

Grand Finale – Round 3 Guidelines

(Offline Finale | Mumbai)

The Grand Finale of YSS Instrumental 2026 will be conducted in Mumbai before an esteemed panel of judges and a live audience. A total of **10 finalists** (5 Sitar and 5 Tabla) will be invited to perform in this round.

To ensure fairness and smooth conduct of the event, all finalists are required to adhere to the following guidelines.

General Guidelines (Applicable to All Finalists)

1. Performance Duration

- Each finalist will be allotted **15 minutes (Inclusive of 3 minutes for preparation and final sound check)** for performance.
- Exceeding the allotted time may result in deduction of marks or stoppage of the performance at the discretion of the organizers.
- Participants are advised to plan their presentation accordingly.

2. Setup Time

- A maximum of **3 minutes** will be provided for stage setup and sound check.
- Participants are requested to cooperate with the stage management team to ensure timely proceedings.

3. Accompanists

- Accompanying artists will be arranged by **Dedhia Music Foundation**.
- Finalists are not required to bring their own accompanists.
- Participants will receive accompanist details in advance wherever possible.

4. Dress Code

- Participants are expected to perform in **traditional Indian attire** suitable for a classical music concert.

- Attire should reflect the dignity and decorum of the event.

5. Anonymity During Judging

- Participants should not disclose their name, city, guru's name, institution, or any identifying details during their performance or interaction with the judges.

6. Reporting Time

- All finalists must report at the venue as per the schedule communicated by the organizers.
- Failure to report on time may lead to disqualification.

7. Sound Check

- A common sound arrangement will be provided.
- Participants are requested to complete sound checks within the allotted setup time.
- No extensive rehearsals on stage will be permitted.

8. Conduct

- Participants are expected to maintain professional conduct and respect fellow contestants, accompanists, judges, and event staff.
- The decision of the judges shall be final and binding.

Sitar Category – Finale Guidelines

Performance Format

Participants may present a Hindustani Classical raga of their choice.

The presentation may include:

- Alap
- Jod/Jhala (if desired)
- Gat
- Improvisational elements such as layakari, taans, and tihais

Instrument

- Participants must bring their own sitar and accessories.

- Basic amplification and sound support will be provided by the organizers.

Accompaniment

- Tabla accompaniment will be provided by DMF.

Time Management

Participants are encouraged to structure their presentation effectively within the allotted 12–15 minutes.

Tabla Category – Finale Guidelines

Performance Format

Participants may present a solo performance in a taal of their choice.

The presentation may include:

- Peshkar
- Kayda
- Rela
- Gat
- Tukda
- Chakradar
- Tihai
- Other traditional compositions

Instrument

- Participants must bring their own tabla set and accessories.
- Microphones and sound support will be provided by the organizers.

Accompaniment

- Harmonium accompaniment will be provided by DMF.

Time Management

Participants are encouraged to design their repertoire keeping the allotted 12–15 minute duration in mind.

Additional Instructions

- ✓ Contestants must perform live; pre-recorded tracks are strictly prohibited.
- ✓ Mobile phones should remain on silent mode while backstage and during the event.
- ✓ Any request regarding pitch, lehra scale, or tuning preferences should be communicated to the organizers in advance.
- ✓ Participants are responsible for the safety and upkeep of their instruments and personal belongings.
- ✓ The organizers reserve the right to modify the schedule or performance order if required.