सत्यमेव जयते
Ministry of Education
Government of India

காசி தமிழ் சங்கமம்
काशी तमिल संगमम्
Kashi Tamil Sangamam

காசி தமிழ் சங்கமம்
काशी तमिल संगमम्
KASHI TAMIL SANGAMAM

திருக்குறள் பயில்வோம்
तिरुक्कुरल अभ्यास करें
THIRUKKURAL PAYILVOM

*To study **Thirukkural**, the classical Tamil text of enduring ethical, social and philosophical significance in your language.*

1000 Internships for students of Higher Education

Through **1000** Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs)

Each Internship is of **₹10,000/-**

Each selected HEI will select one student for Internship as per schedule

Thirukkural is available in **22 Indian Languages** of 8th Schedule and in English



For more details and registration by HEIs, visit:

kts.cict.in

भारतीय भाषा समिति
BHARATIYA BHASHA SAMITI
शिक्षा मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार
Ministry of Education, Govt. of India

Ref. No.: BBS/KTS-5.0/2026/2 01 November, 2026

To
The Principals / Heads
All Colleges/HEIs

Sub: Registration and Student Participation in Kashi Tamil Sangamam (KTS) 5.0 - reg.

Sir/Madam,

Kashi Tamil Sangamam (KTS), envisioned by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, is a significant national initiative to celebrate, reaffirm and strengthen the age-old civilisational and cultural links between Kashi and Tamil Nadu. The fifth edition KTS 5.0, is scheduled from **28 November to 12 December 2026** with the theme **"Thirukkural Payilvom - Thirukkural Abhyas Karen - Let's Learn the Thirukkural"**.

As part of KTS 5.0, a nationwide **Students' Engagement Programme** is being undertaken through **1000 Higher Education Institutions** to promote wider understanding of the Thirukkural among students from diverse academic disciplines and language backgrounds through structured study, research and campus-based knowledge-dissemination activities.

I would earnestly request your institution to register on the KTS 5.0 portal (kts.cict.in) at the earliest, and preferably well before the last date of registration i.e. 15th November 2026.

It is also requested to widely encourage the students across faculties/departments/colleges to participate, with particular attention to diverse Indian language backgrounds. Prescribed study resources are being made available in 22 Scheduled Indian Languages, including Tamil and Hindi, as well as in English through the portal- **kts.cict.in**.

For wider outreach, the enclosed D.O. letter of the Department of Higher Education provides the programme guidelines, timeline and related details. Ready-to-use publicity creatives/templates are also enclosed. These may kindly be shared through your official website and social media platforms and circulated among students, faculty members, affiliated/constituent colleges and other Higher Education Institutions in your network, wherever applicable.

Your enthusiastic participation will contribute significantly to making KTS 5.0 a vibrant student-led celebration of India's linguistic, literary and civilisational heritage.

I look forward to your valued cooperation and active participation.

With regards,

(Chamu Krishna Shastry)
Chairman
Bharatiya Bhasha Samiti

Enclosures:

1. D.O. letter of the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, on the Students' Engagement Programme under KTS 5.0, with annexures/guidelines.
2. Designed publicity templates for institutional websites, social media platforms and student/HEI networks.

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Ministry of Education, Govt. of India

संदर्भ सं.: BBS/KTS-5.0/2026/2 01 नवम्बर, 2026

सेवा में,
प्राचार्य / प्रमुख
समस्त महाविद्यालय / उच्च शिक्षा संस्थान

विषय: काशी तमिल संगमम (KTS) 5.0 में पंजीकरण एवं छात्र सहभागिता के संबंध में।

महोदय/महोदया,

माननीय प्रधानमंत्री की परिकल्पना से प्रेरित **काशी तमिल संगमम (KTS)**, काशी और तमिलनाडु के मध्य प्राचीनकाल से विद्यमान सभ्यतागत एवं सांस्कृतिक संबंधों का उत्सव मनाने, उन्हें पुनः पुष्ट करने तथा और अधिक सुदृढ़ बनाने की दिशा में एक महत्वपूर्ण राष्ट्रीय पहल है। इसका पांचवां संस्करण, **KTS 5.0**, दिनांक **28 नवम्बर से 12 दिसम्बर 2026** तक **"तिरुक्कुरल पोयिलवोम – तिरुक्कुरल अभ्यास करें – Let's Learn the Thirukkural"** विषयवस्तु के साथ आयोजित किया जाना प्रस्तावित है।

KTS 5.0 के अंतर्गत देशभर के **1000 उच्च शिक्षा संस्थानों** के माध्यम से एक व्यापक **छात्र सहभागिता कार्यक्रम (Students' Engagement Programme)** आयोजित किया जा रहा है। इसका उद्देश्य विभिन्न शैक्षणिक विषयों तथा विविध भाषायी पृष्ठभूमि से आने वाले छात्रों के बीच **तिरुक्कुरल** की व्यापक समझ को प्रोत्साहित करना है। इसके अंतर्गत संरचित अध्ययन, अनुसंधान तथा परिसर-आधारित ज्ञान-प्रसार गतिविधियों का आयोजन किया जाएगा।

आपके संस्थान से सादर अनुरोध है कि वह KTS 5.0 पोर्टल (kts.cict.in) पर यथाशीघ्र पंजीकरण की अंतिम तिथि 15 नवम्बर 2026 से पूर्व अपना पंजीकरण सुनिश्चित करे।

यह भी अनुरोध है कि विभिन्न संकायों/विभागों/महाविद्यालयों के छात्रों को इस कार्यक्रम में अधिकाधिक भाग लेने हेतु व्यापक रूप से प्रोत्साहित किया जाए तथा विशेष रूप से विविध भारतीय भाषायी पृष्ठभूमि के विद्यार्थियों की सहभागिता सुनिश्चित करने पर ध्यान दिया जाए। इसके लिए निर्धारित अध्ययन सामग्री तमिल एवं हिंदी सहित संविधान की आठवीं अनुसूची में सम्मिलित 22 भारतीय भाषाओं तथा अंग्रेजी में पोर्टल- **kts.cict.in** पर उपलब्ध कराई जा रही है।

व्यापक प्रचार-प्रसार हेतु, उच्च शिक्षा विभाग, शिक्षा मंत्रालय द्वारा जारी संलग्न अर्द्धशासकीय (D.O.) पत्र में कार्यक्रम से संबंधित दिशा-निर्देश, समय-सीमा एवं अन्य आवश्यक विवरण उपलब्ध कराए गए हैं। साथ ही, उपयोग हेतु तैयार प्रचारात्मक क्रिएटिव्स/टेम्पलेट्स भी संलग्न हैं। कृपया इन्हें अपने संस्थान की आधिकारिक वेबसाइट एवं सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म्स पर साझा करने तथा छात्रों, संकाय सदस्यों, संबद्ध/संघटक महाविद्यालयों एवं, जहां उपयुक्त हो, अपने नेटवर्क के अन्य उच्च शिक्षा संस्थानों के बीच प्रसारित करने की कृपा करें।

आपकी उत्साहपूर्ण सहभागिता KTS 5.0 को भारत की भाषायी, साहित्यिक एवं सभ्यतागत धरोहर के एक जीवंत, छात्र-नेतृत्व वाले उत्सव के रूप में सफल बनाने में महत्वपूर्ण योगदान देगी।

आपके बहुमूल्य सहयोग एवं सक्रिय सहभागिता की अपेक्षा है।

सादर,

(चमू कृष्ण शास्त्री)
अध्यक्ष
भारतीय भाषा समिति

संलग्नक:
1. KTS 5.0 के अंतर्गत छात्र सहभागिता कार्यक्रम से संबंधित **उच्च शिक्षा विभाग, शिक्षा मंत्रालय का अर्द्धशासकीय (D.O.) पत्र**, संलग्नकों/दिशा-निर्देशों सहित।
2. संस्थागत वेबसाइट, सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म तथा विद्यार्थी/उच्च शिक्षा संस्थान नेटवर्क के माध्यम से प्रचार-प्रसार हेतु **डिज़ाइन किए गए प्रचारात्मक टेम्पलेट्स**।

अंकिता मिश्रा बुंदेला, भा.प्र.से.
अपर सचिव
Ankita Mishra Bundela, IAS
Additional Secretary

सत्यमेव जयते

भारत सरकार
शिक्षा मंत्रालय
उच्चतर शिक्षा विभाग
Government of India
Ministry of Education
Department of Higher Education

D.O. No. 16-2/2026-Skt. I(Pt.) **Dated: 31st October 2026**

Dear Sir,

This is in reference to D.O. No. 16-2/2026-Skt.I (Pt.) dated 9th October 2026 regarding the nationwide Students' Engagement Programme being organised as part of the fifth edition of Kashi Tamil Sangamam (KTS 5.0), scheduled to be held from 28 November 2026 to 12 December 2026.

2. Kashi Tamil Sangamam, envisioned by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, seeks to celebrate, reaffirm and strengthen the age-old civilisational links between Kashi and Tamil Nadu. Thirukkural is a classical Tamil text of enduring ethical, social and philosophical significance. The theme of KTS 5.0 is "**Thirukkural Payilvom - Thirukkural Abhyas Karen**".

3. As part of KTS 5.0, a nationwide Students' Engagement Programme will be undertaken through 1,000 higher educational institutions across the country. The programme seeks to promote wider understanding of the Thirukkural among students from different academic disciplines and language backgrounds through structured study, research and campus-based knowledge-dissemination activities.

4. As communicated vide the D.O. referred above, your institution has already been designated as the Nodal Higher Educational Institution for the concerned State/Union Territory, as indicated in **Annexure-I.** All interested Higher Education Institutions (Central/State/Private Universities and Colleges) may register on the KTS 5.0 portal (kts.cict.in). The Nodal Institution shall select the Participating Institutions from amongst all eligible and registered Institutions from the State/UT, in accordance with the Standard Operating Procedure, as per numbers prescribed in **Annexure-I**. The final list of selected Institutions shall be furnished in the format at **Annexure-II.**

5. The selected Participating Institutions shall assess interested students on the basis of their interest and understanding of the Thirukkural through an appropriate and transparent assessment process, using the prescribed resource materials in text and audio-visual formats as available on CICT's KTS 5.0 portal. The materials are available in 22 Scheduled Indian Languages, including Tamil and Hindi, as well as in English. This is intended to encourage students to study and propagate the teachings of the Thirukkural in an Indian languages known to them. Participating Institutions are accordingly advised to encourage the participation of students from diverse language backgrounds, subject to the availability of suitable faculty guidance. Each selected Participating Institution shall assess interested students and nominate one student on merit through the CICT KTS 5.0 portal by 20 November 2026. The one-month research and academic engagement will commence **on 15 December 2026.**

ANNEXURE-III

REVISED PROGRAMME GUIDELINES AND TIMELINE

Programme Information

Item	Details
KTS 5.0 Programme period	**28 November 2026 to 12 December 2026**
Theme	Thirukkural Payilvom - Thirukkural Abhyas Karen - Let's Learn the Thirukkural
Programme portal	kts.cict.in
Registration of institutions	Open to all interested higher educational institutions (Central/State/Private Universities and Colleges) across the States/UTs.
Selection of Participating Institutions	The State/UT Nodal Institution shall select only the number prescribed in Annexure-I, in accordance with the SOP.
Nomination of selected students	One student from each selected Participating Institution is to be nominated on merit **by 20 November 2026**.
Assessment on Understanding of Thirukkural	Demonstrated interest in and understanding of the Thirukkural.
1,000 Selected Students to Join the Inaugural and Valedictory Functions Online	(Date, time and virtual joining link will be notified separately.)
Research and academic engagement	Commencing **on 15 December 2026**.

A. Registration and Selection of Participating Institutions

1. All interested higher educational institutions may register on the KTS 5.0 portal (kts.cict.in).
2. The Nodal Institution shall verify the applications received from institutions interested in participating in the Students' Engagement Programme under KTS 5.0 and select only the number of Participating Institutions prescribed for the State/UT in Annexure-I.
3. Selection shall be undertaken transparently in accordance with the SOP at Annexure-V, with due regard to institutional readiness, outreach capacity, geographical spread and representation.
4. The Nodal Institution shall maintain the complete registration list, evaluation record, approved selected list and a reserve list.

B. Student Assessment and Nomination

1. Each selected Participating Institution shall invite participation from interested students.

2. The institution shall assess students on their interest in and understanding of the Thirukkural in different Indian Languages. The assessment may include a short written test, oral interaction, presentation, essay, quiz or a suitable combination thereof, based on the prescribed study material.
3. The assessment process shall be fair, documented and approved by the Head of the Institution or an authorised committee.
4. Each selected Participating Institution shall nominate one student on merit and complete portal registration **by 20 November 2026**.

C. One-Month Research and Academic Engagement

1. The one-month research and academic engagement shall commence on **15 December 2026**.
2. CICT shall provide multilingual study material, educational videos and academic orientation.
3. Each selected student shall undertake structured study and prepare an original article/research note of four to five pages under the guidance of a Faculty Supervisor/Guide.
4. Each selected student shall deliver a one-hour presentation/lecture at the institution during the engagement period. The institution shall submit the video recording of the presentation to CICT.
5. Each eligible selected student shall be entitled to a stipend of **Rs. 10,000**, subject to the programme guidelines and completion of prescribed requirements.
6. The stipend shall be disbursed directly to the student through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), subject to validation of the student's bank account details by the Participating Institution through the CICT portal.

D. Revised Timeline

Date/Period	Activity/Milestone	Action/Deliverable
Up to 15 November 2026	Institution registration and outreach	Open registration of interested institutions; Nodal Institutions to undertake wide outreach.
16-17 November 2026	Scrutiny and selection of Participating Institutions	Nodal Institutions to select the prescribed number of Participating Institutions as per **Annexure-I**; reserve list to be prepared.
By 19 November 2026	Assessment on understanding of Thirukkural and nomination of selected students	Each selected Participating Institution shall complete the assessment of interested students.
20 November 2026	Nomination of Selected Students on Portal by Participating Institutions	Each Participating Institution shall nominate only one student on the basis of the assessment undertaken and submit the nomination through the CICT portal.
28 November 2026	Inaugural Function of KTS 5.0	All Nodal Institutions, Participating Institutions and nominated students shall join the programme

		virtually. The virtual joining link shall be communicated separately.
12 December 2026	Valedictory Function of KTS 5.0	All Nodal Institutions, Participating Institutions and nominated students shall join the programme virtually. The virtual joining link shall be communicated separately.
By 14 December 2026	Academic orientation and access to resources	CICT to provide orientation and access to study material and educational videos.
15 December 2026	Commencement of one-month research and academic engagement	Structured study, supervised research and institution-level academic activities commence.
15 December 2026-14 January 2027	Research, writing and knowledge dissemination	Selected students to prepare articles/research notes and deliver institutional presentations under faculty guidance.
By 14 January 2027	Completion of engagement and submission of prescribed outputs	Article/research note, activity report and supporting records to be submitted through the prescribed channel. Stipend shall be disbursed through DBT after verification of the prescribed outputs and validation of the student's bank account details.
Thereafter, as notified by CICT	Academic review, compilation and recognition	CICT to undertake review, compilation and further action in accordance with separately issued instructions.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A. State/UT Nodal Institution

1. Nominate a senior officer as State/UT Nodal Officer and constitute a coordination team.
2. Publicise the registration process across the State/UT among higher educational institutions, including Central, State and private universities and colleges.
3. Scrutinise all registered institutions and select only the State/UT-wise number prescribed in Annexure-I, in accordance with **Annexure-V** or through a documented alternative methodology communicated to CICT.
4. Maintain registration records, evaluation sheets, the approved selected list, reserve list and evidence of approval by the competent authority.
5. Ensure that each selected Participating Institution assesses students on their interest in and understanding of the Thirukkural and nominates one student **by 20 November 2026**.
6. Ensure that all Participating Institutions, along with their nominated students, attend the Inaugural and Valedictory Programmes virtually.
7. Coordinate with CICT for verification, orientation, learning resources and commencement of the one-month engagement on **15 December 2026**.
8. Monitor the preparation of articles/research notes, the conduct of one-hour presentations and the maintenance of institutional documentation, and submit consolidated reports as prescribed.

B. Selected Participating Institution

1. Obtain approval of the Head of Institution and designate an Institutional Coordinator and Faculty Supervisor/Guide.
2. Invite interested students and conduct a transparent, documented assessment of their interest in and understanding of the Thirukkural.
3. Select one student on merit, obtain endorsement of the Head of Institution and complete nomination through the portal **by 20 November 2026**.
4. Ensure that the nominated student and representatives of the institution attend the Inaugural and Valedictory Programmes virtually.
5. Ensure the selected student participates in orientation and undertakes the one-month research and academic engagement **from 15 December 2026**.
6. Guide the preparation of an article/research note and organise a one-hour presentation/lecture during the engagement period.
7. Maintain notices, assessment records, attendance, photographs, presentation material, reports and other supporting documentation.
8. The Participating Institution shall validate the student's bank account details through the CICT portal.

ANNEXURE-IV

FORMAT FOR PARTICIPATING INSTITUTION AND ACTIVITY DETAILS

Particulars	**Details to be furnished**
Name and address of the Institution	
State/UT and District	
Type of Institution and AISHE/Institution Code	
Name and designation of Head of Institution	
Institutional Coordinator: name, designation, mobile and email	
Faculty Supervisor/Guide: name, designation, mobile and email	
Date and mode of student assessment	
Number of students assessed	
Name of selected student and portal registration number	
Title/topic of article/research note	
Date of one-hour presentation/lecture	
Participation and supporting records	

ANNEXURE-V

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE FOR SELECTION OF PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS BY NODAL INSTITUTIONS IN STATES/UTs

To ensure the transparent, equitable and documented selection of the prescribed number of Participating Institutions from among all institutions registered in a State/UT.

1. Registration and Eligibility Screening

- Keep registration open to all interested higher educational institutions during the notified registration period.
- Verify the institution's identity, location, recognition/affiliation, AISHE/Institution Code, where applicable, official contact details and approval of the competent institutional authority.
- Record eligible, deficient and ineligible applications separately. Curable deficiencies may be permitted to be corrected within the notified scrutiny period.
- Only applications found eligible after scrutiny shall be placed before the Evaluation Committee for assessment.

2. Evaluation Committee

- The Head of the Nodal Institution shall constitute an Evaluation Committee comprising at least three members, including the State/UT Nodal Officer.
- The Committee shall evaluate all eligible applications using the criteria and scoring parameters prescribed under Paragraph 3.
- The Committee shall sign the evaluation sheets and recommend the selected and reserve lists for approval by the competent authority of the Nodal Institution.

3. Selection Criteria

S. No.	Criterion	Scoring Parameters	Maximum Marks	Evidence
1	**Institutional Readiness**	20 marks: All four requirements fulfilled: (i) Nodal/Institutional Coordinator identified; (ii) adequate faculty support available; (iii) arrangements made for student assessment; and (iv) readiness to undertake the one-month academic engagement. 15 marks: Any three requirements fulfilled. 10 marks: Any two requirements fulfilled. 5 marks: Any one requirement fulfilled. 0 marks: None fulfilled.	**20**	Institutional undertaking and implementation plan

2	**Proposed Student Outreach**	20 marks: 200 or more students proposed for mobilisation. 15 marks: 150-199 students. 10 marks: 100-149 students. 5 marks: 50-99 students. 0 marks: Fewer than 50 students.	**20**	Number of students proposed and outreach plan
3	**Academic Engagement with the Thirukkural**	20 marks: The Participating Institution undertakes to cover all four components: (i) use of prescribed resources; (ii) faculty-guided study; (iii) preparation of an article/research note; and (iv) presentation. 15 marks: Any three components covered. 10 marks: Any two components covered. 5 marks: Any one component covered. 0 marks: No component covered.	**20**	Academic activity plan. Preference should be given for choosing the study of Thirukkural in any of the 22 scheduled Indian Language)
4	**Geographical Representation**	20 marks: Institution is located in or substantially serves an Aspirational District or an otherwise under-represented district/region of the State/UT. 15 marks: Institution strengthens representation of a district/region having limited representation among the institutions under consideration. 10 marks: Institution provides additional district/regional representation. 5 marks: District/region is already adequately represented.	**20**	Institution location, district coverage and distribution of eligible applications. This is intended to ensure the participation of students from diverse geographical and language backgrounds.
5	**Institutional and Disciplinary Diversity**	A. Institution Type - up to 10 marks 10 marks: Selection adds an institution type not represented, or not adequately represented, in the proposed State/UT list. 5 marks: The institution type is already adequately represented. Institution types may include: University; College; Standalone Institution; and Institution of National Importance/other	**20**	Institution profile, AISHE details and programme/course information

		specialised HEI. B. Disciplinary Diversity - up to 10 marks 10 marks: Programmes offered in four broad disciplinary groups. 7 marks: Programmes offered in three groups. 5 marks: Programmes offered in two groups. 2 marks: Programmes offered in one group. Broad disciplinary groups: (i) Arts, Humanities, Languages and Social Sciences; (ii) Science and Mathematics; (iii) Engineering, Technology and Technical Education; and (iv) Commerce, Management, Law, Education, Medical/Allied and other Professional disciplines.		

Total: 100 marks. Recommended qualifying benchmark: 60 marks.

Note: *The Nodal Institution shall apply the scoring parameters uniformly to all eligible applications. While finalising the list, due consideration shall be given to geographical spread and diversity of institution types and disciplines so that the selected Participating Institutions are reasonably representative of the State/UT.*

Where an adequate number of eligible applications is unavailable, the Evaluation Committee may record reasons and recommend a suitable relaxation without compromising the basic eligibility requirements.

4. State/UT-Wise Finalisation

- Rank all eligible institutions in descending order of total marks and select only the number prescribed for the State/UT in Annexure-I.
- While finalising the list, ensure reasonable geographical spread and representation of different institution types and disciplinary groups. Any departure from the merit order shall be supported by specific and recorded reasons.
- Prepare a reserve list, ordinarily up to 20 per cent of the prescribed allocation, to address withdrawal, non-response or failure to complete student nomination.
- In the event of a tie, preference shall be given sequentially to: (i) higher marks in Institutional Readiness; (ii) higher marks in Academic Engagement with the Thirukkural; (iii) higher marks in Geographical Representation; and (iv) the earlier complete registration.

5. Approval, Communication and Record

- Obtain approval of the competent authority of the Nodal Institution for the selected and reserve lists.

- Communicate the selection to the institutions along with the programme guidelines, student-assessment requirements and the notified deadline for nomination of the selected student.
- Inform non-selected institutions that registration does not confer any right to selection.
- Retain the complete registration database, eligibility scrutiny record, score sheets, proceedings of the Evaluation Committee, approved selected and reserve lists, communications and supporting records for audit and programme review.

6. Replacement

- If a selected institution declines, remains non-responsive or fails to nominate a student by the notified deadline, the next eligible institution from the approved reserve list may be included.
- Every replacement shall be recorded with reasons and approved by the State/UT Nodal Officer or the competent authority before being communicated to the Central Institute of Classical Tamil (CICT).
- The replacement institution shall comply with all programme requirements and timelines communicated by the Nodal Institution and CICT.

Note: *A Nodal Institution may, if considered appropriate, adopt its own transparent and objective methodology for selection of Participating Institutions, keeping in view the objectives and broad principles outlined in this SOP. In such cases, the methodology adopted shall be duly documented and communicated to CICT.*