

# Kashi Tamil Sangamam

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**Context-** After Varanasi, the government is organizing Tamil Sangamam in Saurashtra and Uttarakhand.

## About Kashi Tamil Sangamam

- This programme is an initiative by the Government of India as a part of “Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav” and to uphold the Spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.
- Kashi Tamil Sangamam commemorates numerous aspects of the cultural and historical ties that bind India’s North and South.
- The larger goal is to strengthen the people-to-people bond between the regions, understand our common heritage, and bring the North and South’s respective cultural and knowledge traditions closer together.
- The Ministry of Education is in charge of putting it together, along with ministries like Culture, Textiles, Railways, Tourism, Food Processing, Information and Broadcasting, and others. and Uttar Pradesh’s government.
- The endeavor is in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) for 2020, which places an emphasis on combining the numerous Indian knowledge systems with contemporary knowledge systems.
- The two organizations responsible for implementing the program are Banaras Hindu University (BHU) and IIT Madras.

## Cultural Relevance

- In the 15th century, King Parakrama Pandya, who ruled the area around Madurai,

wanted to build a temple for Lord Shiva. He went to Kashi in Uttar Pradesh to bring back a lingam.

- He stopped to rest under a tree on his way back, but the cow carrying the lingam refused to move when he tried to continue.
- Parakrama Pandya installed the lingam in Sivakasi, Tamil Nadu, after realizing that this was the Lord's intention.
- The Pandyas constructed the Kasi Viswanathar Temple in what is now Tenkasi, in southwestern Tamil Nadu, close to the state's border with Kerala, for devotees who were unable to travel to Kashi.

## Recent Developments

- The Union government is set to hold the Saurashtra-Tamil Sangamam in Gujarat from April 17 to 26.
- The third event will be the Kedarnath-Tamil Sangamam, which will honor the cultural ties that existed between Tamils living in the south and the holy shrines in Uttarakhand in the north.
- Kedarnath is the eleventh of the twelve jyotirlingas—shrines dedicated to Shiva—and is one of the four sacred Shiva shrines in the Char Dham of Uttarakhand. It is situated on the banks of the Mandakini at 3,583 meters above sea level.
- The temples of Badrinath, Gangotri, and Yamunotri are also part of the Char Dham.