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संयुक्त सचिव
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भारत सरकार
Government of India
शिक्षा मंत्रालय
Ministry of Education
उच्चतर शिक्षा विभाग
Department of Higher Education
कमरा नंबर 21094, डी-विंग, कर्तव्य भवन 2,
Room No. 21094, D-Wing, Kartavya Bhavan 2,
नई दिल्ली 110001 / New Delhi 110001

D.O. No. 16-2/2026-Skt.(Pt.)

Dated: 9th October, 2026

Respected Sir / Mam,

I am writing in connection with the organisation of the 5th 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, was initiated to celebrate, reaffirm and strengthen the age-old civilisational links between Kashi and Tamil Nadu. The first and second editions of Kashi Tamil Sangamam were graced by the esteemed presence of the Hon'ble Prime Minister. The theme of KTS 5.0 is "Thirukkural Payilvom - Thirukkural Abhyas Karen". Thirukkural is a classical Tamil text of enduring ethical, social and philosophical significance.

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

4. In view of the standing and coordinating capacity of your institution, it has been decided to designate your institution as the Nodal Higher Educational Institution for the State/Union Territory concerned, as indicated in Annexure-I. The Nodal Institution is requested to identify higher educational institutions within its State/UT in the format prescribed at Annexure-II and ensure that the identified institutions register themselves on the www.kts.cict.in (KTS 5.0 Portal).

5. Each participating institution so identified will encourage interested students to participate in the Students' Engagement Programme in their institutions. Study material for the assessment is available in Tamil, Hindi and English at www.kts.cict.in. The institution will conduct a test or adopt any other suitable mode of assessment on the theme "Thirukkural Payilvom - Thirukkural Abhyas Karen", as deemed appropriate. Based on the assessment, each institution will select one student as the winner and register the student's details through the KTS 5.0 portal. The detailed programme guidelines and timeline, roles and responsibilities, and activity plan are enclosed at Annexures III and IV.

6. Therefore, the Nodal Institution is requested to nominate a senior officer as the State/UT Nodal Officer and furnish the details in the format below.

Particulars	Details
Name of Nodal Institution	
Name and designation of Nodal Officer	
Mobile No.	
Official email ID	

7. The details of the Nodal Officer and the preliminary list of institutions identified may kindly be furnished by 13 October 2026. The list of participating institutions may be submitted by 15 October 2026.

8. I would request you to initiate the necessary preparatory action and make all requisite arrangements for the smooth and successful implementation of the Students' Engagement Programme under KTS 5.0, in close coordination with CICT.

9. For any clarification or coordination regarding the Students' Engagement Programme, the following officer of CICT may be contacted:

Dr. R. Bhuvaneshwari

Registrar

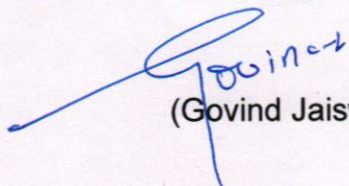
Central Institute of Classical Tamil (CICT), Chennai

Email: registrar@cict.in

Mobile: 9790325518/9965734497

10. I look forward to your continued cooperation and support.

Yours Sincerely,


(Govind Jaiswal)

Vice-Chancellor/Director
(As per Annexure-I)

STATE/UT-WISE LIST OF NODAL HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

#	State/UT	Nodal HEI	Tentative Number of Participating HEIs (Central/State/Private Universities and Colleges)
1	Andhra Pradesh	Central University of Andhra Pradesh	65
2	Arunachal Pradesh	Rajiv Gandhi University	15
3	Assam	Assam University	30
4	Bihar	Central University of South Bihar	40
5	Chhattisgarh	Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya	30
6	Goa	NIT Goa	15
7	Gujarat	Central University of Gujarat	55
8	Haryana	Central University of Haryana	45
9	Himachal Pradesh	Central University of Himachal Pradesh	20
10	Jharkhand	Central University of Jharkhand	25
11	Karnataka	Central University of Karnataka	75
12	Kerala	Central University of Kerala	45
13	Madhya Pradesh	Dr. Harisingh Gour Vishwavidyalaya	55
14	Maharashtra	Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya	100
15	Manipur	Manipur University	10
16	Meghalaya	North-Eastern Hill University	10
17	Mizoram	Mizoram University	10
18	Nagaland	Nagaland University	10
19	Odisha	Central University of Odisha	50
20	Punjab	Central University of Punjab	45
21	Rajasthan	Central University of Rajasthan	80
22	Sikkim	Sikkim University	10
23	Tamil Nadu	Central University of Tamil Nadu	150
24	Telangana	University of Hyderabad	50
25	Tripura	Tripura University	10
26	Uttar Pradesh	Banaras Hindu University	150
27	Uttarakhand	Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University	25
28	West Bengal	Visva-Bharati	50
29	Delhi	University of Delhi	75
30	Jammu and Kashmir	Central University of Jammu	25
31	Puducherry	Pondicherry University	10

Disclaimer: The State/UT-wise allocation is tentative and indicates the tentative number of participating HEIs to be identified. Nodal Institutions may nominate additional HEIs beyond the indicated allocation.

FORMAT FOR LIST OF INSTITUTIONS IDENTIFIED BY THE NODAL HEI

State/UT: _____

Name of Nodal HEI: _____

Number of institutions proposed: _____

S. No.	Name of Institution	District/City	Type	AISHE/Institution Code	Institutional Coordinator Name	Mobile No.	Official Email ID
1							
2							
3							

ANNEXURE-III
PROGRAMME GUIDELINES AND TIMELINE

Programme Information

Item	Details
KTS 5.0 Programme period	28 November 2026 to 12 December 2026
KTS 5.0 Nationwide Students' Engagement Programme	15 October 2026 to 15 November 2026
Theme	Thirukkural Payilvom – Thirukkural Abhyas Karen – Let's Learn the Thirukkural
Programme portal	www.kts.cict.in
Direct registration link	https://kts.cict.in/register
Nodal Officer	Dr. R. Bhuvaneshwari, Registrar, Central Institute of Classical Tamil (CICT), Chennai. Email ID: registrar@cict.in registrar@cict.in Mobile No.: 9790325518, 9965734497
Study material / educational videos	Soft copies and multilingual learning resources will be made available on the CICT KTS 5.0 Web Portal in 22 Scheduled Indian Languages and English.
Institutional nomination	One student selected on merit by each Participating Institution and duly endorsed by the Director/Registrar/Principal/Head of the Institution.
Campus dissemination	The selected students will deliver a one-hour presentation/lecture, and the Participating Institution will organise suitable theme-based activities.

A. Nomination and Registration

- Each participating institution shall encourage interested students to participate in the Students' Engagement Programme.
- Each institution will conduct a test or adopt any other suitable mode of assessment on the theme "Thirukkural Payilvom - Thirukkural Abhyas Karen", as deemed appropriate.
- Each participating institution shall select one student as the winner, based on merit.
- Each nomination shall be endorsed by the Director/Registrar/Principal/Head of the Institution.
- The participating institution shall register the selected student's details through the dedicated KTS 5.0 portal (<https://kts.cict.in/register>) within the stipulated timeline.

B. Selection and Academic Engagement

- Each selected student will be eligible for a stipend of Rs. 10,000/- for the one-month research and academic engagement programme.
- CICT will provide multilingual study materials and educational videos in 22 Scheduled Indian Languages and English and organise an academic orientation.

- Each selected student will prepare a 4-5 page research paper under the guidance of the Faculty Supervisor/Guide and deliver a one-hour presentation/lecture at the institution concerned.
- Top-performing students will be selected on the basis of overall performance and invited for special recognition at the KTS 5.0 inaugural function in Varanasi on 28 November 2026.

C. Timeline

Date	Activity/Milestone	Action/Deliverable
21 October 2026	Completion of institution-level assessments	Participating Institutions complete the assessment and select one student each on merit.
22 October 2026	Nomination of selected students	Participating Institutions register the details of their selected students through the KTS 5.0 portal.
23-24 October 2026	Consolidation of selected students	CICT consolidates institution-wise registrations with appropriate State-wise and language-wise representation.
25 October 2026	Issue of confirmation	Confirmation through email and the portal, followed by collection of the required details for stipend processing.
26 October 2026	Commencement of one-month research and academic engagement	Access to study materials, educational videos and orientation content.
26 October 2026	Live orientation/Q&A	Online orientation with an interactive question-and-answer session.
5 November 2026	Submission of research papers	Submission of 4-5 page research papers in the prescribed format on or before 5 November 2026.
6 November 2026	Classification and forwarding of papers	CICT to classify papers language-wise and forward them to CIIL, Mysuru, for academic review.
7-12 November 2026	Academic review by CIIL	Review for academic quality, relevance, originality and adherence to guidelines.
13-16 November 2026	Compilation, design and production	CICT to compile, edit, format, proofread and prepare the booklet for printing.
On or before 15 November 2026	Student presentation and knowledge dissemination	Each selected student to deliver the institutional presentation.
20 November 2026	Printed booklet ready	Hard-copy and digital editions to be completed.
28 November 2026	KTS 5.0 inaugural function	Release of booklet and recognition of 100 top-performing students.
12 December 2026	KTS 5.0 valedictory programme	Conclusion, documentation of outcomes and dissemination of programme achievements.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF NODAL INSTITUTIONS AND PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS

These instructions set out the respective responsibilities of the State/UT Nodal Institution and each Participating Institution for the coordinated implementation, monitoring and reporting of the KTS 5.0 Students' Engagement Programme and related campus-level activities. The Nodal Institution shall coordinate, monitor and consolidate implementation within the State/UT. Each Participating Institution shall implement the programme on its campus, maintain the prescribed records and submit its report to the Nodal Institution within the notified timeline.

A. Roles and Responsibilities of the State/UT Nodal Institution

1. The Nodal Institution shall nominate a **senior officer as the State/UT Nodal Officer** and constitute a small coordination team for regular liaison with the Ministry of Education, CICT and the Participating Institutions. The name, designation, official email address and mobile number of the Nodal Officer shall be furnished in the prescribed format.
2. The Nodal Institution shall identify the required number of Higher Educational Institutions **(Central/State/Private Universities and Colleges)** within the State/UT, taking into account the tentative allocation, geographical spread, institutional representation and participation of students from different academic disciplines. The complete particulars of each identified institution shall be furnished in the format at **Annexure-II**. The Nodal Institution shall ensure that the identified institutions register themselves on the www.kts.cict.in.
3. The Nodal Institution shall issue an official communication to each identified Participating Institution enclosing the programme guidelines, timeline, reporting requirements and KTS 5.0 portal details. It shall obtain confirmation of participation and maintain an institution-wise record of communications and acknowledgements.
4. The Nodal Institution shall ensure that each Participating Institution designates an Institutional Coordinator and encourages eligible students to participate in the KTS 5.0 Students' Engagement Programme. Each institution shall also nominate one Faculty Supervisor/Guide, with the approval of the Director/Registrar/Principal/Head of the Institution.
5. The Nodal Institution shall inform each Participating Institution that it is required to conduct a test or adopt any other suitable mode of assessment on the theme of the Thirukkural, as deemed appropriate, based on the prescribed study material available at www.kts.cict.in www.kts.cict.in
6. The Nodal Institution shall inform Participating Institutions that the **prescribed study material, educational videos and orientation resources** in 22 Scheduled Indian Languages and English will be available in soft copy on the **CICT KTS 5.0 Web Portal at www.kts.cict.in**.
7. The Nodal Institution shall circulate the registration link, <https://kts.cict.in/register>, and ensure that each Participating Institution registers the details of its selected student within the notified timeline. The duly signed nomination form and other prescribed documents shall be uploaded during registration. An institution-wise registration tracker shall be maintained, and pending cases shall be followed up until registration closes.
8. The Nodal Institution shall inform Participating Institutions that CICT will conduct a virtual orientation session for all Participating Institutions to provide a brief introduction to the Thirukkural, explain the use of the study material, outline the registration and assessment process, and clarify the programme timeline and instructions. The indicative orientation schedule is placed at Annexure-IV.

9. The Nodal Institution shall communicate the applicable timeline and instructions for the institution-level assessment and registration process to all Participating Institutions and shall monitor compliance.
10. After completion of the institution-level assessments, the Nodal Institution shall maintain the consolidated list of selected students and ensure that their details are registered on the portal. It shall also ensure their participation in the academic orientation and confirm that the students and their Faculty Supervisors/Guides have access to the prescribed learning resources.
11. The Nodal Institution shall obtain a brief activity plan from each Participating Institution indicating the proposed activity, date, venue/mode, target participants, responsible faculty member and expected participation. It shall ensure that the activities are clearly linked to the KTS 5.0 theme and the Thirukkural, and prepare a consolidated State/UT activity calendar.
12. The Nodal Institution shall monitor the preparation and timely submission of the **4-5 page research paper by the selected student** from each institution, the conduct of the mandatory one-hour presentation/lecture and the organisation of additional campus-level activities. An institution-wise milestone tracker shall be maintained, and delays shall be followed up through periodic review meetings or calls.
13. The Nodal Institution shall advise Participating Institutions to use the **approved programme title and theme in all communications** and to maintain complete documentation, including notices, schedules, attendance records, photographs, presentations, competition topics or questions, result sheets, winning entries, certificates and media or social-media links.
14. The Nodal Institution shall scrutinise the institutional reports for completeness, factual consistency and supporting documentation. Incomplete submissions shall be returned for correction, and day-to-day progress shall be monitored until all requirements are fulfilled.
15. The Nodal Institution shall submit the consolidated State/UT report, together with indexed institutional reports and supporting documents, to the Ministry of Education and CICT in PDF and editable formats through the prescribed mode and within the notified timeline. A complete soft-copy record and acknowledgement of submission shall be retained.

B. Roles and Responsibilities of the Participating Institution

1. The Participating Institution shall obtain the approval of the Director/Registrar/Principal/Head of the Institution for participation in the programme and designate an Institutional Coordinator as the single point of contact. The participating Institution will have register themselves on the www.kts.cict.in for registration process.
2. The Participating Institution shall identify interested students for participation in the assessment.
3. The Participating Institution shall conduct a test or adopt any other suitable mode of assessment on the theme of the Thirukkural, as deemed appropriate, based on the prescribed study material.
4. Each participating institution shall select one student as the winner, based on merit.
5. Each nomination shall be endorsed by the Director/Registrar/Principal/Head of the Institution.
6. The participating institution shall register the selected student's details through the dedicated KTS 5.0 portal (<https://kts.cict.in/register>) within the stipulated timeline. <https://kts.cict.in/register>
7. The Institutional Coordinator / Faculty Supervisor/Guide shall facilitate access to the prescribed study material, educational videos and orientation content available on the CICT KTS 5.0 Web Portal at **www.kts.cict.in**.
8. The Institution shall ensure the participation of the concerned officials in the virtual orientation session to be conducted by CICT before the assessment. It shall organise one or more suitable

campus-level activities based on the KTS 5.0 theme, as indicated in Annexure-IV, either separately or as part of a combined programme, depending on local academic arrangements.

9. The Institution shall facilitate the participation of all interested students in the assessment and make the necessary arrangements for its fair and orderly conduct.
10. Where a student from the Institution is selected, the Faculty Supervisor/Guide shall supervise structured study and research on the Thirukkural and guide preparation of a 4-5 page research paper on the prescribed theme/topic on or before 5 November 2026. The paper shall be relevant, original and in conformity with the format and timeline communicated by CICT. AI tools shall not be used to generate or write the research paper.
11. The Participating Institution shall organise a one-hour presentation/lecture by the selected student on or before 15 November 2026. The presentation shall introduce KTS 5.0 and its theme, explain selected ideas from the Thirukkural and include an interactive or question-and-answer segment for wider knowledge dissemination.
12. The Institution shall maintain signed attendance sheets or verified digital attendance, programme notices and schedules, the presentation file, 5-10 clear and captioned photographs, short video clips where feasible, competition topics or question sets, evaluation and result sheets, winning entries, details of prizes or certificates, and relevant media or social-media links.
13. After completion of the activities, the Institution shall prepare a concise report containing its profile; details of the Institutional Coordinator, Faculty Supervisor/Guide and selected student; activity-wise proceedings; dates and venues; participation figures; languages used; key outcomes; and supporting photographs and links. The selected student's research paper shall be forwarded to CICT through the prescribed channel for compilation under KTS 5.0.
14. The Institution shall make arrangements for **students and staff who participated in the programme to join the KTS 5.0 inaugural session virtually on 28 November 2026**, in accordance with the instructions communicated by CICT.
15. The institutional report shall be certified by the Director/Registrar/Principal/Head of the Institution and submitted to the State/UT Nodal Institution in PDF and editable formats, together with a clearly named electronic evidence folder. The Institution shall retain the original records and promptly furnish any clarification or missing document sought by the Nodal Institution, CICT or the Ministry of Education.

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 number and email	
Faculty Supervisor/Guide: Name, designation, mobile number and email	
Campus-level activities based on the theme	
Venue and mode	
Number of students and staff who participated	
Official website and social media handles (if any)	

A. Brief CICT Pre-Examination Orientation Session

Session	Indicative Duration	Activities
Opening and programme overview	5 minutes	Welcome; brief on KTS 5.0; purpose of the Students' Engagement Programme.
Introduction to Thirukkural	20 minutes	Brief introduction to Thiruvalluvar; structure, values and contemporary relevance of the Thirukkural.
Study material and learning resources	20 minutes	How to access and use the multilingual study material, educational videos and other resources available on the KTS 5.0 portal.
Registration and assessment	10 minutes	Registration process; assessment and programme timelines; and related instructions.
Instructions for conducting the assessment	10 minutes	Assessment arrangements; fair conduct; documentation of results; selection of the winner; and support arrangements.
Selection and subsequent activities	10 minutes	Declaration of results; academic orientation; research paper; institutional presentation; recognition of top-performing students; and participation in KTS 5.0 activities.

B. Student Engagement Programme at Campus

S. No.	Activity	Date and Time	Venue/Mode	Participation
1	One-hour presentation/lecture by the selected student			
2	Essay-writing competition			
3	Quiz competition			

4	Debate/elocution competition			
5	Recitation/storytelling			
6	Poster/painting/comic activity			
7	Skit/drama/cultural presentation			
8	Daily Kural display/assembly activity			
10	Any other approved activity			

Note: The Participating Institution shall retain attendance records, photographs, activity material, results/winning entries and relevant links, and submit a brief certified report to the State/UT Nodal Institution in the prescribed manner.