

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3729
ANSWERED ON 25/03/2026

Separate department for teaching Tamil language in Central universities

3729 Shri R. Girirajan:

Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- a) whether Government has taken any step to create a Chair or separate department for teaching Tamil Language and doing research on Tamil as a classical language in all the Central universities and major universities in the country, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reason therefor;
- b) whether Government has allocated funds for the Tamil Studies, Research and propagation of Tamil Literature and if so, the details thereof and the funds allocated by the Government for propagation of Tamil language studies, research and development; and
- c) the measures taken by Government to teach Tamil as a Subject in schools and colleges across the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR)

(a) to (c): The Government has undertaken several initiatives for the preservation, promotion and development of Tamil language through dedicated institutions and academic programmes. In this regard, the Central Institute of Classical Tamil (CICT), Chennai, an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Education, undertakes activities relating to research, preservation and dissemination of Classical Tamil. Further, the Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysuru, a subordinate office under the Ministry of Education, undertakes research, documentation, propagation and teaching of Indian languages, including the classical languages. These initiatives are aligned with the objectives of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which emphasizes multilingualism and promotion of Indian languages.

The funds allocated to CICT for Tamil language are utilised for various initiatives such as organisation of seminars and workshops, training programmes, Junior Research Fellowships, Post-Doctoral Fellowships, translation projects and publication-related activities. Funds allocated for the promotion of the Tamil language during the years 2021–22, 2022–23,

2023–24, 2024–25 and 2025–26 are Rs. 1200 lakh, Rs. 1200 lakh, Rs. 1525 lakh, Rs. 1430 lakh and Rs. 1696 lakh, respectively.

The Central Institute of Classical Tamil (CICT) has developed a rich repository of rare classical resources and possesses over 47,500 collections of Classical Tamil texts, 96,215 palm-leaf manuscripts and 39,061 paper manuscripts. 2,800 manuscripts have already been digitised, including palm-leaf manuscript collections of *Tolkappiyam*, which dates back to around the third century BCE. Further, 41 ancient Classical Tamil texts have been translated into Hindi and released during the Kashi Tamil Sangamam 3.0. In addition, the Institute has translated major classical works such as *Tirukkural*, *Tolkappiyam*, *Silappatikaram* and *Manimekalai* into various Indian and foreign languages. The Institute has also established collaborations with international institutions including the University of Malaya, Eastern University of Sri Lanka and Frankfurt Tamil Sangam for the global promotion of the Tamil language.

To promote foundational learning in Tamil, Primers—introductory books of the Tamil language have been jointly developed by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) and the Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL).

Tamil is taught in several Central Universities through dedicated departments and centres, including Jawaharlal Nehru University, Central University of Tamil Nadu, Visva-Bharati University, University of Delhi, Pondicherry University, Gandhigram Rural Institute, Banaras Hindu University, offering programmes at undergraduate, postgraduate, certificate and research levels.

The PM e-Vidya CICT Tamil TV Channel has been launched as a dedicated 24x7 educational channel under the PM e-Vidya initiative to promote Tamil language learning and classical heritage. The channel is accessible via DTH platforms and YouTube, and showcases content on Tamil language, culture, art and aesthetics.

Further, the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, also organises “Kashi Tamil Sangamam” since 2022 to strengthen cultural and linguistic linkages between Tamil Nadu and Kashi. In continuation of this, Kashi Tamil Sangamam 4.0 was organised in December 2025 with the theme “Let Us Learn Tamil – Tamil Karkalam”, under the broader vision of reconnecting knowledge, traditions, cultures and communities.

Key initiatives undertaken during KTS 4.0 included:

- Deployment of teachers from Tamil Nadu to conduct foundational spoken Tamil classes for school students in Varanasi;
- Study visits of college students from Varanasi to Tamil Nadu for learning the Tamil language;
- Organisation of structured knowledge exchange sessions, interactions and thematic discussions at Banaras Hindu University.
