

# Eligibility, Terms & Awards Framework

## CLS 2026

### ABOUT THE AWARDS

CLS Awards 2026 celebrates India's most influential digital creators—individuals who inspire audiences, shape culture, and drive meaningful impact through content, storytelling, and community building. The awards recognise creativity, originality, influence, and contribution to the evolving creator economy across multiple categories.

## Eligibility Criteria

To ensure quality, consistency, and category relevance, all nominations must meet the following eligibility conditions:

- Active presence on at least one digital platform (IG & YT)
- Consistent content activity within the last 12 months
- Content must be original and creator-owned
- Submission must clearly align with the selected category

## Category-Specific Eligibility

- General Categories (All standard categories):**  
Creators must have a minimum of 100K+ followers/subscribers on their primary platform
  - Best Emerging Creator:**  
Creators with 50K to 100K followers/subscribers
  - Best Junior Content Creator:**  
Open only to creators under 12 years of age
  - All Other Categories:**  
Creators must be 12 years of age and above
- Organizers reserve the right to apply additional eligibility filters per category where required

## Submission Acceptance & Terms

By submitting a nomination, the participant agrees to be bound by these Terms & Conditions.

- Participation confirms acceptance of all current and updated rules
- Awards Management reserves the right to amend, modify, or update terms at any stage
- Continued participation implies acceptance of such changes

## NOMINATION FEE & POLICY

- ₹1,000 (Inclusive of Taxes) per nomination
- Fee is non-refundable under all circumstances
- Payment confirms entry into the evaluation process only and does not guarantee shortlisting or selection
- Fee supports verification, evaluation, jury processing, and administrative operations

## Awards Process

Stage 1

### Eligibility Check

All entries undergo initial screening for:

- Authenticity and identity verification
- Completeness of submission
- Category alignment
- Basic eligibility compliance

Stage 2

### Shortlisting (Third-Party Evaluation)

An independent evaluation partner reviews eligible entries based on:

- Views, reach, and engagement metrics
- Content quality and originality
- Audience interaction patterns
- Category relevance and consistency

Output: Approx. shortlisted pool of entries shared with CLS Internal team

Stage 3

### Internal Evaluation

CLS Internal team evaluates shortlisted entries to:

- Validate performance insights
- Assess qualitative content strength
- Finalise nominee selection across categories

Stage 4

### Official Nomination Announcement

Creators selected for the final nominee list will receive an official nomination confirmation via email.

To celebrate and activate their nomination, nominees will be invited to complete a few simple steps:

- Sign and submit the Official Nominee Acceptance Agreement (MoU)
- Create and publish the following two Instagram reels as collaboration posts with Creator Lens Summit, following the creative guidelines shared by the CLS team:

#### Nomination Submission Reel

Share your excitement and let your audience know that you have submitted your nomination for the Creator Lens Awards 2026.

#### Official Nominee Reel

Announce your official nomination for the Creator Lens Awards 2026 once you receive confirmation from the CLS team.

Additionally, nominees will be requested to:

- SHARE** both reels on their Instagram Stories
- TAG** CLS'26 and Dainik Jagran in all nomination-related content
- SUBMIT** the required content assets within the timelines shared by the CLS team

These reels will help showcase and celebrate our nominees while supporting audience engagement and the awards journey. Selected content may also be featured across Creator Lens Summit and Dainik Jagran platforms, including social media promotions, nominee spotlights, online voting activities, and other awards-related communications.

Detailed timelines, creative guidelines, collaboration instructions, and posting schedules will be shared with all officially nominated creators.

Stage 5

### Jury Evaluation

An independent jury panel comprising industry leaders, creators, marketers, media professionals, and subject matter experts evaluates final nominees.

## Evaluation Criteria

Entries are assessed on a combination of:

- Creativity, originality & aesthetics
- Authentic storytelling and content innovation
- Audience engagement and impact
- Category-specific relevance and contribution
- Cultural and digital influence
- Growth trajectory and consistency

## Winner Selection

- Winners are determined through a multi-stage evaluation process combining data + internal review + jury scoring
- Jury decisions are final and binding
- No correspondence regarding results will be entertained
- Winners may be featured across CLS and partner platforms

## Disqualification

Awards Management reserves the right to disqualify any entry in case of:

- False or misleading information
- Plagiarism or non-original content
- Artificial engagement manipulation
- Violation of category rules or eligibility criteria
- Offensive, inappropriate, or restricted content

Post-award discovery of discrepancies may result in withdrawal of recognition.

## Participant Declarations

Participants confirm that:

- All submitted information is true and accurate
- They own or have rights to submitted content
- Submissions do not infringe on third-party intellectual property
- They indemnify Awards Management against related claims

## Usage Rights & Publicity

By participating, creators grant CLS Awards:

- Non-exclusive, royalty-free, worldwide rights to use submitted content
- Rights for editorial, promotional, and marketing usage
- Permission for media features, interviews & publicity activities

No additional compensation will be provided for such usage.

## Fees & Refund Policy

All nomination fees are strictly non-refundable

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Entries cannot be withdrawn once submitted

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Duplicate transactions will be reviewed and refunded if verified



## Deliverables & Execution Timeline

All deliverables, features, and promotional inclusions (if applicable) will be executed within 3 months after the event conclusion, subject to package specifications.

## Article & Social Media Guidelines (if Applicable)

Where applicable:

- Editorial articles will be curated by the editorial team based on creator inputs
- Content will focus on creator journey, impact, and storytelling
- Maximum article length: 600 words
- One high-resolution image (1920x1080 JPEG) required
- Final publishing rights remain with the editorial team
- Social media posts will be executed as branded content features
- No guaranteed performance KPIs unless explicitly stated

## Data Privacy

- Participant data is collected for administration and execution purposes
- Data may be shared with official partners strictly for event operations
- Data handling complies with applicable Indian laws

## Intellectual Property

- Creators retain ownership of their intellectual property
- CLS is granted limited usage rights for promotional and editorial purposes
- Participants indemnify Awards Management against IP-related claims

## Prohibited Activities

Participants shall not:

- Manipulate or disrupt the nomination process
- Submit fraudulent, plagiarized, or misleading content
- Engage in any activity that compromises award integrity

## Liability & Disclaimer

- Awards Management is not responsible for technical errors or submission failures
- Participation is at the participant's own risk
- Awards are provided on an "as-is" basis without guarantees

## Governing Law

- These Terms are governed by the laws of India

## General Clauses

- Participation does not guarantee selection or winning
- Jury decisions are final and non-contestable
- Awards Management reserves the right to amend, suspend, or cancel the awards
- Winners will be notified in advance for travel and logistics planning
- Travel and accommodation costs are borne by winners unless specified

## Key Principle

Fair. Transparent. Structured. Multi-layered Evaluation backed by Data, Editorial Review, and Independent Jury Assessment.