7-DAY NATIONAL RESIDENTIAL WORKSHOP ON MANUSCRIPTOLOGY AND PALAEOGRAPHY

Deciphering, Conserving, and Critically Editing India's Intellectual Heritage

A Joint Venture Of

CENTRAL SANSKRIT UNIVERSITY

56-57, Institutional Area, Janakpuri, New Delhi – 110058

&

SRI SITARAM VAIDIC ADARSHA SANSKRIT MAHAVIDYALAYA

7/2A, P.W.D. Road, Kolkata, West Bengal – 700035



Prof. Shrinivasa Varkhedi
Vice-Chancellor,
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Prof. S. Subrahmanya Sharma
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SSVASM, Kolkata





Prof. R. G. Muralikrishna
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CSU, New Delhi



Prof. Kuldeep Sharma
Incharge - Adarsh Scheme,
CSU, New Delhi



Prof. Madhukeshwar Bhat
Director (Programmes),
CSU, New Delhi

Date: 02/12/2026 to 08/12/2026

Venue: Mahavidyalaya Precinct



Dr. Somesh Kumar Mishra
Principal,
SSVASM,Kolkata

About the Institution:

Founded in 1948 by **His Holiness Sri Sri Sitaramdas Omkarnath Dev** and now recognized as a distinguished center for Shastric & Vedic learning and standing as a beacon of advanced research for Sanskrit & its allied subjects under the aegis of Central Sanskrit University, New Delhi. It offers Shastri (B.A.), Acharya (M.A.), and Ph.D. programs across Advaita Vedanta, Sahitya, Bauddha Darshan, Jyotisha and Darshan. Situated in Kolkata, West Bengal - a historic hub of manuscript wealth - the institution preserves over 200 rare manuscripts. Twenty Five (25) doctoral scholars are actively involved in research activities under the guidance of veteran scholars.

Significance & Objectives

India holds the world's largest collection of ancient manuscripts, many uncatalogued and decaying. Preserving them safeguards the Primary Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) and ensures textual authenticity.

This workshop aims to:

- Impart hands-on training in deciphering ancient scripts (Palaeography).
- Train scholars in preventive/curative conservation of palm leaf, bark, and paper.
- Teach principles of Textual Criticism, collation, and Critical Editions.
- Demonstrate digitization standards, metadata entry (NCC norms), and Indic OCR.

Eligibility & Selection Criteria

- Intake: **30 participants only.**
- Selection Mode: First-Come, First-Served basis subject to eligiblity of the candidates.
- Target Group: Ph.D. Scholars, Traditional Shastric Scholars, and Early-Career Faculty in Sanskrit, Indology, Philosophy, or History and connected subjects.
- Prior Exposure: Weightage given for basic familiarity with Indic scripts, manuscript handling, or textual editing.
- Interested participants are required to register (Compulsory) using the provided link, and eligible & selected candidates will be informed through email/Whatsapp.

Participant Instructions

- Free boarding and lodging will be provided to all selected candidates for the duration of the workshop.
- Full attendance in all technical and practical sessions across all 7 days is mandatory for obtaining the certificate.
- Every participant must bring a personal laptop.
- No Travel Allowance (TA) or Daily Allowance (DA) will be provided to the participants.

DAY-WISE ACADEMIC PROGRAMME*

Day & Theme	Morning Sessions	Afternoon Sessions
Day 1: Fundamentals	Registration & Inaugural; Scope, History & Evolution of Manuscriptology	Writing Materials & Inks; Lab: Physical Handling & Identification
Day 2: Palaeography	Evolution from Brahmi; Deciphering Gaudiya (Bengali) & Grantha	Deciphering Sharada, Newari & Nandinagari; Lab: Devanagari Transcription
Day 3: Conservation	Preventive Conservation: Climate, Pest Controls & Archival Storage	Curative Methods: Solvents & Herbs; Lab: Hands-on Palm Leaf & Paper Mending
Day 4: Cataloguing	Descriptive Cataloguing (NCC Norms); Accessioning & Indexing	Lab: Preparing Descriptive Cataloguing Cards for Uncatalogued Manuscripts
Day 5: Textual Criticism	Lower vs. Higher Criticism; Collation & Scribal Errors	Variant Readings; Lab: Constructing an Apparatus Criticus
Day 6: Digital Tools	Digitization Standards & Lighting; AI & OCR for Indic Scripts	Lab: Archival Software Training & Digital Metadata Entry
Day 7: Valedictory	Project Submissions: Group Collation & Cataloguing Reports	Participant Feedback, Evaluation, Valedictory & Certificate Distribution

*Schedule is subject to change

Important Dates

Application Deadline: 05.11.2026, 11:59PM

Declaration of Selected Candidates: 09.11.2026

Workshop Period: 2nd December – 8th December 2026

Organizing Committee

Organizing Chair:

Dr. Somesh Kumar Mishra,

Principal, Sri Sitaram Vaidic Adarsha Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya, Kolkata

Coordinator:

Dr. Subrahmanya Bhat, Assistant Professor, SSVASM, Kolkata
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Venue:

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REGISTRATION DETAILS

https://forms.gle/SvV3uaDNQ8yKB5at8