Kashi Tamil Sangamam (KTS) 4.0

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance | Art & Culture*

Why in news?

The Ministry of Education will organise Kashi Tamil Sangamam (KTS) 4.0 from 2nd December, 2025, to celebrate the deep civilizational links between Tamil Nadu and Kashi.

- **Previous editions –** The 1st edition of KTS was held in 2022, 2nd in 2023, and 3rd in Feb, 2025.
- **Theme for 4.0** – "Learn Tamil – Tamil Karkalam".
- **Aim –** To promote Tamil learning across India and foster wider appreciation for India's classical linguistic and literary heritage.
- **Inspired by –** The vision to uphold the civilizational, cultural, linguistic, and people-to-people bonds between the two regions, reflecting the ***spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshta Bharat***.
- **Coordinated by –** IIT Madras and Banaras Hindu University (BHU), Varanasi.
- **7 Categories –**
  - Students
  - Teachers
  - Writers & Media Professionals
  - Agriculture & Allied Sectors
  - Professionals & Artisans
  - Women
  - Spiritual Scholars and Practitioners

Major Initiatives under KTS 4.0

- **Sage Agasthya Vehicle Expedition from Tenkasi to Kashi**
  - It recalls the efforts of Pandiyan ruler *Shri Adi Veera Parakrama Pandiyan*, who spread the message of cultural unity by traveling from Tamil Nadu to Kashi.

        - He built a Shiva temple and renamed the town Tenkasi (Dakshin Kashi) to symbolize oneness.
    - Highlights the civilizational linkages from the Chera, Chola, Pandya, Pallava, Chalukya and Vijayanagara periods, promoting awareness of Tamil literature, Siddha medicine and shared heritage.
- **Teaching Tamil in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh Schools**
    - 50 Hindi-knowing Tamil teachers will teach Tamil to school students in Kashi under the ***campaign "Tamil Karkalam***".
- **Tamil Learning Study Tours for Students of Uttar Pradesh**
    - A total of 300 college students from Kashi will travel to Tamil Nadu for a 15-day Tamil learning programme.
    - Central Institute of Classical Tamil (CICT), Chennai will provide orientation and learning materials.
    - Host institutions will organize academic and cultural tours highlighting Tamil Nadu's heritage, traditions and historic ties with Kashi.

References

1. PIB | Kashi Tamil Sangamam (KTS) 4.0
2. KTS | Kashi Tamil Sangamam (KTS)

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