MEETING OF

THE KASHI TAMIL SANGAMAM 5.0

ON 23th OCTOBER, 2026 AT 04:30PM

सत्यमेव जयते

भारत सरकार

Government of India

शिक्षा मंत्रालय

Ministry of Education

Concept Note

Kashi Tamil Sangamam 2026-KTS (5.0)

"Celebrating the Bharatiya Ekta"

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 to bridge tradition and 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.

It is a celebration of a relationship that has been living in Bharatiya Society for centuries. In so far as Tamilnadu and Kashi it was not a physical passage of countless pilgrims, scholars and spiritual seekers but was a movement of ideas, philosophies, languages and living traditions. The Sangamam rejuvenates this spirit, bringing alive a bond that has shared Bharatiya cultural oneness for generations.

It was launched in 2022, during the nationwide observance of **Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav,** the 75th year of independence, with the vision of rediscovering the depth of India's civilizational heritage. The Kashi Tamil Sangamam was one such initiative that reaffirms the cultural continuity that binds the country and provided a platform to spotlight the ancient connect that has guided spiritual thought, artistic expression, scholarly exchange and trading partnerships for centuries.

The initiative embodies the essence of **Ek Bharat Shreshta Bharat,** encouraging people to understand and appreciate the richness and confluence of Bharatiya Culture beyond their own imagination. Two premier Higher Education Institutions under the Ministry of Education, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras and Banaras Hindu University (BHU), Varanasi are the Principal partners hosts of last four editions of the Kashi Tamil Sangamam in continuum since 2002, with the support of UP Government and the participation of Ten Central ministries including Education, Railways, Culture, Tourism, Textiles, Information & Broadcasting, MSME, Electronics and Information Technology, Youth Affairs and Sports, etc. The last four editions of Kashi Tamil Sangamam brought together students, artisans, scholars, spiritual leaders, teachers, cultural practitioners, small traders and self-employed,

farmers, of the two regions together and facilitated exchange of ideas, cultural practices and traditional knowledge between the people from Tamil Nadu and those living in Kashi. The groups comprised different categories of people from Tamil Nadu visited temples, Saranath, the ancestral house of Mahakavi Subramania Bharati and other learning centres of Kashi, Prayagraj and Ayodhya. They participated in seminars, talks, cultural programmes, sporting events and exhibitions organised in Varanasi and interacted with their Kashi counterparts.

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

From 1.0 to 4.0: ***The inspiring and continuing journey of Kashi Tamil Sangamam in search of knowledge and experiencing the oneness – reweaving the ancient bond between Kashi and other places of the country.***

Since its continuing journey in 2022, Kashi Tamil Sangamam has developed into a structured cultural and educational engagement between Tamil Nadu and Kashi. Each edition has expanded its scope through curated delegations, thematic focus areas, academic interactions, heritage experiences and trade partnerships, which steadily strengthened the relationship between the two regions and enhanced the partnerships among various groups beyond their spiritual obligations to visit Kashi for salvation.

The Inaugural edition of Kashi Tamil Sangamam, **held from 16th November to 15th December 2022,** was addressed by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and set foundation for subsequent editions of Sangamam and brought the cultural bond between Tamil Nadu and Kashi into public focus in a large manner.

Over 2500 people from Tamil Nadu, representing 12 different walks of life – students, teachers, artisans, farmers, writers, spiritual leaders, professionals, cultural practitioners 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. The visited temples, the ancestral house of Mahakavi Subramania Bharati, Saranath and interacted with Tamil-speaking communities in Varanasi. While exhibitions showcased handlooms, handicrafts, ODOP products, books, and traditional cuisine, the academic sessions, lecture-demonstrations and community interactions explored historical and literary ties between Tamil Nadu and Kashi. The highlight was the celebration of the Karthigai Deepam festival of Tamil Nadu in Kashi to showcase that it coincides with the Dev Deepavali festival of Kashi. This event was organised on the BHU campus in Varanasi.

KTS 2.0 was held from 17th to 30th December 2023 at Namo Ghat, Varanasi, again with a theme of strengthening Intellectual and Cultural Ties among the two regions, with the celebration of Agastya Jayanthi on 29th December 2023. It was inaugurated by Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi at Varanasi on 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. **The Key highlights include 1435 delegates from Tamil Nadu across seven diverse categories participated in curated eight-day tours** covering Varanasi, Prayagraj and Ayodhya, including the places of visit covered in the first edition. There was seven themed interactive academic session at Namo Ghat with same set of people from Tamil Nadu and Varanasi. The major exhibition featuring handlooms, handicrafts, books, regional cuisine along with cultural events from South and North Zone artists attracted more than 2 lakh visitors from Varanasi and record sales. There was strong digital footprint with a campaign reach of more than 8.5 crore citizens and 80 lakh total reach with 2.5 lakh interactions across official KTS social media handles.

KTS 3.0

The Third edition of Kashi Tamil Sangamam (KTS 3.0) was held **from 15th to 24th February 2025 at Namo Ghat, Varanasi** with more than 1400+ participants from Tamil Nadu. It has taken ahead the modern times through Bridging the Indian knowledge and tradition with contemporary discourse. It was an ongoing mission to foster 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 contributed to the spirit of Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat. As a unique feature of the third edition, 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 was encouraged in the third edition.

Key Highlights of KTS 3.0:

- A dedicated thematic focus on Sage Agasthyar, with exhibition and discussions highlighting his contributions to Tamil and Sanskrit literature, linguistics, grammer, philosophy, science, medicine, especially Bharatiya Knowledge traditions.

- Like last two editions the visiting groups from Tamil Nadu visited important places in Varanasi, Prayagraj (**Maha Kumbh Mela**) and Ayodhya, and especially newly inaugurated Sri Ram Mandir offering delegates an immersive spiritual and cultural experience
- Workshops, seminars and interdisciplinary sessions connecting ancient knowledge systems in the Tamil language with modern research, innovation and contemporary education aligned with NEP 2020's emphasis on Indian Knowledge Systems.
- The diverse group included students, teachers, writers, artisans, entrepreneurs, women SHG, DBHPS Pracharaks and youth innovators enabling meaningful cross-regional exchange and community connect.
- There was a sideline immersive education programme during KTS 3.0, separately for students from Central Universities in India, where they exchanged their ideas and experienced the ancient traditions rooted in Indian Society that connect them with Varanasi.

KTS 4.0

The Fourth Edition of Kashi Tamil Sangamam (KTS. 4.0) was held from December 2, 2025, to 15th December 2025, to carry forward the cultural and civilizational link between Tamil Nadu and Kashi. The edition was anchored in **"Let Us Learn Tamil – Tamil Karkalam,"** placing Tamil language learning and linguistic unity at the centre of the Sangamam. The Key programmes included **Tamil Karkalam-1** (Tamil teaching in Varanasi schools by 50 Hindi Teachers who are Pracharaks of Dakshin Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha, Tamil Nadu), **Tamil Karkalam-2** (Tamil learning study tours for 300 students from BHU and other colleges of Kashi region to 10 colleges in various places of Tamil Nadu) and the **Sage Agastya Vehicle Expedition** (tracing the civilisational route from Tenkasi to Kashi). While the event at Kashi symbolically concluded on 15th December 2025 for Tamil Nadu participants, it has been extended to the visit to Rameshwaram by Tamil Nadu participants of KTS 4.0 and others on their own. Thus KTS 4.0 Sangamam uniquely concluded with a **grand Valedictory Function at Rameswaram**, on 30th December 2025, coinciding with cultural and religious belief of Indians to conclude yatra starting from Kashi to Rameshwaram or vice versa.

Participation from Tamil Nadu:

In keeping with the expanded vision and in continuum to past editions, **more than 2000 delegates from Tamil Nadu** belonging to seven **broad categories**, **students, teachers,**

writers and media professionals, those from agriculture and allied sectors, professionals and artisans, women, and spiritual scholars, participated in the events at Namo Ghat and at BHU, Kashi. Their participation ensured that the spirit of the theme reaches diverse sections of society, making Kashi Tamil Sangamam 4.0 both inclusive and far-reaching in its impact.

KTS 4.0 Highlights of Tamil Karkalam

- Kashi Tamil Sangamam 4.0 marks the next chapter in this growing cultural confluence, expanding both its scale and ambition.
- It began on 2nd December 2025 and symbolically concluded at Kashi and continued with the participation of 300 students from colleges of the Kashi region, especially Banaras Hindu University. This edition retains the essence of the earlier Sangamams.
- This fourth edition laid a sharper emphasis on linguistic learning and academic exchange, and the celebrations culminate with a Valedictory Function at Rameswaram today on 30th December 2025, symbolically completing the journey from Kashi, one of North India's holiest centres, to Rameshwaram, one of the most revered sites of Tamil spiritual heritage, remembering the age-old cultural and religious practice in one's life in India.
- The heart of Kashi Tamil Sangamam 4.0 lies in its theme "Let Us Learn Tamil – Tamil Karkalam." This edition places Tamil language learning at the centre of its vision, carrying forward the belief that all Indian languages belong to a shared Bharatiya Bhasha family. The theme conveys a simple but powerful message: linguistic diversity strengthens cultural unity. This year's edition also introduces a stronger educational focus, with an emphasis on language-based cultural exchange and youth engagement. It takes the idea of cultural oneness beyond symbolism, by creating opportunities for students from the Kashi region to immerse themselves in the Tamil language and experience Tamil Nadu's rich heritage firsthand.

A central initiative of KTS 4.0 is the structured introduction of Tamil learning, specifically in the Kashi region.

- **50 Hindi-knowing Tamil teachers**, including DBHPS Pracharaks, deployed in 50 schools across Varanasi from 2nd December to 15th December 2025, and they taught more than 3000 students offline in 10 different schools in the Kashi region with specially published learning kits by the **Central Institute of Classical Tamil (CICT)**
- Each teacher conducted **short-term spoken Tamil modules** for two batches of **30 students**, covering basic conversation, pronunciation and alphabet.
- In total, **3000 students** learned introductory Tamil through this initiative.

- The Tamil Department of BHU, CIIL Mysuru, IRCTC and the Varanasi administration are supported in coordination and logistics.
- There was an overwhelming response from the schools and administration for continuing Tamil Language Teaching on a long-term basis.

This initiative represents a significant step towards expanding Tamil learning outside Tamil Nadu and promoting linguistic inclusivity.

Learn Tamil while visiting Tamil Nadu – Study Tour Programme of Students from Varanasi.

Complementing Tamil teaching in Uttar Pradesh is a large-scale educational immersion for youth from the Kashi region. **300 college students** from Uttar Pradesh went to Tamil Nadu and stayed in **10 higher education institutes in Tamil Nadu** and learnt the history and traditional practices of Tamil Nadu and Tamil language.

The programme ensured that young learners from northern part of our Bharat gained direct exposure to Tamil language, heritage and contemporary cultural practices.

One of the most symbolic initiatives of KTS 4.0 is the **Sage Agastya Vehicle Expedition (SAVE)**, which retraces a civilisational route deeply embedded in Tamil and Indian tradition. The expedition began at **Tenkasi in Tamil Nadu on 2nd December 2025** and reached **Kashi on 10th December 2025**, coinciding with the celebration of Bharatiya Bhasha Day on December 12, the Birthday of Mahakavi Subramanya Bharatiyar (This is the one of important celebration initiated by the present Government. It followed the legendary path associated with **Sage Agastya**, reflecting Tamil Nadu's contribution to Indian knowledge systems. The journey also honoured the legacy of **Pandiyan ruler Adi Veera Parakrama Pandiyan**, who travelled north to spread the message of cultural oneness and built a Shiva temple, leading to the naming of *Tenkasi* ("Dakshin Kashi") Along its route, the expedition highlights civilisational linkages from the **Chera, Chola, Pandya, Pallava, Chalukya and Vijayanagara** periods. It promoted awareness of **classical Tamil literature, Siddha medicine**, and shared heritage traditions. This expedition symbolized the deep historical movement of ideas, culture and spiritual learning between Tamil Nadu and Kashi. A total of more than 2000 kilometres travelled by road during the journey and covered States of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

Impact of Kashi Tamil Sangamam strengthened the age-old Kashi-Tamil Bond as a part of lasting cultural continuum and promoted national unity.:

The impact of Kashi Tamil Sangamam was visible across the country through print, electronic and social media. Crores of Citizens eagerly watched the happenings in the event, and in the last edition, Business Entrepreneurs reached out on their own to join the Sangamam with their quest for business opportunities and also enjoyed the cultural and spiritual oneness.

Across its four editions, **Kashi Tamil Sangamam** has shown how cultural exchange becomes truly transformative when rooted in lived experience. Each edition has added a distinct dimension to this journey: the large-scale cultural immersion of **KTS 1.0**, the expanded public participation and thematic engagements of **KTS 2.0**, and the knowledge-centred, Sage Agasthyar-focused discourse of **KTS 3.0**. With **KTS 4.0**, the Sangamam enters a new phase by placing Tamil language learning at the forefront, enabling two-way linguistic engagement through Tamil Karkalam and structured study tours.

Together, these editions illustrate how the Sangamam has moved beyond a commemorative programme into a **continuing cultural pathway**. Delegates rediscover Tamil heritage in Kashi's ghats and temples; students from Uttar Pradesh experience Tamil Nadu firsthand; teachers introduce Tamil to new learners; and communities in both regions connect over literature, crafts, cuisine and shared spiritual traditions.

This cumulative journey mirrors the core vision of **Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat**, where national unity is strengthened through familiarity with each other's languages, traditions and perspectives. The rediscovery of ancient linkages, highlighted through initiatives like the Sage Agastya Vehicle Expedition, and the creation of contemporary learning spaces in schools, universities and cultural venues reflect the EBSB emphasis on year-round cultural exchange, linguistic appreciation and youth-driven participation.

The **Kashi Tamil Sangamam 4.0** unfolded with a renewed linguistic and educational focus, reinforcing the idea that cultural understanding is built through consistent interaction. By nurturing heritage, encouraging language learning, and enabling meaningful people-to-people contact, the Sangamam stands today as a **lasting cultural continuum**, deepening the timeless relationship between Tamil Nadu and Kashi and enriching India's unity through shared civilisational experience. It **is the endeavour of the Government to encourage and create opportunities for similar events in a continuous manner by the people on their own in different parts of the country.**

Proposed details of KTS 5.0

3. **Proposed Dates** (TBD): **28th November to 12th December**
4. **Proposed Number of Participants from Tamil Nadu: 1400 (7 Groups of 200 persons** each) (TBD)
5. **Duration of Tour**: 8 Days (4 for travel, 4 at site)
6. **Categories**: 7 (Seven) (TBD). During the KTS 5.0, the focus will be given on youth and students, and accordingly each of the proposed categories will have a major portion of Youth and Students from the relevant. There will be an upper age limit of 60 for the remaining persons to be covered under each category. All participants to be selected from Tamil Nadu will have to take a test on the Classical Text Thirukkural and qualify for selection in the proposed Tour.

I. **STUDENTS** -

a) Students (Colleges, Technical Institutions, Skill Institutions; and
b) ULLAS (adult education) students, students pursuing their continuing studies while working, etc)

II. **TEACHERS** -

a) Students pursuing their studies in Education (Diploma in Education, B.Ed / M.Ed programme); and
b) Teachers in Colleges/Tech Institutions and Schools, Hindi Pracharaks of DBHPS, Teachers of informal recognised schools, etc.

III. **WRITERS & MEDIA PROFESSIONALS** -

a) Students and Youth pursuing their degree in Media and Journalism; and
b) Writers and Media Professionals, including Book Publishers (Academic as well as others - Multilingual), Media content writers, editors and social media activists

IV. **AGRI AND ALLIED SECTOR** -

a) Students pursuing studies in Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Fishery sciences, Agriculture Machinery & Implements
b) Farmers, Dairy and Animal Husbandry people, Fishermen,

V. **PROFESSIONALS & ARTISANS -**

a) Students & Youths pursuing studies in Professional Accounts, Company Secretary, Management, Law, Medicine (both Modern and Traditional) and Students pursuing vocational and skill education in

b) 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)

VI. **WOMEN -**

a) Students and Youth from the female Category

b) Women SHG, Mudra Loan, and Central Govt Scheme beneficiaries and Self-Employed

VII. **SPIRITUAL -**

a) Students pursuing Higher Education in Vedic studies, Classical Music and Classical Instruments from recognised universities/schools or students of authorised Guru-Shishya Parampara Schools, Agama Studies in Vedic and Indian Classical Scriptures

b) Classical Singers and Spiritual Text Teachers (Thevaram, Thiruvasagam, Nalayira Divya Prabandam, Thiruppugazh, etc.), Spiritual Orators – Temple Pujaris and Temple Workers.

7. **Theme of KTS 5.0: "Thirukkural Payilvom** – (तिरुक्कुरल पयिल्वोम) Thirukkural Abhyas karen"

The Thirukkural is the finest ethical and moral treatise in Tamil literature. It is based on the Vedantic principles "Dharma-Artha-Kama-Moksha". The author of the classical text Thiruvalluvar has divided his treatise into Aram (Dharma), Artha (Porul), and Inbam (Kama), and advocated that these three principles lead the way to Mukti (Moksha). With the noble goal of taking its timeless, universal values across the nation, the Union Government of India has been driving several key initiatives. As part of the initial phase, authentic translations are being published continuously by the Central Institute of Classical Tamil (CICT), which functions under the Ministry of Education.

- Published so far: 25 Indian languages and 9 foreign languages.
- Ready for release: 23 Indian languages and 7 foreign languages.
- Work in progress: 24 Indian languages and 5 foreign languages.

These translations serve as a gateway for students and the general public across diverse linguistic states to easily read, understand, and apply Thirukkural in their daily lives.

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

The date and time of the Inaugural and Valedictory Functions will be decided by the Ministry, according to the convenience of the VVIPs.

As a part of the awareness programme on the theme of "Ek Bharat Shresht Bharat", the following (no.) major allied events are planned along with KTS 5.0:

(i) **Students' Engagement Program (Based on the theme of KTS 5.0)**

As part of the Kashi Tamil Sangamam 5.0 event, the top 1,000 students selected from each of 1000 colleges through a Test from various Indian states will be brought together to propagate Thirukkural. They will be offered a Rs. 10,000 internships for a month to study the translated version of Thirukkural in their known language and submit a research paper through their college on the classical Text about the unique moral values said in the classical text. These students will be imparted online one-hour orientation training by CICT on the Thirukkural Text, followed by a 20-minute question-answer session. The 1000 students will be divided into 20 batches of 50 each (approx.), depending on the language the students have opted for to study Thirukkural.

Subsequently, they will have to do the following activities in their own college to popularise Thirukkural:-

(i) They will make a one-hour presentation/lecture in their own college under a guided faculty;

(ii) They will try to learn and teach at least 10 important Thirukkural both in Tamil and in a translated version of their own language; and

Supporting Documents for this purpose will be uploaded in the CICT website for learning and disseminating the knowledge and values revealed in Thirukkural.

(ii) Strategies to spread Thirukkural across India by CICT to popularise the Theme of KTS 5.0

(i) **Digital and Social Media Campaigns**

- **Mobile Apps**: Developing free mobile applications in every state language featuring the couplets, meanings, and audio pronunciations.

- **Short Films & Animation**: Creating and releasing 2D/3D animated stories based on Thirukkural concepts on YouTube and OTT platforms.

- **National Conferences**: Organizing an annual "National Thirukkural Conference" in major Indian cities to foster discussion among scholars of various languages.

- **Public Displays**: Displaying couplets along with their translations on digital boards in railway stations, airports, and highway toll plazas under a trilingual model (Tamil, Hindi, and local state language).

(iii)Effective Methods to Reach Non-Tamil Speaking Students

Presenting classical poetry in its complex verse form can diminish student interest. The following creative approaches can engage students effectively:

(i) Daily Kural Initiative

- Encourage students during morning school assemblies to recite one couplet daily alongside its translation in Hindi or their local state language.

- Display a daily couplet on classroom blackboards/notice boards.

(ii) Storytelling Method

- Teaching the core ethics of Thirukkural through short stories captivates young minds better.

- Example: Themes like "Gratitude" (Seinnandri Arithal) or "Hospitality" (Virundhombal) can be taught through skits, plays, or comic books.

(iii) Gamification and Competitions (Kural Ottam – Kural Run)

- Educational Games: Developing mobile games centred around unscrambling couplets or matching meanings.

- National Competitions: Hosting national-level elocution, essay, and art competitions, awarding certificates and "Thiruvalluvar Scholarships" to winning non-Tamil students.

(iv) Cultural Exchange Programs

Under the government's "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat" program, Tamil Nadu schools/colleges/universities can partner with schools/colleges/universities in other states to exchange Thirukkural-based learning materials as a primary focus item.

(v) Multilingual Audio Guides (Audiobooks & Podcasts)

Releasing musical recitations and simplified explanatory commentary on streaming platforms like Spotify and YouTube Music for easy listening.

This allied programme aims to spread the theme of KTS 5.0 that the Thirukkural does not belong exclusively to Tamils; it is a universal guiding light for all humanity. With structured planning, modern technology, and educational collaboration, the moral wisdom of Thirukkural can be effectively brought to students in every corner of India.

6. 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 applications for participation through the portal under 7 categories, select candidates as done in the last 3 Phases
- IIT Madras will engage IRCTC to manage the movement of delegates from end to end. This will include a train journey between Tamil Nadu and Varanasi, bus travel to places around Varanasi, local transport, hotel stays in Varanasi and other identified places, all meals throughout the tour, local visits, and all facilitation.
- The tour itinerary will be decided by BHU in consultation with the 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 the 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 the local administration
- Warm water, warm clothing, bedding, etc., will be ensured for delegates
- The hotels will have doctors on call, and beds will be reserved in the 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

7. **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 on 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 5.0 -

To be provided by IRCTC / Ministry of Railways

Onward Journey from Tamil Nadu								**Days Availabl e at Banaras**
BAT CH NO.	**Date & Day of Dep**	**Departure Station**						
1		Chennai						
2		Kanniyakumari						
3		Coimbatore						
4		Chennai						
5		Kanniyakumari						

6		Coimbatore						
7		Chennai						

Return Journey to Tamil Nadu

BATCH NO,	Departure Station	Train No.						
1	Banaras	1						
2	Banaras	2						
3	Banaras	3						
4	Banaras	4						
5	Banaras	5						
6	Banaras	6						
7	Banaras	7						

Note:

1. Tentative train plan based on previous notifications

2. Train plan subject to allotment of rakes and approval of timings from Railway Board

8. Domain Specific Programmes

(To be developed in consultation with BHU)

1. 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 is also nearer to local people.

2. Cuisine and Local Arts and Crafts

Visits to identified centres, such as 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 attendees at the programme's main venue.

3. Tamil Circuit

As a part of experiencing the rich cultural bonding between Tamil Nadu, the participants from Tamil Nadu will be taken to the ancestral House of Mahakavi Subramanya Bharatiyar, Kedar Ghat, Kasi Madam in the Little Tamil Nadu Area. They will also have a visit to the BHU Tamil Department for an academic and Literary interaction. At these places, the locals

would welcome them with greetings in Tamil: "Vanakkam Bharat" & "Kasi Ungalai Varverkirathu" (Welcome to Kashi). There will be interaction with Tamil-speaking academics and residents at Prayagraj and Ayodhya. Sage Thiruvalluvar Pictures with Thirukkural will also be displayed in Kashi, Prayagraj and Ayodhya to popularise the classical text based on the principles of Vedanta.

4. Spiritual Circuit

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

9. Awareness Generation

- 6-7 identified institutions in Tamil Nadu would organise seminars during October 2026, 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 Tamil Nadu 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.
- Regular Press Briefings, Articles and other social media interaction should be arranged from Delhi, Varanasi and Chennai.

10. Offices for coordination

- **One at IITM**
- **One at BHU**