F.No. 17-2/Acd/CSU/Setubandha/2025/1849

CENTRAL SANSKRIT UNIVERSITY

(Established by an Act of Parliament)
56–57, Institutional Area, Janakpuri, New Delhi – 110058

NOTIFICATION

Call for Application – Setubandha Scholar Scheme

Date: 30.10.2026

Sub: Inviting applications for Admission into the Setubandha Scholar Scheme (2026–27)

Central Sanskrit University, New Delhi, in collaboration with the Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) Division, Ministry of Education, Government of India, invites online applications from eligible candidates for admission to the **Integrated M.Sc.–Ph.D. Programme in Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) Programme** under the *Setubandha Scholar Scheme*.

Interested candidates may submit their applications through the online portal given below:

Online Application Link	**: https://setubandha.sanskrit.ac.in/**
Start Date of Submission of Applications	**: 30 October 2026**
Last Date for Submission of Applications	**: 29 December 2026**

Candidates are advised to carefully read the Scheme Guidelines, including eligibility criteria, selection procedure, scholarship provisions and other terms and conditions, available on the University website, before applying.

All further information and updates regarding the admission process shall be published only on the official website of Central Sanskrit University (www.sanskrit.nic.in). Hence, applicants are advised to regularly check the website for timely updates.

For any assistance, contact 011-28520976 or write to setubandha@sanskrit.ac.in

This is issued with the approval of the Competent Authority.

30/10/26

[Dr. Devanand Shukl]
Deputy Director (Academic)

Copy to for information –

1. PS to Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, CSU, New Delhi
2. PA to Registrar, CSU, New Delhi
3. National Coordinator, IKS Division, MoE, Govt. of India, New Delhi
4. Project Officer, CSU, New Delhi for uploading on the University website and Setubandha Portal
5. Concerned File

शिक्षा मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

INDIAN KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS DIVISION

Ministry of Education, Govt of India.
3rd Floor, J Block, World Trade Centre,
Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi – 110029
Website: www.iksindia.org

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Guidelines for Admission to the Setubandha Scholar Scheme 2026-27

Integrated M.Sc.–Ph.D. in Indian Knowledge Systems | Intake 50

1. Background and purpose

· The Setubandha Scholar Scheme, jointly implemented by Central Sanskrit University (CSU) and the Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) Division, Ministry of Education, supports scholars formed through traditional Guru–Śiṣya and Gurukula learning and connects their knowledge with structured university study and research. These guidelines propose a single admission route to the Integrated M.Sc.–Ph.D. programme in Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS). Admission to the programme and award of degrees will be governed by applicable CSU rules and as amended in force from time to time.

2. Programme and Intake

· The student intake is 50. All selected scholars shall first undertake the M.Sc. in Indian Knowledge System with research orientation. The M.Sc. stage provides methodological training, credit alignment and integration with the University academic system. Admission under this scheme does not amount to immediate Ph.D. registration.

· Formal Ph.D. registration shall follow only after successful completion of the M.Sc. and fulfilment of eligibility requirements under applicable UGC Regulations and CSU Ordinances. The duration of the Ph.D. shall be reckoned from the date of formal registration for the Ph.D. programme. The programme is full-time; scholars must attend physically at the study centre(s) notified by CSU and be willing to relocate as directed by the competent authority. Degrees awarded shall be regular statutory degrees of CSU.

· The normal structure envisages an integrated M.Sc and PhD. At the end of the second year of the programme, if performance is not satisfactory, then they have an option to exit with a MSc degree, subject to University rules The detailed semester structure, credits, Ph.D. registration process and overall permitted duration shall be governed by the approved curriculum, University Ordinances and applicable UGC Regulations.

3. Eligibility and basis of selection

- An applicant must be a student of Bharatiya Vidyā/Shastra or Kalā trained in a traditional system; have studied under a traditional Guru or in a Gurukula for at least five years; have received sustained apprenticeship-style instruction, ideally while residing with the Guru or in the same premises; have studied primary texts and their commentaries in a traditional format; learnt the art, skill or craft in a hands on manner, wherever applicable to the discipline; and demonstrate excellence in traditional knowledge or practice. The applicant must not be more than 32 years of age as on the last date of the application deadline for admission, subject to any relaxation specifically approved and notified.
- A signed certificate from the Guru or Gurukula, in the prescribed format, is mandatory at the time of application. CSU may verify the nature, continuity and duration of learning. Use of the word "Gurukula" in an institution's name does not itself establish eligibility. The illustrative cases in Annexure A explain the intended distinction.

  Candidates currently pursuing Shastri, Acharya or other formal academic programmes shall also be eligible to apply, provided they fulfil the traditional-learning requirements stated above. Enrolment in or possession of a formal academic qualification shall neither disqualify a candidate nor confer any weightage or preference in selection.
- A modern or formal qualification, including Shastri/B.A., B.Sc., Acharya/M.A., M.Sc. or Vidyavaridhi/Ph.D., is neither a prerequisite nor a ground for preference or weightage. The selection process shall assess traditional learning, sustained training and demonstrated excellence in the Guru–Śiṣya/Gurukula Paramparā. Possession of a formal degree does not itself disqualify a candidate who otherwise meets the traditional-learning requirements.

4. Areas of study

- Applications may relate to the Eighteen Vidyāsthānas (areas of knowledge) and Sixty-four Kalāḥ (arts and skills).

  - **Eighteen Vidyāsthānas:**

    अङ्गानि वेदाश्चत्वारो मीमांसा न्यायविस्तरः ।
    धर्मशास्त्रं पुराणञ्च विद्या ह्येताश्चतुर्दश ।।
    आयुर्वेदो धनुर्वेदो गान्धर्वश्चेति ते त्रयः ।
    अर्थशास्त्रं चतुर्थञ्च विद्या ह्यष्टादशैव ताः ।।
    (महाभारतम् 12.122.31-32)

    The traditional framework of Indian Knowledge Systems identifies **18 Vidyāsthāna**s listed above. Together, they form a comprehensive body of knowledge that integrates ritual, phonetics, grammar, prosody, etymology, astronomy, and ritual practice, while extending into philosophy, logic, medicine,

statecraft, and the arts. This holistic structure ensured that learning was not fragmented but interconnected, nurturing intellectual, ethical, and practical dimensions of life. Following are the most prominent Vidyāsthānas:

1. **Veda / Vedabhāṣya / Śrautasūtra / Paurohitya / Karmakāṇḍa**
2. **Śikṣā/ Vyākaraṇam (Vaidika and Laukika)/ Niruktam**
3. **Jyotiṣa (Phalita & Siddhanta)**
4. **Vedānta (All Sampradāyas)**
5. **Pūrvamīmāṃsā**
6. **Bauddha**
7. **Jaina**
8. **Nyāya / Vaiśeṣika**
9. **Sāṃkhya / Yoga**
10. **Pratyabhijñā, Pāśupatamata and other Darśanas**
11. **Āgama / Tantra**
12. **Alaṅkāraśāstra / Chandaśāstra**
13. **Itihāsa / Purāṇa**
14. **Āyurveda / Siddha**
15. **Rājanīti / Nīti / Arthaśāstra / Kāmaśāstra**
16. **Smṛti / Dharmaśāstra / Vidhiśāstra**

- **Sixty-four Kalās:**

यद् यत् स्याद् वाचिकं सम्यक् कर्म विद्याभिसंज्ञकम् ।
शक्तो मूकोऽपि यत् कर्तुं कलासंज्ञन्तु तत् स्मृतम् ॥

(शुक्रनीतिसारः 4.3.25)

Complementing the Vidyāsthāna are the **64 Kalās**, representing specialized skills and non-verbal modes of knowledge transmission. These arts span diverse domains such as Ayurveda (herbal preparation and healing), warfare techniques, performing arts (music, dance, drama), visual and technical crafts (painting, design, mechanics), and everyday cultural skills. Each Kalā was designed to cultivate discipline, creativity, and joy, reinforcing the ultimate educational aim of IKS—transmitting **dharma, jñāna, and ānanda** in lived, experiential forms. The following represent select categories of Kalās; the listing is indicative rather than exhaustive.

1. **Pākādi / Āyurvedīya kalās**

   Culinary arts, food and nutrition, preparation of medicinal herbs.

2. **Dhanurvedīya kalās**

   Martial and political skills, military strategies, physical training, sports.

3. **Gāndharva kalās (Performing Arts)**

   Music, dance, drama, instruments, and their making.

4. **Ālekhyādi / Śilpādi kalās (Fine Arts)**

   Drawing, painting, sculpture, colouring, dyeing.

5. **Deśabhāṣā–Kāvyādi kalās (Language & Literature)**

   Poetry, word play, riddles, linguistic creativity.

6. **Gṛhālankārādi kalās (Home Decor) / Śarīrālankārādi kalās (Personal Fashion)**

   Interior design, decoration of living spaces, cosmetics, jewellery, ornamentation, embroidery, scents.

7. **Abhiyāntrikī kalās (Engineering & Crafts)**

   - Yantra mātrkā: tools, machines, instruments, vehicles
   - Takṣaṇa: carpentry
   - Tarku: spinning, weaving, textiles
   - Vāstu: architecture, town planning
   - Mani-ratnādi: gemology
   - Dhātu: chemistry & metallurgy
   - Bālaka-krīdanīyaka: toy-making, games, childcare

Applicants in any of these areas must also fulfil the traditional-learning eligibility requirements stated in these guidelines.

5. Application and selection process

· Candidates shall apply through the portal/website and within the dates stated in the admission notification, upload the prescribed signed Guru/Gurukula certificate and furnish other evidence requested by CSU. Applications will be screened for eligibility and a list of eligible applicants will be published.

Admission to the programme shall be based on performance in an Entrance Examination comprising both Written and Oral (Viva Voce) components. The written examination may include objective-type and descriptive-type questions designed to assess the candidate's knowledge and aptitude in the relevant traditional subject, basic modern mathematics, and mental ability.

The detailed syllabus, examination scheme, marking pattern, and model question paper shall be notified separately by the University from time to time. Information regarding examination centres, schedule of examinations, instructions for candidates,

and document verification requirements shall also be communicated through separate notifications issued by the University.

- The decision of the competent selection authority shall be final, subject to applicable University rules.

6. Scholarship and contingency

- For the first year of the programme, the scholarship is ₹40,000 per month, subject to monthly attendance certification by the Teachers-in-Charge, good conduct, satisfactory academic progress and recommendations of the Scholarship Committee constituted for this purpose. Scholarship begins on the date of commencement of classes or, for a candidate permitted to report later, the actual date of reporting. The applicable rates for the relevant attendance period are:

Programme stage	Year	Monthly scholarship	Annual contingency
P.G.	1st	₹40,000	Up to ₹1,00,000
P.G.	2nd	₹47,500	Up to ₹1,00,000
Ph.D.	1st	₹65,000	Up to ₹2,00,000
Ph.D.	2nd	₹70,000	Up to ₹2,00,000
Ph.D.	3rd	₹75,000	Up to ₹2,00,000

Note: All scholars shall initially enter the M.Sc. stage of the Integrated M.Sc.–Ph.D. programme. The Ph.D. stage scholarship shall become applicable only after successful completion of the M.Sc. and formal registration for the Ph.D., subject to satisfactory progress, annual renewal and the applicable scholarship conditions. Contingency support shall be provided up to the annual limits shown above for approved academic and research expenses.

- Scholarship remains admissible during duly approved leave. It is not payable for unauthorized absence; absence for 30 continuous days or more without approval entails proportionate deduction for that period, even where overall attendance exceeds the minimum. Scholarship ceases from discontinuation or withdrawal. A scholar shall not receive another scholarship, fellowship, salary or monetary benefit from another source and must disclose any such receipt to the authorities immediately.
- Scholars using food or accommodation facilities shall bear the applicable charges, which may be deducted before the balance is transferred to their bank accounts. The implementing centre shall keep monthly records of attendance, deductions and payments and report them to CSU. CSU rules apply to other matters, insofar as consistent with the scheme.
- Scholars shall receive the monthly scholarship and annual contingency support specified in the table above, subject to satisfactory academic progress and the conditions prescribed under these guidelines. Contingency funds may be used for approved fieldwork, workshops, teaching and learning materials, research supplies and other academic or research expenses in accordance with the applicable financial

procedures. The scholarship rate for the Ph.D. stage shall apply from the date of formal Ph.D. registration.

7. Fees

· The fee structure for the M.Sc. stage of the programme shall be as follows:

PG Level Course Fee (Per Year)

S. No.	**Particular**	**Amount**
1	Admission Processing Fee*	₹200
2	Admission Fee*	₹300
3	Enrollment Fee*	₹100
4	Library Security Deposit Fee	₹400
5	Identity Card Fee	₹100
6	Student Welfare Fee	₹400
7	Magazine Fee	₹100
8	**Total**	**₹1,600**

PG Level Course Fee (Per Semester)

S. No.	**Particular**	**Amount**
1	Library Service Fee	₹200
2	Sports Fee	₹100
3	Extra Curriculum Activities	₹200
4	Tuition Fee*	₹1,500
5	**Total Fees for UR, OBC-NCL & EWS category students**	**₹2,000**
6	**Total Fees for SC, ST & CW category students**	**₹1,250**

Programme	**Semester**	**Fee**
M.Sc.	**1st and 3rd Semester Fee**	**₹3,600 (for UR, OBC-NCL & EWS)** **₹2,850 (for SC, ST & CW)**
M.Sc.	**2nd and 4th Semester Fee**	**₹2,000 (for UR, OBC-NCL & EWS)** **₹1,250 (for SC, ST & CW)**

· The detailed Ph.D. stage fees will be notified separately after successful completion of the M.Sc. and fulfilment of eligibility conditions. Fees may be revised through the approval of the competent authority.

8. **Teaching, research and academic progress**

- CSU and the IKS Division shall facilitate mentoring, including a mentor from CSU and one from the host institution where applicable, and periodic mentoring workshops. Scholars are expected to pursue rigorous study and research that brings their traditional expertise into dialogue with appropriate research methods, and to produce and defend the dissertation or thesis required by their programme stage under CSU rules.
- Scholars shall submit quarterly progress reports and present work at mentoring workshops. An annual progress report and seminar shall inform decisions on continuation of scholarship and academic progress. The original scheme also expects each scholar to teach at least two credits in the scholar's domain (one credit equals one lecture per week for fifteen weeks), and to develop communication and academic publication skills; operational scheduling shall be set by CSU.

9. **Continuation, award and withdrawal**

- Continuation of scholarship shall depend on satisfactory progress and the recommendations of the competent committees, subject to the funding terms approved for the batch.
- Award of the M.Sc. and subsequent Ph.D. shall require fulfilment of all applicable credit, examination, research, registration and other CSU/UGC requirements. A possible exit award after completion of the first-year PG shall be granted only if an approved programme regulation specifically provides for it and all prescribed requirements are met.

10. **Other conditions**

- The Guru/Gurukula certificate and submitted claims remain subject to verification. Scholars must comply with CSU rules on attendance, conduct, academic integrity, research and examinations. CSU and the IKS Division may revise funding or scheme conditions through the competent approval process; any revised terms shall be communicated to the students/scholars. Questions not covered here shall be referred to the competent CSU authority, in consultation with the IKS Division where required.

Note: All updates and notices regarding the Setubandha Scholar Scheme shall be published only on the official website of Central Sanskrit University, New Delhi at https://www.sanskrit.nic.in/ Applicants and all concerned are advised to check the website regularly for the latest information.

For any queries, contact - Phone: 011-28520976 Email: setubandha@sanskrit.ac.in

Annexure A - Illustrative eligibility cases

· The following examples are provided to clarify the eligibility criteria. Each application shall be assessed on its own merits and subject to verification of the applicant's traditional learning and training.

Eligible to apply	Not eligible to apply
A. A sculpture apprentice lives with a Guru, studies Śilpaśāstra and Āgamas, helps prepare sculptures and mentors junior learners.	F. A hobby learner has taken online Śilpaśāstra classes and only a six-month Guru internship.
B. A musician has trained continuously under a Guru since childhood while also pursuing an undergraduate degree; the degree receives no selection weightage.	G. Music instruction was interrupted for several years and the evidence does not establish sustained training.
C. A learner has spent fourteen years with a Guru studying Āgamas and Nyāya in a pāṭhaśālā without formal academic qualifications.	H. Occasional online/offline lessons at home alongside regular employment do not establish the requisite sustained apprenticeship.
D. A learner has studied archery and Vyākaraṇa full-time in a traditional school, alongside some secular subjects, and plans to sit NIOS examinations.	I. Attendance at a school named "Gurukul" whose relevant instruction follows a conventional board classroom model does not by itself establish traditional Guru–Śiṣya training.
E. A student studies Āyurveda with its associated traditional disciplines directly under a Guru through sustained traditional training.	J. Study of Āyurveda only through a regular BAMS college curriculum does not establish traditional apprenticeship.