78th INDEPENDENCE DAY OF SRI LANKA

13 Feb 2026 Friday

INDEPENDENCE DAY CONTESTS (IDC)
For Sri Lankan Students in Qatar
Hosted by SLMQ (Since 2002)

📍 **Stafford Sri Lankan School, Doha**

For Online registration and details
www.slmq.org

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25TH Year ANNIVERSARY

Independence Day Contests (IDC) – 2026
Hosted by Sri Lankan Majlis Qatar (SLMQ) since 2002

Since the introduction of Independence Day Contests (IDC), IDC has evolved into an annual flagship initiative that celebrates Sri Lanka's Independence while nurturing creativity, confidence, and communication skills among the younger generation. The contests are open to all Sri Lankan school students residing in Qatar, regardless of their school.

This year, IDC will be held across five age categories, offering four events that encourage broad student participation and provide opportunities for participants to showcase their talents within their respective age groups.

Reflecting SLMQ's 25-year journey, IDC 2026 introduces an enhanced structure with online registration, recorded pre-qualifier rounds for selected events, and in-person finals on the event day. These enhancements strengthen accessibility, transparency, and fairness while reaffirming the importance of celebrating Independence through education and meaningful student participation.

Age Group	Age	DoB Range (Including the Dates)	Events	
Kids	4 to 5	05-Feb-2021 to 04-Feb-2023	Colouring	
Sub Junior	6 to 7	05-Feb-2018 to 04-Feb-2021	Drawing	
Junior	8 to 10	05-Feb-2015 to 04-Feb-2018	Drawing	Prepared Speech
Intermediate	11 to 13	05-Feb-2012 to 04-Feb-2015	Essay Writing	Prepared Speech
Senior	14 to 16	05-Feb-2009 to 04-Feb-2012	Essay Writing	Prepared Speech

A. General Rules:

1. Open to Sri Lankan students residing in Qatar with a valid QID.
2. Students may participate only in events within their eligible age group.
3. Registration must be completed through the link, available from the SLMQ website www.slmq.org, starting 03 Feb 2026 till 10 Feb 2026.
4. One entry per event per participant is permitted
5. All submissions must be the student's original work
6. Parents may assist only with the technical setup; coaching or prompting is not allowed
7. Late or incomplete submissions will not be considered
8. Judges are independent and impartial; their decisions are final and binding
9. SLMQ reserves the right to make necessary changes to ensure the smooth conduct of the contest

B. How to Register and Participate

1. **Parents and Students Registration**
   Parents must register using the link available on the SLMQ website from 03 Feb 2026 to 10 Feb 2026. During registration, enter all required contact and child details, and select the event(s) for each child, registering **one child at a time**.

   An acknowledgement email will be automatically sent upon successful registration.

2. **Online Submissions**
   For online submissions (Prepared Speech – Round One and Essay Writing), **the system will send a secure upload link to registered parents**. The upload window will be open **from 06 Feb 2026 to 10 Feb 2026**. Detailed upload guidelines will be provided with the submission link.

PREPARED SPEECH
(Junior, Intermediate, and Senior Groups)

	Category	Age	Topic	Time
Topics & Timing	**Junior**	8 to 10	*My Country, Sri Lanka*	**3–4 mins**
	Intermediate	11 to 13	*Sri Lanka Is My Home, Even When I Live Abroad*	**4–5 mins**
	Senior	14 to 16	*Economic Patriotism, Beyond Rhetoric*	**5–6 mins**

Competition Structure	**Round One: Recorded Pre-Qualifier** 1. At the beginning: Full Name, Date of Birth, Age, School & Grade/Year 2. **Submission Deadline: 10 Feb 2025** 3. Seven (7) finalists per category will be shortlisted for the Final Round **Final Round: In-Person Speech** 4. Shortlisted finalists will deliver their prepared speeches live before judges and an audience. 5. Winners are selected based on final-round performance. Winning speeches may be featured on SLMQ official platforms. 6. The decisions of the organizers and judges are **final and binding**.
Video Recording Guidelines	1. The speech must be recorded in **one continuous, unedited recording.** 2. **No background music, sound effects, filters, or visual enhancements** are permitted. 3. Reading from **notes, paper, or screens** is not allowed. 4. The speaker should **look directly at the camera** while speaking. 5. Position the camera at eye level and frame the speaker from the **waist up**, ensuring the face and expressions are clearly visible. 6. Record in a **quiet environment** with minimal background noise. 7. Ensure **good lighting** so the speaker's face is clearly visible and not in shadow. 8. The video must be of **high quality and have clear audio throughout**; mobile phone recordings are acceptable.

	Judging Criteria	Points
Judging Criteria (100 Points)	1. Content & Theme Relevance	25
	2. Speech Organization & Structure	15
	3. Delivery	25
	4. Language & Expression	10
	5. Overall Impact	10
	6. Time Management (within ±30s)	5
	7. Recording Quality & Compliance	10

Disqualification	✓ No disqualification for time overruns**.** ✓ Parents may help only with the technical setup (camera, lighting, uploading). Coaching, scripting, prompting, or assisting during recording is not allowed. ✓ Only **one video file** is allowed during the submission window. Parents may **delete and re-upload** the video until the window closes. **The judges will evaluate the final file available at the closing time.** ✓ All videos will be reviewed for editing, continuity, and Rule compliance. Any violation will result in disqualification.

ESSAY WRITING
(Intermediate, and Senior Groups)

<table>
<tr><td rowspan="3">Topics & Timing</td>
<td>Category</td><td>Age</td><td>Topic</td><td>Words</td></tr>
<tr><td>Intermediate</td><td>11 to 13</td><td>The Future of My Learning with AI</td><td>400-500 Words</td></tr>
<tr><td>Senior</td><td>14 to 16</td><td>The Impact of Social Media on My Daily Life</td><td>600-800 Words</td></tr>
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Objective	Encourages students to express ideas clearly through structured writing. The contest promotes original thinking, basic research, and relevance to the given topic. It also emphasizes honesty, integrity, and independent effort, while helping students develop critical thinking and effective writing skills appropriate to their age group.
Competition Structure	1. **Submission Window: 06 Feb 2026 to 10 Feb 2026 via the official SLMQ link.** 2. Only the final file available at closing time will be evaluated. 3. Essay Requirements: ✓ Original content relevant to the title ✓ No name or school identifiers ✓ Typed essays only, uploaded in **PDF or Word format** 4. Plagiarism, copied content, or late submissions will result in disqualification. Judges' decisions are final and binding. 5. The result of the contest shall be announced in the award-giving ceremony. 6. The first three winners will be awarded. The judges' decision is final.

Judging Criteria (100 Points)	1. Relevance to Essay Title	25
	2. Content & Ideas	25
	3. Structure & Organization	20
	4. Language & Expression	20
	5. Overall Impact	10

Disqualification	✓ Plagiarism, copied content, or late submissions will result in disqualification. Judges' decisions are final and binding. ✓ No disqualifications for exceeding the word limit.

Colouring
(Kids Group)

Topics & Timing	Category	Age	Topic	Time	
	Kids	4-5years	A picture will be provided	45 Mins	

Competition Structure	1. The contestants shall be given 45 minutes for coloring.
	2. Each contestant shall be assigned a reference number.
	3. The contestants shall be provided with only one picture attested by the SLMQ and marked with a reference number. Extra copies of the picture will not be provided.
	4. The contestants shall bring their own color pencils or crayons. Please note that either color pencils or crayons shall be used. Both cannot be used together.
	5. They are prohibited from writing their names or the name of the school they represent.
	6. The result of the contest shall be announced in the award-giving ceremony.
	7. The first three winners will be awarded. The judges' decision is final.

Judging Criteria (100 Points)	1. Coloring skills, use of color, and color coordination	50
	2. Visual balance	30
	3. General aesthetics	20

Drawing
(Junior and Sub- Junior)

Topics & Timing	Category	Age	Topic	Time	
	Sub Junior	6 to 7	My Favourite Place in Sri Lanka	45 Minutes	
	Junior	8 to 10	A Festival in Sri Lanka	45 Minutes	

Competition Structure	1. The contestants shall be given 45 minutes for drawing and coloring.
	2. Each contestant shall be assigned a reference number.
	3. The contestants shall be provided with an A4 sheet duly attested by the SLMQ and marked with a reference number.
	4. The contestant shall bring their own color pencils, crayons, and other stationery. Please note that only color pencils or crayons shall be used. Both cannot be used together.
	5. They are prohibited from writing their names or the name of the school they represent.
	6. No printed materials, electronic gadgets, or storage devices shall be utilized.
	7. The artwork must be original and not previously published or exhibited.
	8. The result of the contest shall be announced in the award-giving ceremony.
	9. The first three winners will be awarded. The judges' decision is final.

Judging Criteria (100 Points)	1. Imagination and creativity	25
	2. Coloring skills, use of color, and color coordination	25
	3. Does this Art portray or convey a message	15
	4. Visual balance	15
	5. General aesthetics	20

Disqualification	✓ Any other colouring mediums other than crayons or pencils will be disqualified.
	✓ Any artworks after the stipulated time shall be disqualified.