

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1772
ANSWERED ON - 10/03/2025

KASHI TAMIL SANGAMAM 3.0

1772. Shri Praveen Patel:
Shri Mukeshkumar Chandrakaant Dalal:
Shri Pradeep Kumar Singh:
Shri Yogender Chandolia :
Shri Shankar Lalwani:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the measures are being taken with the special focus on youth participation this year, so as to ensure that young delegates from Tamil Nadu are provided with meaningful opportunities to engage in the event's activities;
- (b) the expected economic impact of the Kashi Tamil Sangamam 3.0 on the local economy of Varanasi and the regions involved, especially in terms of tourism, trade, and artisan engagement;
- (c) whether any specific academic and research-based initiatives will be launched at Kashi Tamil Sangamam 3.0 to promote intellectual exchange between scholars of Tamil Nadu and Kashi, particularly in areas like linguistics, arts and science and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the details of various steps being taken to make this programme accessible to public at large across the country; and
- (e) the details of any special programmes or initiatives focused on research and innovation under the said programme?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e): The third edition of Kashi Tamil Sangamam was organized by the Government of India from 15th to 24th February, 2025 at Varanasi in line with the recommendations of National Education Policy, 2020 for promoting the spirit of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat'. The objective of the programme is to rediscover and strengthen the centuries old connect between the two ancient knowledges centres of the country i.e. Varanasi and Tamil Nadu. The Indian Institute of Technology, Madras and Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi are the nodal institutions in organizing this event.

The main theme of this year's event is highlighting the contributions made by Sage Agasthya in various fields. In addition to this, the event coincided with the Maha Kumbh at Prayagraj and the visit to Ram Janmabhoomi temple at Ayodhya. As such, the Government of India has decided this year to add youth focus in the KTS activities. Seminars on Sage Agasthya and his contributions were conducted in the Universities to make the youth aware about our ancient rishis and munis. The Indian Institute of Technology, Madras was advised to focus on youth during the selection of delegates in different categories. In addition to this, 5 to 10 students of Tamil origin studying in various Central Universities across the country were given an opportunity to participate in the Kashi Tamil Sangamam 3.0 event. This is to enable them to experience the knowledge and culture of Varanasi, holy bath at Sangam, Prayagraj and darshan of Lord Ram at Ayodhya.

Due to the visit of more than 1500 participants to Varanasi, Prayagraj and Ayodhya during the 10 days period, KTS 3.0 had positive economic impact in the region. Besides, in the exhibition held at Namohat in Varanasi in collaboration with the Government of Uttar Pradesh, stalls were put by various Ministries like Food Processing Industries, Tourism, Textiles, and institutions like Central Institute of Classical Tamil (CICT), National Book Trust (NBT), Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Press Information Bureau (PIB), Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (IGNCA) etc. which attracted large number of local visitors and involved sale of products, development of business opportunities etc.

As a part of the KTS activities, 6 academic sessions were held this year involving six categories of KTS delegates numbering to 200 from each category. Equal number of local people were also invited and involved them in the discussions on various topics which led to a meaningful dialogue amongst them. A professor from the IIT-BHU moderated the Sessions and experts from the domain area were invited to participate in the discussions during various sessions. The delegates were also able to interact with the experts and throw light on various issues.

The event has been given wide publicity across the country through electronic media by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, hoardings were kept at several places in Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh, and Seminars on Sage Agasthya were carried out through Tamil associations in many states. Apart from these, publicity was also given abroad through Indian missions by conducting seminars/workshops etc. on Sage Agasthya.