problem Statement:

Write a problem statement that mentions the public health problem. Define the gap between the current state and the desired goal.

v.

Suggested Solutions:

Suggest up to three solutions for the identified problem. Consider including novel solutions to address the problem. Students could also write about actions they would personally choose to pursue or would want to see accomplished.

vi.

Pitch:

Explain how you would describe the problem and solutions to your friends, peers, teachers and parents in a simple manner. Limit the use of jargon and technical language.

5.

KEY DATES



11th August 2026: Official launch of the national-level student competition



11th September 2026: Closure of submissions into the ICMR S.H.I.N.E. portal



17th November 2026: Announcement of results





6.

OUTREACH

To secure pan-India participation, the national launch will be executed simultaneously across three primary channels:



1. Print and social media



2. The official ICMR website and ICMR S.H.I.N.E. portal



3. Direct outreach via invitations dispatched by the ICMR institutes through their established school networks

7.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES



- **Submission Format:**
Participants are required to submit a two-page document in PDF format. They may include illustrations/ graphics/ graphs/ flow charts in the document.



- **Languages for Submission:**
Submissions can be done either in English or the 22 Scheduled Languages of India: (1) Assamese, (2) Bengali, (3) Gujarati, (4) Hindi, (5) Kannada, (6) Kashmiri, (7) Konkani, (8) Malayalam, (9) Manipuri, (10) Marathi, (11) Nepali, (12) Oriya, (13) Punjabi, (14) Sanskrit, (15) Sindhi, (16) Tamil, (17) Telugu, (18) Urdu (19) Bodo, (20) Santhali, (21) Maithili and (22) Dogri.



- **Online Submission:**
A designated nodal person at each school will upload the students' submissions in the provided document template. The upload should be done on the ICMR S.H.I.N.E. web portal only.

8.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Evaluation Parameter	Descriptors
 Scientific Thinking	Did you observe carefully and think through the problem logically?
 Problem Identification	Why did you choose this problem, and how does it help your community improve their health?
 Problem-Solution Narrative	Does the submission link the problem to the solution?
 Simplicity of Pitch	Could anyone – not just an expert – understand your idea?



9.

RECOGNITION OF EFFORTS



Certificate of Participation:

Every student who successfully submits an entry would receive a certificate of participation issued by ICMR.



Recognition of Winners:

The top 100 winners would receive cash prize of INR 1000/- each and certificate from ICMR.