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: 13th November, 2026**

Dear Colleague,

I am writing to you in connection with the organization of the fifth edition of Kashi Tamil Sangamam (KTS 5.0) by the Department of Higher Education from **28th November, 2026 to 12th December, 2026** in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. Kashi Tamil Sangamam (KTS), envisioned by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, seeks to celebrate, reaffirm and strengthen the age-old civilisational links between Kashi and Tamil Nadu thus reinforcing the spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.

2. The theme of KTS 5.0 has been decided to be "**Thirukkural Payilvom - Thirukkural -Abhyas Karen**". Thirukkural is a classical Tamil text which is widely acclaimed for its universal ethical teachings. It is expected that approximately 1,400 people from Tamil Nadu including students, teachers, writers, media professionals, artisans, spiritual leaders women etc. will be visiting Varanasi to participate in the event.

3. In this context, a nationwide Students' Engagement Programme is being undertaken as part of KTS 5.0, with the objective of promoting a wider understanding of Thirukkural among students from different academic disciplines and language backgrounds through structured study, research and campus-based knowledge dissemination activities.

4. Under the Students' Engagement Programme, (a) 1,000 internships will be awarded to students from 1,000 selected participating higher educational institutions across the country for studying the Thirukkural, in a language known to them, each carrying a stipend of Rs. 10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand only) for one student from each selected institution. These students will participate in the inaugural and valedictory functions, scheduled to be held on 28th November, 2026 and 12th December, 2026, respectively, through virtual mode (b) All students other than those who are selected for internship can participate in an online quiz on the Thirukkural on the MyGov portal (mygov.in). The details of both programmes, along with the prescribed study and resource materials in text and audio-visual formats are available on the Central Institute of Classical Tamil (CICT) KTS 5.0 portal (kts.cict.in) in all 22 Scheduled Indian Languages and in English.

5. In this regard, the detailed revised timeline indicating the key milestones, activities and corresponding deadlines under KTS 5.0 is enclosed as **Annexure** for information and necessary action. Brochures/posters on **"Thirukkural Payilvom"** in 12 Indian languages and English are also enclosed.

6. I would, therefore, request you to kindly advise all higher educational institutions of the State to register on the KTS 5.0 portal (kts.cict.in) by 18 November 2026 and to ensure the participation of their students in the Students' Engagement Programme under KTS 5.0.

7. 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

8. I look forward to your continued cooperation and support in making the programme a great success.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

13/11/26

(Ankita Mishra Bundela)

Encl: as above

As per list attached

List:

1. Dr. Narayana Bharath Gupta, Commissioner of Higher Education, Andhra Pradesh
2. Shri Amjad Tak, Commissioner Education, Arunachal Pradesh
3. Shri Narayan Konwar, Secretary Department of Higher Education, Assam
4. Shri Rajiv Raushan, Secretary, Higher Education Department, Bihar
5. Shri Avinash Champawat, Secretary, Higher Education Department, Chhattisgarh
6. Shri Prasad V. Lolayekar, Secretary (Education), Goa
7. Shri Mukesh Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary (Higher & Technical Education), Gujarat
8. Shri Apoorva Kumar Singh, Additional Chief Secretary Higher Education, Haryana
9. Shri Rakesh Kanwar, Secretary to Government, Himachal Pradesh
10. Shri Rahul Purwar, Principal Secretary, Department of Higher & Technical Education, Jharkhand
11. Smt. Thulasi Maddineni, Secretary to Government, Higher Education Department, Karnataka
12. Dr. B. Ashok, Principal Secretary Department of Higher Education, Kerala
13. Shri Anupam Rajan, Principal Secretary/ Secretary of Higher Education Department, Madhya Pradesh
14. Shri B. Venugopal Reddy, Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education, Maharashtra
15. Sh. Raj kumar Dinesh Singh, Principal Secretary, Higher & Technical Education, Manipur
16. Shri. Vijay Kumar Mantri, Commissioner & Secretary, Higher Education, Meghalaya
17. Dr. Lal Rozama, Commissioner and Secretary, Higher Education, Mizoram
18. Smt. Sarita Yadav, Secretary, Higher & Technical Education, Nagaland
19. Shri Arvind Agarwal, Commissioner-cum-Secretary Higher Education Department, Odisha
20. Ms. Sonali Giri, Administrative Secretary for Higher education and languages, Punjab
21. Shri Kuldeep Ranka, Additional Chief Secretary Higher and Technical Education, Rajasthan
22. Ms. Kincho Doma Lepcha, SCS, Secretary, Higher Education, Sikkim
23. Thiru Dheeraj Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Higher Education Department, Tamil Nadu
24. Dr. Yogita Rana, Principal Secretary to Government, Telangana
25. Shri Raval H. Kumar, Special Secretary, Higher Education, Tripura
26. Shri Amit Kumar Ghosh, Additional Chief Secretary to Dept of Higher Education, Uttar Pradesh
27. Shri Basava Venkata Rama Chandra Purushottam, Secretary Higher Education, Uttarakhand
28. Shri Binod Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education Department, West Bengal
29. Smt. Jyoti Kumari, Secretary (Education/ Sports), Andaman & Nicobar Islands
30. Ms. Prerna Puri, Secretary Education, Chandigarh
31. Shri Arun T., Secretary Higher Education, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu
32. Dr. Dilraj Kaur, Principal Secretary, Higher Education, Delhi
33. Shri Ram Niwas Sharma, Commissioner/ Secretary to Government, Higher Education Department, Jammu & Kashmir
34. Ms. Bhanu Prabha, Administrative Secretary (Higher Education), Ladakh
35. Shri Jitendra Yadav, Secretary, Education, Sports & Youth Affairs, Lakshadweep
36. Shri Mohammed Ahsan Abid, Secretary to Government (Higher & Technical Education), Puducherry

Copy to:

1) Director, CICT
2) VCs/Directors of all Nodal Institutions

ANNEXURE

REVISED TIMELINE

S. No.	Activity / Milestone	Revised Timeline
1	Registration of institutions on kts.cict.in and outreach	18 Nov 2026
2	Scrutiny and selection of Participating Institutions	19 Nov 2026
3	Assessment of interested students	23 Nov 2026
4	Nomination of one student per institution on the CICT portal	24 Nov 2026
5	Inaugural Function of KTS 5.0 (virtual joining)	28 Nov 2026
6	Valedictory Function of KTS 5.0 (virtual joining)	12 Dec 2026
7	Academic orientation and access to study material	14 Dec 2026
8	Commencement of one-month research and academic engagement	15 Dec 2026
9	Preparation of article/research note and one-hour presentation	15 Dec 2026 – 14 Jan 2027
10	Submission of article/research note, activity report and supporting records; stipend (Rs. 10,000) through DBT after verification	14 Jan 2027
11	Academic review, compilation and recognition	As notified by CICT