

Kashi Tamil Sangamam

An initiative by Government of India as a part of “Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav” and to uphold the Spirit of “Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat”
(Ministry of Education)

November 21, 2022

“The Kashi Tamil Sangam is a programme I am particularly enthusiastic about. It will be a celebration of the spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat and will also celebrate the beautiful Tamil language as well as culture.”¹

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**

With a collective vision to celebrate the unity in diversity of our nation and to ignite the sense of togetherness among the diverse set of communities, religions and ethnicities, [Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat programme \(EBSB\)](#) was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on October 31, 2015.²

While ancient and traditional knowledge systems exist across all regions of India, across all ages and in multiple languages, Tamil Nadu and Kashi, and the area around it, are two of the oldest and most important of such centres. Both these centres have been fountainheads of knowledge in the intellectual, cultural, spiritual and artisanal realms.

To rediscover, reaffirm and celebrate the age-old links between the Tamil culture and Kashi that has existed since centuries, a month-long “Kashi Tamil Sangamam” is being organized in Varanasi (Kashi) from **16th November to 19th December 2022**, during which academic exchanges – seminars, discussions etc will be held between experts/ scholars on various facets of the two ancient manifestations of Indian Culture, with focus on bringing out the links and shared values between the two. The Kashi-Tamil Sangamam shall also serve as an ideal platform to understand the unity in India’s civilizational assets through two historic centres of knowledge & culture. Such an understanding is essential to uphold the Spirit of ‘**Ore Bharatham, Unnatha Bharatham**’ (Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat).³



¹ <https://twitter.com/narendramodi/statu2F%2Fpib.gov.ressReleaseframePage.aspx%3FPRID%3D1874807>

² <https://static.pib.gov.in/WriteReadData/specificdocs/documents/2021/oct/doc2021103101.pdf>

³ <https://kashitamil.iitm.ac.in/>

Objective⁴

The broad objectives of Kashi Tamil Sangamam are as follows:

- Bring the two Knowledge and Cultural traditions closer
- Create an understanding of our shared heritage
- Deepen the people-to-people bond between the regions

At the end of the Sangamam event, people of Tamil Nadu shall get an immersive experience of Kashi and the people of Kashi shall also get to know the cultural richness of Tamil Nadu through a healthy exchange of knowledge sharing experiences - events, visits, conversations, etc.⁵

Kashi and Tamil Nadu: Timeless Centres of Culture and Civilisation⁶

As part of the [Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav](#), Kashi Tamil Sangamam will further strengthen the common experience, appreciation and bonds amongst the people of Tamil Nadu & Varanasi.

Varanasi, known popularly as Kashi in Tamil Nadu, is one of the oldest living cities of the world, endowed with a civilizational and cultural continuum that is unparalleled. Knowledge, philosophy, culture, devotion to Gods, literature, Indian arts and crafts have all flourished in this holy city. Tamil Nadu on the other hand is another cradle of culture, arts, crafts, literature, with a wealth of knowledge available in Tamil language, which is the most ancient language in the world.



What is more important is the fact that these two manifestations of Indian Culture, though geographically distant, have had deep and vibrant links over centuries. Knowledge seekers from near and far used to come to Kashi, and places in and around like Prayagraj, Ayodhya, Gorakhpur, which are internally connected as Knowledge Hubs. Similarly, in Tamil Nadu, places like Kanchipuram, Puducherry, Madurai, Thanjavur, Rameshwaram, Srirangam, Kanyakumari, Thoothukudi, Tirunelveli, Tamraparani River have been excellent knowledge

⁴ <https://kashitamil.iitm.ac.in/>

⁵ <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1869678>

⁶ <https://kashitamil.iitm.ac.in/>

centres/ Ghatikasthanas and have contributed for various ancient industries like shipbuilding, pottery, weaving, idol making, river dams, mining, warfare, weaponry etc.



Vanakkam Kashi



KASHI TAMIL SANGAMAM

17 NOV - 16 DEC, 2022 VARANASI, KASHI

To know more visit www.kashitamil.iitm.ac.in



The ancient connect between the two centres of knowledge is evident in many walks of life like similar themes in literature, presence of the name of Kashi in every village in Tamil Nadu etc. Many households in Tamil Nadu adopted the name of Kailasanatha and Kashinatha for naming their children, like those who are living in Kashi and Uttar Pradesh. Hence, **exploring and rediscovering the links between these two centres can lead to the creation of important bodies of knowledge both in the intellectual and practical realms.**

Knowledge, philosophy, culture, devotion to Gods, literature, Indian arts and crafts have all flourished in this holy city that is on the banks of the Holy River Ganga. Besides, Kashi has given impetus to the quest of freedom and patriotic fervour to Rani Lakshmi Bai and Mahakavi Subrayamanya Bharati and others. Saint Kumaragurupara from Sri Vaikundam, Tutukudi District of Tamil Nadu has excelled in bargaining with Sultanate of Kashi with audacity and drove a lion to his courtyard to get back the Kedarghat and a place for consecration of Vishweshwara Lingam. He has written “Kashi Kalambakam” a grammatical composition of poems on Kashi. King Adhivēera Rama Pandiyan of Pandya Dynasty dedicated a Shiva Temple

Kashi Tamil

Fountainheads of Knowledge in the Intellectual, Cultural, Spiritual and Artisanal Realms

A pathway to experience the rich and proud heritage of India that no country in the world can showcase

Cultural Capital of India ● Centre of India's Antiquity and Glory

One of the oldest living cities of the world ● Most ancient language in the world

Flourished holy city with devotion to Gods, literature, Indian arts and crafts ● Cradle of culture, arts, crafts, literature and wealth of knowledge

These two manifestations of Indian Culture, though geographically distant, have had **deep and vibrant links over centuries**

at Tenkasi of Tamilnadu after his pilgrimage to Kashi , whose ancestors have established Sivakasi. He wrote “Kashi Kadam” of Skanda Purana in Tamil poetic verses.

This is a unique learning experience for students, scholars, academics, practising professionals, etc. on various facets of Indian Knowledge Systems, Education & Training Practices, Arts & Culture, Language, Literature, etc. All of this is aligned with the multidisciplinary undercurrents and the need for continuous learning as stated in the [National Education Policy \(2020\)](#). The academic & co-academic sessions shall best capture this canvas through well curated sessions by experts drawn from different fields and provides a good platform for cross-cultural exchange of information & experiences.

Participants⁷

To ensure that the benefit of these discussions reaches the actual practitioners of these knowledge streams, it was proposed that in addition to experts, common practitioners from various groups from different parts of Tamil Nadu, can be brought for an 8-day visit of Varanasi and its neighbouring areas. 12 such groups had been identified including students, teachers, literary (authors, poets, publishers), cultural experts, professionals (practicing arts, music, dance, drama, folk art, yoga, Ayurveda), entrepreneurs, (SMEs, start-ups) business people, (community business groups, hoteliers,) artisans, heritage related experts (archaeologists, tour guides, bloggers etc) spiritual, rural, sampradaya organizations. These people are participating in the academic programs; interact with people of Varanasi associated with the same field, and visit places of interest in and around Varanasi.

Any resident individual from Tamil Nadu, aged 18 above, from respective field of work and belonging to any of the above 12 groups are eligible to apply.



Programmes

Academic Programme⁸

The Kashi-Tamil Sangamam will be centred around a series of themes that cover various facets of knowledge – literature, ancient texts, philosophy, spirituality, music, dance, drama, yoga, Ayurveda, handlooms, handicrafts as well as the modern innovations, trade exchanges, edu-

⁷ <https://kashitamil.iitm.ac.in/>

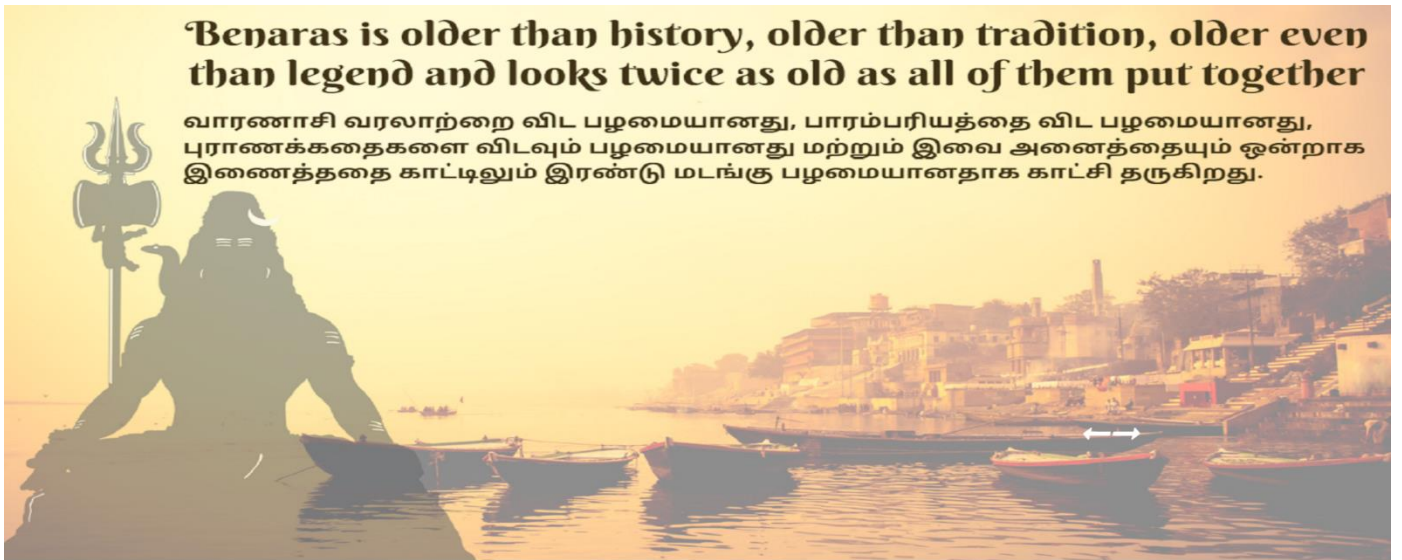
⁸ <https://kashitamil.iitm.ac.in/>

tech and other gen-next technology etc. Seminars, discussions, lectures, lec-dems etc will be held on these themes by the subject experts.



Cultural Programme⁹

In addition to the above, the art, culture, cuisine, handlooms, handicrafts etc of Tamil Nadu will be exhibited, and cultural performance like Bharatanatyam dance, Carnatic music / Tamil music, Tamil folk music, Nadaswaram music concert, Thevaaram thiruvaasagam in Tamil music form, Debate on Kamba Ramayana, Villu-paattu, Bommalaatum, Silambaattum, Kaavadi Attam, Karagam, Pattimandram, Tamil folk dances Karagattam, Poikkal Kuthirai, Thappaattam etc organized in specially designated locations for people of Varanasi to savour.



Bharatiya way of life is a continuous exploring and understanding the unique manifestation of common civilizational treasure among the citizens in the country. It is the pathway to experience the rich and proud heritage of India that no country in the world can showcase. Hence, it is imperative to appreciate and strengthen the bonds amongst the people of India, starting with an event at Kashi by extolling the bond between Tamil Nadu and Varanasi.

For more information on Kashi Tamil Sangamam, [Click Here](#)

⁹ <https://kashitamil.iitm.ac.in/>

References

- <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleseDetail.aspx?PRID=1876493>
- <https://kashitamil.iitm.ac.in/>
- <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleseDetail.aspx?PRID=1869678>
- <https://twitter.com/narendramodi/status/1593458717600919552>
- <https://static.pib.gov.in/WriteReadData/specificdocs/documents/2021/oct/doc2021103101.pdf>

Video Links

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wMZYw7YZ83A>
- <https://twitter.com/i/status/1593458717600919552>
- <https://twitter.com/i/status/1593147596255637504>

Social Media

- [Instagram](#)
- [Twitter](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- [Youtube](#)

AG/HP/RC/AM