

Concept Note
Kashi Tamil Sangamam 2025-KTS (4.0) –
Celebrating the Unity in Diversity

1. Background

Kashi Tamil Sangamam, a brainchild of Hon'ble 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. It aimed at bridging the tradition with contemporary discourse. *Hon'ble Prime Minister said that "Kashi Tamil Sangamam furthers the spirit of 'Ek Bharat, Shrestha Bharat.'" ... "This flow of spirit of 'Ek Bharat, Shrestha Bharat' is infusing the soul of our nation today".*

2. Kashi Tamil Sangamam: The Continuing Journey in search of knowledge and identifying the oneness

The Inaugural Edition: KTS 1.0 (2022)

The first edition of Kashi Tamil Sangamam was held from 16th November to 15th December 2022, as a GoI Event of Ministry of Education in collaboration with State Government of Uttar Pradesh. 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. This event was organized at BHU, 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 Namohat 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. There were interactive academic sessions with the same set of professionals / working people from Tamil Nadu and Kashi. This event was organized at Namohat, Varanasi

KTS 3.0 (2025): Taking ahead the modern times through Bridging the Indian knowledge and tradition with contemporary discourse - भारतीय ज्ञान और परंपरा को समकालीन विमर्श के साथ जोड़कर आधुनिक समय की ओर अग्रसर होना

The third edition of Kashi Tamil Sangamam (K.T.S 3.0), took place from **15 February to 24 February, 2025**, as a continuing 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 strengthened the bonds of India's rich heritage, Indian Knowledge tradition and contributes to the spirit

of **Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat**. As a unique feature this year, an additional group of around 200 students of Tamil origin studying in various Central Universities were part of this event to enliven the bond between Kashi and Tamil Nadu. Participation of youth in all categories will be encouraged this year. This event was organized at Namoh Ghat, Varanasi.

In all the above three events, people from Tamil Nadu, representing varied walks of life, travelled to Varanasi and its neighbouring areas on 8 day-tours, during which they had an immersive experience of different aspects of life in and around Varanasi, including Prayagraj and Ayodhya. They participated in seminars, visited exhibitions, savoured local cuisines, attended cultural performance and local sporting events and visited places of historical, and tourist interest. While the Ministry of Education led the programme, the role of 10 other ministries, Educational Institutions under MoE, IRCTC and the state government of UP was integral in making it possible.

The events at **Namoh Ghat in Varanasi** was organised by IIT Madras and BHU as a whole of government approach with the participation of multiple ministries and departments of the Central Government and the Govt of Uttar Pradesh. Ministry of Railways, IRCTC, Ministries of Culture, Tourism, Textiles (through Dev Commissioners Handloom and Handicrafts), Food Processing, MSME (through Coir Board and KVIC), MSDE, I&B, and various departments of UP Govt and the Varanasi Administration have played vital roles in organising various aspects of the event, successfully.

The Ministry of Education, in line with the recommendations of NEP 2020 for promoting the spirit of **Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat**, has been organizing Yuva Sangam through its HEIs, under which youth travel to their paired states for an immersive experience as part of an empathy building exercise. We have had four phases of Yuva Sangam so far, covering all states. Kashi Tamil Sangamam was organised with the same spirit in mind to involve community at large to learn and cherish the oneness in the culture of Bharat by removing unfounded myths in their mind.

In last three editions of KTS, there were overwhelming response from people of Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh to participate in the Tamil Sangamam in the Holy City of Varanasi, which unites the entire Bharat with its unique presence of Ganga in the sacred seat of holy rishis including Sage Agastya, the first grammarian of Tamil Language. Around 2500 people in the first edition, 1400 people in the second edition and 1000 people third edition were accommodated from Tamil Nadu. The fourth of edition of KTS is a resolve towards the continuing mission of interaction between people of Tamil Nadu and Kashi and to address the growing appetite for participation in the Government programme.

3. Proposed Dates: 2nd December – 15 December, 2025 (14 days)

During the Karthigai month which is significant for Karthikeya puja in Tamil Nadu. (On 3rd -5th December 2025, the Kathigai Deepam festival is celebrated during this month in Tamil Nadu and 4th December 2025 is being observed as Annapurna Mata Jayanthi, Margasira Purnima Day. 11.12.2025, Thursday is Mahakavi Subramanya Bharati Jayanthi, as also observed as "Bharatiya Bhasha Diwas" by Ministry of Education, Govt. of India. Thus, the organising of the 4th edition of KTS event would be significant in both in Tamilnadu and Varanasi.

4. Proposed Number of Participants from Tamil Nadu: 1400 (7 Groups of 200 persons each)

5. Duration of Tour: 8 Days (4 for travel, 4 at site)

6. Categories: 7 (Seven)

- 1) **STUDENTS** - Students (Colleges, Technical Institutions, Skill Institutions, etc)
- 2) **TEACHERS** - Teachers in Colleges, Tech Institutions and Schools, Retired or Working, Professional Tutors, Hindi Pracharaks of DBHPS etc.
- 3) **WRITERS & MEDIA PROFESSIONALS** - Writers including Book Publishers (Academic as well as others - Multilingual), Media content writers, editors and social media activists
- 4) **AGRI AND ALLIED SECTOR** - Agriculture College Students, Farmers, Animal Husbandry & Artisans,
- 5) **PROFESSIONALS & ARTISANS** - Small Entrepreneurs, Start-up Beneficiaries, Professionals in Medicine, Law and Accounts, Artisans (in the field of Handicrafts, decorative art, sculptors, carpenters, textiles, artificial items, pottery etc)
- 6) **WOMEN** (SHG, Mudra Loan, and Central Govt Scheme beneficiaries, Self Employed)
- 7) **SPIRITUAL** - Classical Singers and Spiritual Text Teachers (Thevaram, Thiruvagasam, Nalayira Divya Prabandam, Thiruppugazh etc), Spiritual Orators - Temple Pujaris and Temple Workers.

7. Theme of KTS 4.0 : "Let us Learn Tamil - Tamil Karkalam". It will be unifying feature of the event, spreading the message that all Indian Languages are our Languages and belong to one Bharatiya Bhasha family. Besides it will be an initiative of taking the Tamil to other parts of the country signifying the cultural oneness and the expanding the horizon of ancient knowledge in classical Tamil texts and its dissemination in other Indian Languages.

8. Programme Structure: The Fourth edition of KTS will be structured as follows:

The event will start with inaugural function on **2nd December 2025** at Namō Ghat, Varanasi and conclude with Valedictory Function on **15th December 2025** at Namō Ghat, Varanasi.

As a part of awareness programme on the theme of “Ek Bharat Shresht Bharat” following four major allied events depicting are planned along with KTS 4.0:

a) Car Rally from Tenkasi, Tamil Nadu to Kashi, UP.

- To commence on 02.12.2025 at Tenkasi, Tamil Nadu and conclude on 15.12.2025 at Varanasi, UP, signifying the efforts of Pandiya Ruler Shri Adi Veera Parakrama Pandiyan who spread the message of oneness in Bharatiya Culture through his expeditious journey from Tamil Nadu to Kashi and for building a temple dedicated to Lord Shiva and renaming the town as Tenkasi (Dakshin Kashi) underlying the spirit of unity.
- The Rally will exhibit educative materials on historical connection between Tamil Nadu and Kashi by early Chera, Chola, Pandiya, Pallava, Chalukya, Vijayanagara rulers
- There will be propagation of the benefit of Indian System of Siddha Medicine available in classical texts, learning the Tamil language
- There will be depiction of classical texts and ancient places through LED screen fixed in the decorated car at designated places in Indian Languages
- The car will be felicitated enroute of its journey by people of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh etc.
- The Nodal Institution and National Coordinator for organising this event will be _____
- The detailed itinerary will be worked out by IIT-M in consultation with IRCTC, M/o Culture, CICT etc.

b) Teaching Tamil to students in Uttar Pradesh under the campaign “Let us Learn Tamil – Karpom Tamil, कार्पोम् तमिल” –

- Around 50 Hindi knowing Tamil Teachers or DBHPS Hindi Pracharaks teaching Tamil through Hindi in Tamil Nadu will be trained under an Orientation Programme at CICT, Tamil Nadu during the month of Oct-Nov, 2025 and they will be sent to Varanasi for teaching Tamil to school students
- Each Teacher will teach Spoken Tamil along with alphabets to 30 Other Language speaking students in Tamil under a short-term programme for an hour (2 classes) in Schools. There will be around 20 classes during the period.
- The teaching contingent will arrive on 2nd December 2025 and after attending inaugural programme of KTS 4.0, they will go to designated schools for teaching

- Varanasi Administration will allot Govt / Private schools to teaching contingent, which will be situated near by the place of stay.
- Each designated School will select a batch of 30 students in a school under the special Tamil Learning programme.
- All students to get certificate of participation.
- CICT, Chennai will depute a coordinator for this programme in Varanasi
- CIIL, Mysuru will support CICT, Chennai under this programme
- IRCTC will book tickets to 50 Teachers separately and also arrange for their accommodation, site visit.
- Local Conveyance to the school will be arranged the District Administration
- In total, there will be 1500 students learning (i.e. 30 x 50)
- Tamil Department of BHU, Varanasi to coordinate with Tamil teachers and Education Department of UP/Varanasi Administration.
- The local site seeing and study tour for teaching contingent will be arranged by IRCTC on Saturday and Sunday
- Teaching Contingent will be felicitated at Varanasi.

c) Learn Tamil while visiting Tamil Nadu under Study Tour Programme

- 10 batch of 30 College Students of each from Uttar Pradesh / Varanasi will go to designated colleges in Tamil Nadu. In total, there will be 300 College students from Uttar Pradesh
- CICT, Chennai will give orientation training to teaching faculties who will teach Tamil to Students from Uttar Pradesh / Varanasi with other Indian Languages background in Oct-Nov 2025.
- CICT, Chennai will receive the contingent in Chennai on 2.12.2025 and will have an orientation session for students and have a live relay of the Inaugural Session at their Institute for the students contingent.
- Next day all students will be sent to designated colleges in a batch of 30 students each.
- The Tamil Learning classes will start from 2nd December 2025 and will end on 15th December 2025.
- The course material and content for the programme will be prepared by CICT, Chennai.
- The train tickets for the students will be booked by BHU, Varanasi in coordination with IRCTC.
- The Institutions in Tamil Nadu could be the following or as suggested by CICT
 - 1) Gram Rural University, Dindukkal
 - 2) Vels University, Chennai
 - 3) Central University of Tamil Nadu, Tiruvaiyaru
 - 4) Sastra University, Thanjavur
 - 5) SRM University, Chennai
 - 6) IIIT- Kanchipuram
 - 7) IIT, Chennai

- 8) NIT, Tiruchi
- 9) Vivekananda College, Sholavandan/Chennai
- 10) Vasuki Arts and Science College, Coimbatore

- b. All Educational Institutions will make arrangements for the stay of students contingent in their college premises and designate a coordinator for this programme
- c. All Educational Institutions will also arrange study tour during the period of their stay in and around their Institute in Tamil Nadu. The places visit will be finalised in consultation with CICT, Chennai that have links to Kashi-Tamilnadu relationship.
- d. The course material for learning Tamil will also include the educational content relating to rich traditions and festivals of Tamil Nadu and would exhibit the oneness of Bharatiya tradition, which is celebrated in different manner.
- e. Designated colleges will prepare and distribute the learning kit materials to students in consultation with Programme Coordinator and CICT, Chennai
- f. All participating students will get a certificate of participation
- g. All designated institutions will get partial financial support for this event, if required

d) On Payment KTS 4.0 Yatra by IRCTC under KTS 4.0 for individuals arriving from Tamil Nadu to Kashi on their own.

- The Kashi Yatra programme organised during last two years by Government of Tamil Nadu is evident to the fact that the visit to Kashi has evinced the interest of people in Tamil Nadu.
- There is a growing demand for people in Tamil Nadu for visiting the Kashi under Kashi Tamil Sangamam programme even by paying the cost of their travel, stay and food.
- Thus, individuals who are interested to join the Kashi Tamil Sangamam 4.0 event may arrive on their own either by train or flight to Varanasi and register with IRCTC for their local site seeing and visit to Prayagraj and Ayodhya under a conducted tour of IRCTC by making payment for their travel, stay and accommodation by IRCTC.
- IRCTC will have special online window for registration of such individuals to visit during 02.12.2025 to 15.12.2025 for their participation in KTS 4.0 and visit to Kashi, Prayagraj and Ayodhya

9. Selection of delegates, travel and other logistic arrangements

- IIT Madras will be the coordinating Institution from Chennai, Tamil Nadu and BHU, Varanasi will be the coordinating Institution at Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh as before.

- IIT Madras will call for application for participation through portal under 7 categories, select candidates as done in last 3 Phases
- IIT Madras will engage IRCTC to manage movement of delegates from end to end. This will include train journey between Tamil Nadu and Varanasi, bus travel to places around Varanasi, local transport, hotel stay at Varanasi and other identified places, all meals during the entire tour, local visits and all facilitation.
- The tour itinerary will be decided by BHU in consultation with State Govt. so as to cover the 5 Ps as in Yuva Sangam – Parampara, Pragati, Praudyogiki, Paryatan, People to People connect. BHU, Varanasi in consultation with UP Government/District Administrations will convey Local tour itinerary to IRCTC for making all arrangements.
- IRCTC will collaborate with BHU Nodal officers and Dev Commissioner at Varanasi/ District Admin of other identified cities to facilitate stay and local visit of delegates
- Delegates will travel by AC III Tier coaches
- Food, shawls / blankets / warm clothing, first aid etc will be provided to delegates during the tour
- Flag of function will be held at Chennai ; welcome function at Varanasi station
- At Varanasi and Ayodhya they will stay in hotels being booked by IRCTC in consultation with local administration
- Warm water, warm clothing, bedding etc will be ensured for delegates
- The hotels will have doctors on call, beds will be reserved in local hospital at Varanasi
- Quality of hotels, buses etc have to be of good quality with special attention to cleanliness
- Adequate arrangements of volunteers and translators (Tamil – Hindi) should be made

10. Delegate Itinerary (TBD)

- 2 days onward journey – 2 days return ; 4 days of visit
- **Day 1 at Varanasi** - visit to Kashi Vishwanath and other temples, Sarnath, Ganga Arati, Ghat visit etc.
- **Day 2 at Varanasi** – Domain specific programmes
- **Day 3 – Prayagraj** (or any other city) – the local visits to be curated by IRCTC, BHU and local administration. Night stay of Day 3 will be at Ayodhya
- **Day 4 – Ayodhya** (or any other city) - the local visits to be curated by IRCTC, BHU and local administration.

Tentative Schedule (As obtained from IRCTC)

**TENTATIVE TRAINS ON DEMAND (TOD) PLAN FOR KASHI TAMIL SANGAMAM 4.0 -
As on 16.10.2025**

Onward Journey From Tamil Nadu								Days Available at Banaras
BATCH NO.	Date & Day of Dep	Departure Station	Train No.	Departure time	Arrival Station	Arrival Date / Day	Arrival Time	
1	30.11.2025 (Sun)	Chennai	1	10.45 Hrs	Banaras	02.12.2025 (Tue)	04.30 Hrs	Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri
2	01.12.2025 (Mon)	Kanniyakumari	2	20.55 Hrs	Banaras	04.12.2025 (Thu)	04.30 Hrs	Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun,
3	04.12.2025 (Thu)	Coimbatore	3	04.30 Hrs	Banaras	06.12.2025 (Sat)	04.30 Hrs	Sat, Sun, Mon, Tue
4	06.12.2025 (Fri)	Chennai	4	10.45 Hrs	Banaras	08.12.2025 (Mon)	04.30 Hrs	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu
5	07.12.2025 (Sun)	Kanniyakumari	5	20.55 Hrs	Banaras	10.12.2025 (Wed)	04.30 Hrs	Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
6	10.12.2025 (Wed)	Coimbatore	6	04.30 Hrs	Banaras	12.12.2025 (Fri)	04.30 Hrs	Fri, Sat, Sun, Mon
7	12.12.2025 (Fri)	Chennai	7	10.45 Hrs	Banaras	14.12.2025 (Sun)	04.30 Hrs	Sun, Mon, Tue, Wed

Return Journey to Tamil Nadu							
BATCH NO,	Departure Station	Train No.	Date & Day of Dep	Dep. Time	Arrival Station	Arrival Date / Day	Arrival Time
1	Banaras	1	05.12.2025 (Fri)	23.20 hrs	Chennai	07.12.2025 (Sun)	16.45 Hrs
2	Banaras	2	07.12.2025 (Sun)	23.20 hrs	Kanniyakumari	10.12.2025 (Wed)	11.50 Hrs
3	Banaras	3	09.12.2025 (Tue)	23.20 hrs	Coimbatore	12.12.2025 (Fri)	02.30 Hrs
4	Banaras	4	11.12.2025 (Thu)	23.20 hrs	Chennai	13.12.2025 (Sat)	16.45 Hrs
5	Banaras	5	13.12.2025 (Sat)	23.20 hrs	Kanniyakumari	16.12.2025 (Tue)	11.50 Hrs
6	Banaras	6	15.12.2025 (Mon)	23.20 hrs	Coimbatore	18.12.2025 (Thu)	02.30 Hrs
7	Banaras	7	17.12.2025 (Wed)	23.20 hrs	Chennai	19.12.2025 (Fri)	16.45 Hrs

Note:

1. Tentative train plan based on previous notifications
2. Train plan subject to allotment of rakes and approval of timings from Railway Board

11. Domain Specific Programmes

(To be developed in consultation with BHU)

12. Cultural Immersion

Cultural troupes of M/o Culture or State Govt can perform at a specially furnished auditorium at Namo Ghat, which is the ideal place, as it could attract at least 5000 locals as well as school students from UP per day. An amphitheatre, space for stalls, etc are available there. It has easy approach roads for vehicles and also nearer to local people.

13. Cuisine and Local Arts and Crafts

Visits to identified centres like the handloom handicraft centre in Varanasi, local food outlets and markets will be part of the programme. There will be handicraft and handloom outlets from Tamil Nadu and UP for the attendees at the main venue of the programme.

14. Tamil Circuit

As a part of experiencing the richness cultural bonding between Tamilnadu, the participants from Tamil Nadu will be taken to the ancestral House of Mahakavi Subramanya Bharatiyar, Kedar Ghat, Kasi Madam in Little Tamil Nadu Area. They will also have a visit to BHU Tamil Department for an academic and Literary interaction. At these places, the locals would welcome them with greetings in Tamil as "Vanakkam Bharat" & Kasi Ungalai Varverkirathu (Welcome to Kashi). There will be interaction with Tamil speaking academics and residents at Prayag Raj and Ayodya.

15. Spiritual Circuit

The spiritual circuit would include the spiritual places at Kasi, Prayagraj and Ayodhya.

16. Awareness Generation

- 6-7 identified institutions in Tamil Nadu would organise seminars during October 2024 create awareness about the programme so that people can register and to disseminate the messages of KTS like oneness in diversity (anekta me ekta) Cultural and other bonds between Tamilnadu and Kashi etc.
- BHU / State Government of UP can do the outdoor publicity as was done during the last two years so that local people of Varanasi get to know about the event and attend the special programmes for people to people connection.
- Spiritual Heads, VIPs and celebrities having Tamil or Varanasi links need to be identified and used for campaign and publicity.
- Proposed Car Rally from Tenkasi to Varanasi to be highlighted through publicity in the States in which it passes through.

- Regular Press Briefings, Articles and other social media interaction should be arranged from Delhi, Varanasi and Chennai.

17. Offices for coordination

- One at IITM
- One at BHU

18. Budget Estimates (Tentative)

Expenditure to be incurred by Coordinator in Chennai

Sl. No.	Header	Amount (in Rs.)
1	Mobility of delegates, their stay and food arrangements. (to be done through IRCTC)	8,00,00,000
2	Advertisement & Branding (IRCTC and others)	3,50,00,000
3	Administrative Cost	1,00,00,000
4	Miscellaneous Expenditure for events in Tamil Nadu	1,50,00,000
Total		14,00,00,000

Expenditure to be incurred by Coordinator in Varanasi

Sl. No.	Components for which expenditure incurred	Amount
1.	Pandal, Tent, Stalls, cottages, Invitations, mementos, shawls, furniture etc.	Rs. 3,50,00,000/-
2.	Photography, videography, multimedia, TV, Radio etc.	Rs.1,50,00,000/-
3.	Hoardings, banners adg. In Newspapers etc.	Rs. 75,00,000/-
4.	Local Transport, Accommodation and booking of travel tickets for dignitaries and special invitees and teaching contingent	Rs. 75,00,000/-
		Rs.6,50,00,000

On the whole, the total estimated expenditure under KTS 3.0 to be incurred by coordinators at both the end will be around Rs. 20.50 Crores.

During the last edition of KTS 3.0, the expenditure was around Rs.13.5 crores for ten day event.