

CENTRE FOR INDIAN KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS
IQAC, HANDIQUE GIRLS' COLLEGE

Guwahati – 781001, Assam

CALL FOR PROPOSALS
DWIJEN NATH MEMORIAL MICRO-RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP 2026

Inviting Undergraduate & Postgraduate Student Researchers to Explore, Document and Preserve Indigenous Knowledge Systems of North-East India

About the Fellowship

The Centre for Indian Knowledge System (IKS), Handique Girls' College, Guwahati, invites applications from undergraduate and postgraduate students for the Dwijen Nath Memorial Micro-Research Fellowship 2026.

The fellowship has been instituted in memory of **Late Dwijen Nath**, an eminent researcher and author known for his scholarly contribution to the documentation and preservation of the folk culture and indigenous knowledge traditions of Assam. Following the successful implementation of the Micro-Research Fellowship Programme in 2025, the 2026 fellowship aims to encourage young researchers to engage with the rich and diverse knowledge traditions of North-East India through systematic documentation, field-based inquiry and critical academic investigation.

Theme of the Fellowship

“Documenting and Understanding Indigenous Knowledge Systems of North-East India”

The fellowship encourages research on the diverse knowledge traditions, cultural practices, ecological wisdom, folk traditions and community-based knowledge systems of North-East India. Applicants are encouraged to undertake small-scale research projects that document knowledge which is transmitted through communities, families, practitioners, oral traditions and everyday practices and which may be vulnerable to gradual erosion or disappearance.

Suggested Areas of Research

Applicants may choose a topic from the following broad areas or develop another relevant topic related to Indigenous Knowledge Systems:

1. Folk Culture and Traditions

- Folk songs, folk tales and oral traditions
- Traditional storytelling
- Folk theatre and performing traditions
- Traditional festivals and rituals
- Folk games and recreational practices
- Traditional crafts and artisan practices
- Material culture and traditional objects

2. Traditional Ecological Knowledge

- Community-based environmental knowledge
- Traditional methods of biodiversity conservation
- Indigenous knowledge of forests and natural resources
- Traditional water-management practices
- Community-based conservation practices
- Traditional weather and climate knowledge
- Indigenous responses to environmental change

3. Traditional Food and Culinary Knowledge

- Indigenous food practices
- Traditional food preservation techniques
- Indigenous recipes and food knowledge

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- Traditional fermentation practices
- Wild edible plants and food resources
- Food practices associated with festivals and rituals

4. Traditional Health and Healing Knowledge

- Indigenous healing practices
- Traditional medicinal plants
- Ethnobotanical knowledge
- Community healers and traditional practitioners
- Indigenous approaches to health and wellbeing

**Research involving medical claims should be approached as documentation of community knowledge rather than as clinical validation.*

5. Indigenous Agriculture and Livelihood Practices

- Traditional agricultural practices
- Indigenous seed conservation
- Traditional fishing practices
- Indigenous livestock practices
- Community-based livelihood systems
- Traditional tools and technologies

6. Indigenous Knowledge and Women

- Women's role in transmission of indigenous knowledge
- Women's traditional crafts
- Women's knowledge of food and medicinal plants
- Gender and transmission of cultural knowledge
- Women's contribution to preservation of folk traditions

7. Language, Oral Traditions and Knowledge

- Indigenous languages and knowledge transmission
- Oral histories
- Traditional terminology
- Proverbs and sayings
- Indigenous narratives
- Language and cultural identity

8. Traditional Knowledge and Education

- Indigenous methods of learning
- Informal community education
- Traditional apprenticeship systems
- Intergenerational transmission of knowledge
- Indigenous knowledge in contemporary education

9. Indigenous Knowledge and Contemporary Society

- Changing patterns of indigenous knowledge transmission
- Impact of modernization on traditional practices
- Youth and indigenous knowledge
- Digital documentation of traditional knowledge
- Indigenous knowledge and social media
- Challenges of preserving traditional knowledge

10. Community-Specific Studies

Research may focus on the knowledge traditions of any indigenous or ethnic community of North-East India, provided that the study is academically relevant and ethically conducted.

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Number of Fellowships

A total of two Micro-Research Fellowships will be awarded.

Particular	Details
Number of Fellowships	02
Fellowship Amount	₹10,000/- per project
Total Fellowship Support	₹20,000/-
Research Focus	Indigenous Knowledge Systems of North-East India
Administering Institution	Handique Girls' College
Implementing Centre	Centre for Indian Knowledge System under IQAC

Eligibility

The fellowship is primarily intended for undergraduate and postgraduate students from any higher education institution of India who demonstrate an interest in research, documentation and preservation of Indigenous Knowledge Systems.

Applicants must:

1. Be currently enrolled as undergraduate/postgraduate students in a recognised higher education institution of India.
2. Have a genuine academic interest in Indigenous Knowledge Systems, folk culture, traditional knowledge or related areas.
3. Submit an original research proposal prepared specifically for this fellowship.
4. Be willing to undertake field-based or documentary research wherever appropriate.
5. Be able to complete the proposed research within the prescribed fellowship period.
6. Agree to submit the final research report within the stipulated deadline.

Preference may be given to proposals demonstrating a clear connection with the cultural, ecological and knowledge traditions of North-East India.

Nature of the Research

The fellowship is intended for micro-research projects. Therefore, proposals should be focused, feasible and manageable within the available time and financial support. A project may involve –

- Field visits
- Interviews
- Oral histories
- Documentation of cultural practices
- Observation
- Photographic documentation
- Audio/video documentation, where ethically appropriate
- Archival research
- Library research
- Community-based documentation
- Case studies
- Ethnographic observation
- Collection and analysis of secondary sources

Applicants should clearly demonstrate how the proposed research can realistically be completed with the available fellowship support.

Proposed Duration

The fellowship shall ordinarily be completed within **six months from the date of award**. The selected fellows will be informed of the exact commencement date and final submission

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date along with the fellowship award letter. Extension of the fellowship period may be considered only in exceptional circumstances and with prior written permission from the Centre.

Fellowship Support

Each selected fellow will receive a fellowship amount of: ₹10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand only) (one time grant)

The fellowship amount shall be disbursed through the institutional mechanism of Handique Girls' College in accordance with the approved fellowship guidelines and institutional financial procedures. The fellowship is intended to support expenses directly related to the approved research project. The amount may be used, subject to institutional rules, for expenses such as:

- Local field visits and transportation
- Documentation
- Data collection
- Photocopying and printing
- Research materials
- Communication related to fieldwork
- Other reasonable research-related expenses

The fellowship does not constitute a salary, employment benefit or recurring financial support.

Research Proposal Format

- a) Applicants should submit a research proposal of approximately 1,500–2,000 words. The proposal should contain the following sections:
 1. Title of the proposed research
 2. Name of the applicant (contact no, email id)
 3. Name of institution and programme of study
 4. Introduction and background
 5. Rationale/significance of the study
 6. Research problem
 7. Objective(s) of the study
 8. Research questions, *wherever applicable*
 9. Brief review of relevant literature
 10. Proposed methodology
 11. Study area/community
 12. Proposed sources of data
 13. Proposed fieldwork/documentation plan
 14. Expected outcomes (social relevance, policy relevance)
 15. Tentative chapterisation
 16. Timeline
 17. Proposed utilisation of fellowship amount
 18. References (APA 7th Style)
- b) The proposal should be written in clear academic language and should demonstrate the applicant's understanding of the proposed research problem.
- c) Plagiarism should be less than 10% and AI use should be less than 20% (will be checked through Drillbit)

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Selection Process

The selection of fellows will be conducted by a Selection/Screening Committee constituted by the Centre for Indian Knowledge System, Handique Girls' College. The selection process may include:

- **Stage I: Preliminary Screening:** Proposals will be screened for eligibility, relevance and completeness. Proposals having more than 10% plagiarized content and more than 20% AI use will be rejected without review.
- **Stage II: Academic Evaluation:** Eligible proposals will be evaluated on the basis of academic merit, originality, feasibility and relevance to the fellowship theme.
- **Stage III: Interaction/Presentation:** Shortlisted applicants may be invited for a brief interaction or presentation of their proposed research before the Selection Committee.
- **Stage IV: Final Selection:** Two proposals will be selected for the award of the fellowship. The decision of the Selection Committee regarding the selection of fellows shall be final.

Selection Criteria

Proposals may be evaluated on the following criteria:

Criterion	Weightage
Relevance to Indigenous Knowledge Systems	20
Originality and novelty of the research idea	20
Clarity of research problem and objectives	15
Appropriateness of methodology	15
Feasibility within the fellowship period	15
Potential contribution to documentation/preservation	10
Quality of proposal presentation	5
Total	100

Ethical Considerations

Applicants undertaking field-based research must respect the dignity, privacy and cultural rights of individuals and communities participating in the research. Researchers must – (a) Obtain informed consent before conducting interviews; (b) Respect community practices and cultural sensitivities; (c) Avoid misrepresentation of community knowledge; (d) Properly acknowledge knowledge holders and sources; (e) Avoid publishing sensitive or restricted cultural information without appropriate permission; (f) Maintain confidentiality where requested by participants; (g) Use photographs, audio recordings and videos responsibly; (h) Clearly distinguish community knowledge from the researcher's own interpretation. Where appropriate, applicants should discuss their proposed ethical procedures in the research proposal.

Intellectual and Academic Integrity

The research submitted under the fellowship must be original. Plagiarism, fabrication of data, falsification of information, misrepresentation of sources or unethical collection of research material will lead to cancellation of the fellowship. Any academic work resulting from the fellowship should appropriately acknowledge the fellowship and the Centre for Indian Knowledge System, Handique Girls' College.

Expected Research Output

Each selected fellow will be required to submit a final research report based on the approved proposal. The final report format will be shared with the selected candidates. Selected

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research projects may also be considered for presentation in an academic programme organised by the Centre, subject to quality and institutional approval.

Fellowship Completion and Certificate

A Certificate of Completion will be issued to the selected fellow after – (a) Successful completion of the approved research project; (b) Submission of the final research report; (c) Submission of relevant supporting documents, where required; and (d) Approval of the report by the designated academic/screening committee. Failure to complete the research project or submit the final report within the stipulated period may result in withdrawal of the fellowship and/or non-issuance of the completion certificate.

Important Dates

Activity	Proposed Date
Call for Proposals Opens	15 th August, 2026
Last Date for Submission	14 th September, 2026
Announcement of the names of Selected Fellows	30 th September, 2026
Commencement of Fellowship	1 st October, 2026
Final Report Submission	25 th February, 2027

How to Apply

Interested applicants should submit:

1. Completed application form;
2. Research proposal;
3. Student identity card/enrolment proof;
4. Brief curriculum vitae/profile;
5. Declaration of originality;
6. Any other document specified by the Centre.

The applicants will have to fill up the google form and hard copies of the applicant form along with all documents (self-attested) will have to be sent with '**Application for Dwijen Nath Memorial Micro-Research Fellowship 2026**' to the following address –

Dr. Pori Hiloidari or Dr. Abhinit Dey or Jintu Thakuria (*write any one name*)

Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems

IQAC, Handique Girls' College

Dighalipukhuri West, Panbazar

Guwahati – 781001, Assam, India

General Terms and Conditions

1. Only eligible applicants will be considered.
2. The proposed research must be completed within the prescribed fellowship period.
3. The fellowship amount shall be used only for approved research-related purposes. 40% of the fellowship amount will be transferred at the starting of the fellowship and the rest 60% at the completion of the fellowship.
4. The fellowship cannot be transferred to another person.
5. The fellowship does not imply employment or admission to any academic programme.
6. The Centre reserves the right to seek clarification or modification of a proposed research project before granting approval.

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7. The Centre may reject proposals that do not meet the academic or thematic requirements of the fellowship.
8. The Centre may discontinue the fellowship in case of serious academic misconduct, plagiarism, unethical research practice or failure to comply with fellowship requirements.
9. All academic and administrative decisions concerning the fellowship shall rest with Handique Girls' College through the designated authorities/committee.
10. The Sponsor shall have no role in the selection, evaluation, monitoring or academic assessment of fellows.
11. The decision of the Selection Committee shall be final and binding.
12. The Centre reserves the right to modify the fellowship schedule in exceptional circumstances.
13. Submission of an application shall be deemed to constitute acceptance of the fellowship guidelines.