

Kashi Tamil Sangamam 3.0

Celebrating Unity in Diversity

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Introduction

The **Kashi Tamil Sangamam (KTS) 3.0** is scheduled to be held from **February 15 to 24, 2025**, in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. This prestigious cultural initiative, organized by the Ministry of Education in collaboration with various ministries and the Government of Uttar Pradesh, aims to celebrate and strengthen the ancient civilizational bond between Tamil Nadu and Kashi. The KTS seeks to provide an opportunity for scholars, students, philosophers, traders, artisans, artists and people from other walks of life from the two regions to come together, share their knowledge, culture and best practices and learn from each other's experience. It also aims to make the youth aware and experience cultural oneness. The endeavor is in sync with NEP 2020's emphasis on integrating the wealth of Indian Knowledge Systems with modern systems of knowledge.



This year, the event is significant as for the first time, participants will get to witness the Mahakumbh in Prayagraj and visit the newly inaugurated Ram Mandir in Ayodhya. This **10-day-long event will conclude on 24th February 2025**. Additionally, the **National Education Policy 2020** underscores the importance of cultivating a modern generation aligned with the 21st-century mindset while remaining rooted in Indian culture.

This year, the government has decided to bring around 1000 delegates from Tamil Nadu under five categories/groups:

1	Students, Teachers, and Writers
2	Farmers and Artisans (Vishwakarma Categories)

3	Professionals and Small Entrepreneurs
4	Women Self Help Groups (SHG), Mudra Loan beneficiaries, Dakshina Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha (DBHPS) Pracharaks)
5	Start-up, Innovation, Edu-Tech, Research



This year, an additional group of around 200 students of Tamil origin studying in various Central Universities will be a part of this event to enliven the bond between Kashi and Tamil Nadu. Participation of youth in all categories will be encouraged this year.

Honoring Sage Agasthyar's Legacy

The main theme in this year's event is highlighting the significant contributions of Sage Agasthyar to the Siddha System of Medicine (Bharatiya Chikitsa), Classical Tamil Literature, and also his contributions in the cultural unity of the Nation. Additionally, he is known for his unparalleled contributions to various fields, including Health, Philosophy, Science, Linguistics, Polity and Art, is revered as the first grammarian of the Tamil language in South India. His influence extends beyond India, as he is also worshipped in Java and Sumatra for his role in propagating Indian culture.

An exhibition dedicated to Sage Agasthyar will be organized in Kashi during KTS 3.0. This exhibition will highlight various aspects of his life and work, showcasing his significant contributions to the Tamil and Indian knowledge traditions. Additionally, the event will feature seminars, workshops, and book releases focused on his scholarly achievements.

Bridging Tradition and Contemporary Discourse

Kashi Tamil Sangamam, a brainchild of Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, is an inspirational initiative to celebrate the timeless bonds between Tamil Nadu and Kashi, strengthen the civilisational links and further the spirit of Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat.

Key objectives include:

- Highlighting the literary, spiritual, and artistic connections between Tamil Nadu and Kashi.
- Encouraging academic and research-based interactions between scholars from both regions.

- Showcasing traditional art forms, crafts, and cuisine to enhance cultural appreciation.
- Providing a platform for Tamil students to explore the historical significance of Kashi and its ancient educational institutions.

Kashi Tamil Sangamam: A Journey Through the Years

The Inaugural Edition: KTS 1.0 (2022)

The first edition of Kashi Tamil Sangamam was held from November 16th to December 16th 2022, with a whole of government approach. Over 2500 people from Tamil Nadu, representing 12 different walks of life, had travelled to Varanasi, Prayagraj and Ayodhya on 8 day-tours, during which they had an immersive experience of different aspects of life in and around Varanasi.



KTS 2.0 (2023): Strengthening Intellectual and Cultural Ties

Following its success, second edition of Kashi Tamil Sangamam (KTS 2.0) was organized by the Ministry of Education from 17.12.2023 to 30.12.2023 at Namoo Ghat in Varanasi. It was inaugurated by Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi at Varanasi on the 17th December, 2023, with the first time ever real time, app-based translation of a part of Hon'ble PM's speech in Tamil for the benefit of visiting Tamil delegates.

Conclusion

The Kashi Tamil Sangamam 3.0, set to take place in February 2025 continues the mission of fostering deeper cultural and intellectual ties between Tamil Nadu and Kashi. By highlighting the legacy of Sage Agasthyar and bringing together diverse delegates, this initiative strengthens the bonds of India's rich heritage and contributes to the spirit of **Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat**.

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