



Kashi Tamil Sangamam

Why in News?

Prime Minister of India inaugurated the month-long Kashi Tamil Sangamam in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.

- This programme is an initiative by Government of India as a part of “Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav” and to uphold the Spirit of [Ek Bharat Sreshtha Bharat](#) .

What is Kashi Tamil Sangamam?

▪ About:

- Kashi Tamil Sangamam celebrates many aspects of the **historical and civilisational connection between India’s North and South**.
- The broader objective is to **bring the two knowledge and cultural traditions (of the North and South) closer**, create an understanding of our shared heritage and deepen the people-to-people bond between the regions.
- It is being organized by the **Ministry of Education in collaboration with other ministries** like Culture, Textiles, Railways, Tourism, Food Processing, Information & Broadcasting etc. and the **Government of Uttar Pradesh**.
- The endeavour is in sync with [National Education Policy \(NEP\), 2020’s](#) emphasis on integrating the wealth of Indian Knowledge Systems with modern systems of knowledge.
- **IIT Madras and Banaras Hindu University (BHU)** are the **two implementing agencies** for the programme.

▪ Cultural Significance:

- **King Parakrama Pandya**, who ruled over the region around Madurai in the 15th century, **wanted to build a temple to Lord Shiva**, and he **travelled to Kashi (Uttar Pradesh) to bring back a lingam**.
- While returning, he **stopped to rest under a tree** — but when he tried to continue his journey, **the cow carrying the lingam refused to move**.
- Parakrama Pandya **understood this to be the Lord’s wish**, and **installed the lingam there**, a place that came to be known as **Sivakasi, Tamil Nadu**.
- For devotees **who could not visit Kashi**, the **Pandyas had built the Kasi Viswanathar Temple** in what is today **Tenkasi in southwestern Tamil Nadu**, close to the state’s border with Kerala.

[Source: PIB](#)