LOK BHAVAN, WEST BENGAL

PRESS RELEASE

LOK BHAVAN, WEST BENGAL TO ORGANISE FIRST STATE-LEVEL ESSAY COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL, COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

Lok Bhavan, West Bengal, is organising its **First State-Level Essay Competition** for school, college and university students studying in West Bengal. The competition will be held in two categories, separately for school students and college/university students, with entries invited in **English and Bengali**.

Category	Topic	Word Limit
School Students (Classes X–XII)	**English:** "Calcutta Massacre, 1946 – Causes and Consequences" **Bangla:** "১৯৪৬ সালের কলকাতা গণহত্যাযজ্ঞ—কারণ ও ফলাফলসমূহ"	**3,000–4,000 words**
College/University Students	**English:** "Direct Action Day by All India Muslim League – A Fatal Assault on Civilisational Bharat" **Bangla:** "অল ইন্ডিয়া মুসলিম লীগের প্রত্যক্ষ সংগ্রাম দিবস—ভারতের চিরায়ত সভ্যতার ভিত্তির ওপর এক মারাত্মক আক্রমণ।"	**5,000–6,000 words**

Prize Structure

Category	1st Prize	2nd Prize	3rd Prize
School Students (Classes X–XII)	₹50,000	₹35,000	₹25,000
College/University Students	₹1,00,000	₹75,000	₹50,000

The prizes will be awarded separately for essays submitted in **English and Bengali** in each category. Only students studying in educational institutions in **West Bengal** are eligible to participate. A participant may submit **only one essay, in either English or Bengali**.

Essays must be **handwritten**, using one side of the paper only, and all pages must be numbered. Participants are required to submit a duly signed hard copy of the essay.

Participants must attach a separate sheet containing their **name, residential address, class/discipline, name of educational institution, e-mail address and contact number**. In the case of school students, a **parent's/guardian's contact number** should also be provided. The participant's name, institution or any other identifying particulars should not appear on the essay itself.

Each entry must also be accompanied by the prescribed **Self-Declaration Form**, duly signed by the participant, confirming that the essay is the participant's original work, has been written independently, that all sources, quotations and references used have been duly acknowledged, and that no AI-generated content or generative AI tools have been used for writing the essay.

Entries must reach the **Secretary to the Governor, Governor's Secretariat, Lok Bhavan, Kolkata–700 062**, on or before **15 November 2026**. Entries must be sent by **post or courier only** and will not be accepted in person.

The envelope should be superscribed **"State-Level Essay Competition 2026"**, along with the relevant category (**School/College-University**) and language (**English/Bengali**).

Entries will be evaluated on the basis of **depth of research, factual accuracy, originality of thought, analytical depth, coherence and quality of expression**. Plagiarism, copying or reproducing material from any source without due acknowledgement, and the use of **AI-generated content or generative AI tools for writing the essay** are strictly prohibited. Any entry found in violation of these conditions shall be liable to disqualification. The decision of the Evaluation Committee shall be final.

The winners of the competition will be felicitated on 26 January 2027 during the At Home Reception at Lok Bhavan. Further details and competition guidelines are available on the official website of Lok Bhavan, West Bengal: **rajbhavankolkata.gov.in**.

SELF-DECLARATION FORM

State-Level Essay Competition 2026

I, _____, a student of _____ (name of educational institution), studying in Class/Course _____, hereby declare that:

1. The essay titled "_____" submitted by me for the State-Level Essay Competition 2026 organised by Lok Bhavan, West Bengal, is **my original work and has been written independently by me.**
2. The essay has **not been copied or plagiarised, in whole or in part, from any source**, and all sources, quotations and references used have been **duly acknowledged**.
3. I have **not used AI-generated content or generative AI tools, including ChatGPT, Claude or similar tools, for writing the essay**.
4. I understand that any violation of the competition guidelines or any false declaration made herein may result in **disqualification of my entry**.

I certify that the information furnished above is true and correct.

Name of Participant: _____

Category: School (Classes X–XII) / College-University

Language of Essay: English / Bangla

Name of Educational Institution: _____

Place: _____ **Date:** _____

Signature of Participant: _____

For School Students Only

I have read the above declaration and confirm the submission of the essay by my ward for the competition.

Name of Parent/Guardian: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____

Contact Number: _____

Governor's Secretariat
Lok Bhavan, West Bengal, Kolkata