



தமிழ் மாநாடு TAMIL CONFERENCE

12th NOV
2022



WELLINGTON,
NEW ZEALAND

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Inaugural Aotearoa New Zealand Tamil Conference

The Aotearoa/New Zealand Federation of Tamil Sangam Inc (ANTS) has committed to organising a conference that will:

- bring together local Tamil Sangam communities, individuals of Tamil origin and Tamil speaking people living in New Zealand to
- promote advancement in the knowledge of Tamil Sangam heritage, language, and culture and to
- actively participate in the development of a culturally pluralistic and socially cohesive society in Aotearoa/New Zealand.

Tamil Culture – a world view

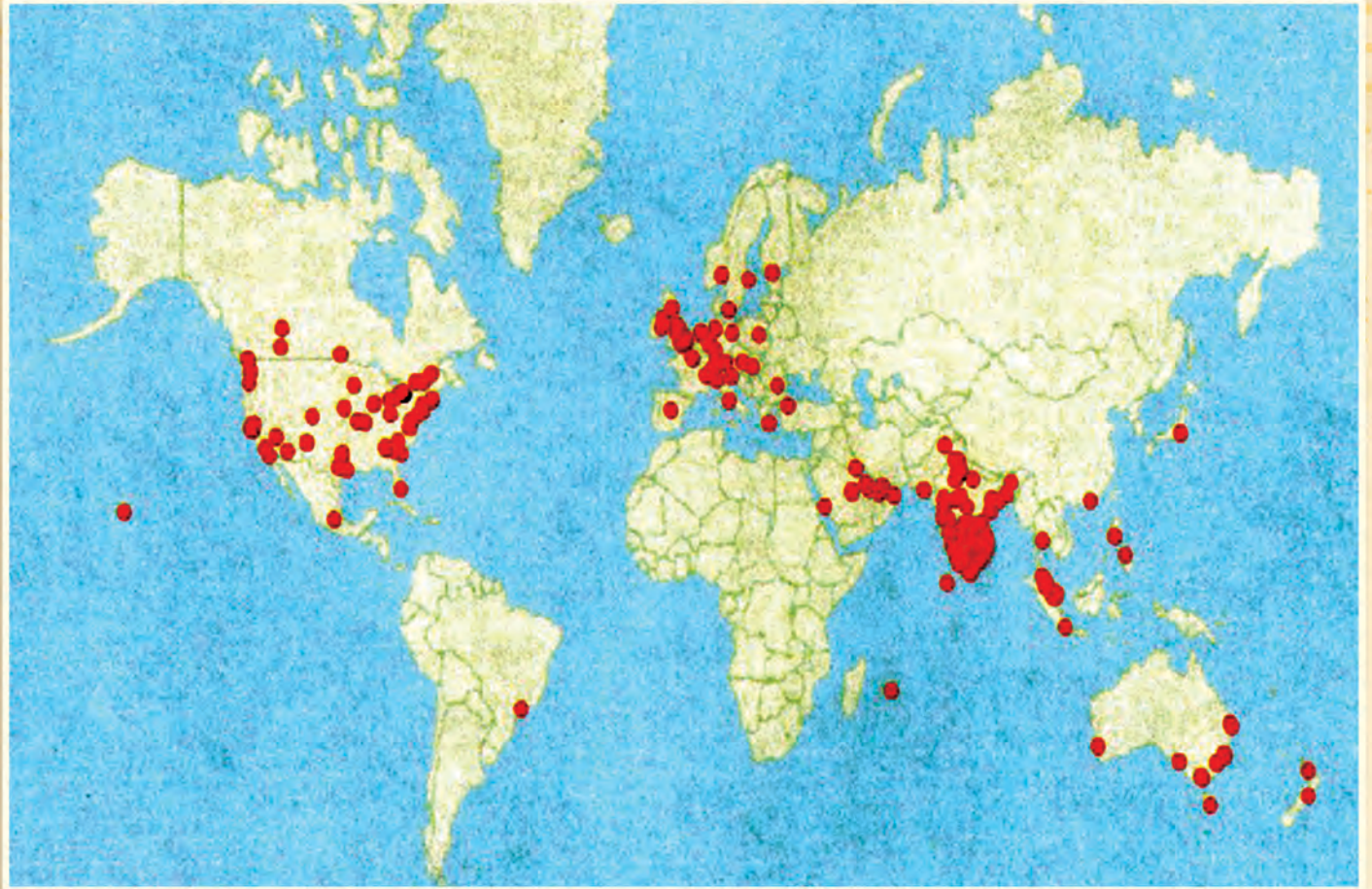
The region of Tamil Nadu in the southeast of modern Indian state famed for its Dravidian-style Hindu temples, shows evidence of having had continuous human habitation from 15,000 BCE to 10,000 BCE. In addition to the long history of the Tamil people, Tamil culture is rooted in the arts and ways of life of Tamils in India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Singapore and across the globe, all originating in Tamil Nadu. In 1969, Madras State was renamed Tamil Nadu, meaning "Tamil country" proclaiming the original home identity (root) and creating a sense of cultural connection for Tamils globally.

Tamil culture is evident in its language, literature, music, dance, theatre, folk arts, martial arts, painting, sculpture, architecture, sports, media, comedy, cuisine, costumes, celebrations, philosophy, religions, traditions, rituals, organizations, science, and technology. The Tamil Nadu is famous worldwide for its temples, festivals, and celebration of the arts, and Tamils have strong attachment to the Tamil language, which is often venerated in literature as "Tamilannai".

The Tamil language has historically been central to the Tamil identity and unrelated to the Indo-European languages of northern India. The Tamil language preserves many features of the Proto-Dravidian language, though modern-day spoken Tamil in Tamil Nadu does not have many commonly used alphabets in the English language and Hindi. Tamil literature is of considerable antiquity and is recognised as a classical language by the government of India. Classical Tamil literature, which ranges from lyric poetry to works on poetics and ethical philosophy, is remarkably different from contemporary and later literature in other Indian languages and represents the oldest body of secular literature in South-east Asia.

Tamil is one of the oldest languages in the world with literature dating back 100BC spoken by more than 60 million people in Tamil Nadu, a state located in the southern region of India and an estimated 2 million people in Malaysia, 200,000 people in Singapore, 300,000 people in United Kingdom, 300,000 people in Canada, 30,00 people in Australia, 110,000 people in Fiji and 300,000 people in the United States of America.

TAMILS Living today in many lands & across distant seas.



Top 10 list of global Tamil population distribution

COUNTRY	TAMIL POPULATION	YEAR
India	99,026,881	2011 census
Sri Lanka	3,135,770	2012 census
Malaysia	1,800,000	2012
Myanmar	11,000,000	2018
United States	293,907	2019
South Africa	600,000	2013
Singapore	198,449	2020 census
Canada	140,720	2016
United Kingdom	301,000	2011
France	325,000	2017

There are approximately 20,000 New Zealand citizens and residents of Tamil ethnicity origin currently residing in the country. Accurate figures are unavailable. However, it is estimated with the increasing number of new migrant arrivals in the last few years, we have witnessed a steady increase in the number of Tamil people and this trend is expected to continue into the near future.

The International Association of Tamil Research (IATR)

The IATR was established by some eminent scholars who were deeply concerned about the development of Tamil studies on the occasion of the 26th International Congress of Orientalists held in New Delhi in 1964. The first IATR Conference was held in Kuala Lumpur in 1966, the second in 1968 in Madras and from then evolved to become the World Tamil Conference - a series of occasional conferences to discuss the social growth of the Tamil language. Each conference is attended by thousands of Tamil enthusiasts around the world. Conferences are hosted in various cities in India, as well as world cities with a significant Tamil population.

OFFICIAL TITLE	HOST CITY	HOST COUNTRY	YEAR
1st World Tamil Conference	Kuala Lumpur	Malaysia	1966
2nd World Tamil Conference	Chennai	India	1968
3rd World Tamil Conference	Paris	France	1970
4th World Tamil Conference	Jaffna	Sri Lanka	1974
5th World Tamil Conference	Madurai	India	1981
6th World Tamil Conference	Kuala Lumpur	Malaysia	1987
7th World Tamil Conference	Port Louis	Mauritius	1989
8th World Tamil Conference	Thanjavur	India	1995
9th World Tamil conference	Coimbatore	India	2010
10th World Tamil Conference	Kuala Lumpur	Malaysia	2015
11th World Tamil Conference	Chicago	USA	2019
12th World Tamil Conference	Singapore	Singapore	2023

What the Tamil Conference means for Aotearoa/New Zealand

The Aotearoa/New Zealand Federation of Tamil Sangam (ANTS) plans to host the very first Tamil conference in New Zealand to promote Tamil heritage, language, and culture to Tamil people in Aotearoa and showcase and establish a stronger connection of the community globally. Hosting the Tamil conference in Lower Hutt is a unique opportunity to perpetuate the Tamil heritage and connect the Tamil community in New Zealand to their homeland. It brings together both domestic and international scholars of Tamil studies, as well as Tamil speaking communities of Aotearoa/New Zealand with the world by focusing on Tamil language and culture. It is an important platform to acknowledge domestic and international scholars of Tamil literature par excellence.

The conference will further provide the following opportunities:

- Helps Tamil speaking communities in Aotearoa New Zealand realise the importance of Tamil heritage, language, and studies globally and ultimately, create a sense of belonging not only to their local community but internationally.
- Facilitates an avenue to discuss and respond to new academic trends covering all aspects of Tamil language and studies.
- The conference will further help to build and strengthen the solidarity and connectivity of Tamils in New Zealand and supports the renaissance for and consistency of Tamil studies in Aotearoa New Zealand as one of the tools for social cohesion and nation building.
- Hosting the conference will turn global Tamil attention to Aotearoa New Zealand, connect and open the country to emerging international economic relations with Tamilnadu economies. Examples are the Tamil fiction, political and cultural magazines and Tamil filmdom which are some of the tools used to keep Tamil language alive.
- Lastly, it will reinforce the importance of establishing a New Zealand based unit within the International Association of Tamil Research which will in turn support in facilitating Tamil studies in Aotearoa.

Expected Outcomes from the Inaugural New Zealand Tamil Conference

By the end of the conference, we would have established connections and engaged constructively with politicians, community leaders, domestic and international scholars, policymakers, and Tamil youths. In the process, the following outcomes are achieved:

- The month of April to be declared as Tamil Month in Aotearoa New Zealand (Culture)
- Develop a Framework to standardise Tamil Language Teaching in Aotearoa New Zealand (Language)
- Launch the translation of Te Tiriti O Waitangi into Tamil (Strengthening Tangata Whenua - Tauwiwi Relationship)
- Launching Māori - Tamil coin (Community - Sense of Belonging)
- Establish a Economy Development strategy for Tamils in New Zealand (Economy wellbeing)

Aotearoa New Zealand Federation of Tamil Sangam ANT'S President Message

Vanakam / Kia Ora

It is with great pleasure I welcome everyone to the Inaugural Aotearoa New Zealand Tamil Conference: It is about People, Language, Culture and Economic.

A special welcome to our distinguished guest and scholars visiting from Singapore, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and India, and members of Tamil community in New Zealand.



Raveen Annamalai
PRESIDENT

As you are aware Tamils are everywhere around the world. It is estimated that there are 2 million people in Malaysia, 200,000 people in Singapore, 300,000 people in United Kingdom, 300,000 people in Canada, 30,000 people in Australia, 110,000 people in Fiji and 300,000 people in the United States of America.

In Aotearoa New Zealand, we do not have an accurate data for the Tamil population. However, it is estimated that there are approximately 20,000 New Zealand citizens and residents of Tamil ethnicity or ancestry residing in this country. With the increasing number of new migrant arrivals in the last few years before Covid-19, we have witnessed a steady increase in the number of Tamil people and this trend is expected to continue in the near future.

This conference is organised with to promote the unification and connectedness of Tamil Sangams in New Zealand and of individuals of Tamil origin or Tamil speaking living in New Zealand. Through this conference I hope it will align strongly with Aotearoa New Zealand Federation of Tamil Sangam Inc (ANTS) strategy goal which is to cultivate, promote, foster, and develop the advancement of knowledge in Tamil language, literature, and culture and to participate actively in the development of a culturally pluralistic and socially cohesive society in New Zealand.

Tamil is one of the oldest languages in the world, with literature dating back 100BC, spoken by more than 60 million people in Tamil Nadu. Language is intrinsic to the expression of culture and identity. Our identity is a means of communicating values, beliefs and customs which is an important factor in fosters sense of belonging. This strong feeling of group identity and solidarity brings about social cohesiveness of which the conference is a platform to achieving social cohesion in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Furthermore, the conference is hosted to promote Tamil heritage, language and culture to Tamil people in Aotearoa and showcase and establish stronger connections of the community globally. Therefore, I'm excited for ANTS to launch the 5 major outcomes that we have been working tirelessly since the inception in 2019. In conclusion, I want to use this opportunity to thank the members of ANTS for their support for this vision, the ANTS Executive Committee, the conference organizing committee for your commitment and dedication despite the challenges. And last but not the least, our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to our sponsors and funders to make this a grand success.

Mr. Venkat Raman, Editor and General Manager of Indian NewsLink

A veritable opportunity to unite Tamil thought and action

The Inaugural Tamil Conference is being held in New Zealand at a time when unity and solidarity are the only attributes that can save our planet that faces a series of challenges. Organised by the Aotearoa New Zealand Federation of Tamil Sangams (ANTS) Inc, the one-day event will hopefully set the pace for continuous dialogue and deliberation to promote the common interest of the language and its people. This global platform will witness the gathering of people of erudition and standing and their speeches should inspire us to unite in the name of Tamil and work towards the betterment of our people and more importantly that of the ensuing generations.



The presence of orators from Tamil Nadu, Singapore, Malaysia and Sri Lanka augurs and aligns well with the aims and objectives of ANTS Inc, which, since its establishment three years ago, has been striving to organise this Conference. If forming an organisation such as this Federation had its own challenges and sustaining it as a true representative of the people it serves could be even more formidable. For, people have varied expectations, aspirations and directives and directions; focusing them towards a single purpose of promoting Tamil and Tamilians should become a common objective.

About the Tamil Diaspora - The dispersal of Tamils around the globe is not of recent origin. There are more than 70 million of them residing in 50 countries, rich in heritage, culture, language and literature. In many cases, their unity was consolidated by struggle, suffering and aspiration for a brighter future for their successive generations. The name 'Tamil' is itself unique, meaning 'sweetness' and 'coolness.' As a powerful Dravidian and the oldest of the present languages, Tamil is perhaps the only example of an ancient language which has survived as a spoken language for more than 3500 years with its basic structure almost unchanged. Each Tamil Diaspora community had to wage its own unique struggle over generations to achieve economic prosperity without losing its identity and traditions. Each has its own stories of how it overcame obstacles peculiar to its adopted homeland. The digital revolution is not only accelerating the process of globalisation but also strengthening the bonds of the diaspora forging a new cultural, economic and political togetherness of a people and deep-rooted kinship ties and finding fresh avenues for expression.

Engagement with Maori - It is a matter of gratification and pride that ANTS has been actively engaging with the Maori community, linking the language of the Maori and the Tamil people and creating new avenues for coordination and cooperation. The Maori language classes that have been recently initiated, are a step in the right direction. I wish our Tamil-speaking People, the people of New Zealand and the Aotearoa New Zealand Federation of Tamil Sangams, its Executive Committee and its members all success.

Vaazgha Valamudan

Venkat Raman is the Patron of the Aotearoa New Zealand Federation of Tamil Sangams (ANTS) Inc and Editor and General Manager of Indian Newslink, the first and oldest English language newspaper of the South Asian Diaspora in New Zealand.

Hon Priyanca Radhakrishnan Minister for Diversity, Inclusion and Ethnic Communities



Tēnā koutou katoa, Vanakkam

I want to begin by acknowledging the work that the Aotearoa New Zealand Federation of Tamil Sangams (ANTS) has been leading to strengthen connections between Tamil societies across Aotearoa New Zealand and to support organisations that are working to improve the wellbeing of Tamil communities across the country.

As someone who was born in the state of Tamil Nadu, and grew up in Singapore, I have grown up listening to Tamil being spoken widely around me. Tamil is a beautiful language that is recognised as the oldest living language in the world. Language plays an important role in connecting us with our culture and heritage and I commend the different Tamil sangams that work to keep this language alive in New Zealand.

Thank you for the work you all do to build a cohesive society. It is important that communities have platforms where they can come together to celebrate language, culture and all that makes our ethnic communities in Aotearoa, unique. I know that your inaugural Tamil conference will provide such a platform and I thank all those who have been involved in organising it.

I wish you all great success and also want to commend ANTS on the launch of your Tamil translation of Te Tiriti o Waitangi. One of the priorities of the new Ministry for Ethnic Communities is to strengthen the connection between our ethnic communities (tangata Tiriti) and Māori (tangata whenua) and your translation will go a long way towards this.

Best wishes for a productive and enjoyable conference!

Ngā mihi, Nandri

Hon Priyanca Radhakrishnan
Minister for Diversity, Inclusion and
Ethnic Communities



Melisa Lee Member of Parliament



Vanakam

As National's Ethnic Communities Spokesperson, I wish everyone attending the New Zealand International Tamil Conference 2022 the very best for a wonderful day in their deliberations with the Aotearoa New Zealand Federation of Tamil Sangams.

Tamil New Zealanders bring an amazing South Asian identity to our shores with the celebrations of Deepavali and the special culture and beliefs of their heritage that add to the multicultural framework of our beautiful country.

Tamil culture has been a part of New Zealand's national identity since the days of the South Island Gold rush when people from across the world looked to New Zealand for new lives and opportunities. This remains as true today with New Zealand celebrating a society that embraces over 213 ethnicities and cultures and 160+languages.

I look forward to joining you across New Zealand in the months ahead at celebrations, festivals and future conferences and hope you all have an exciting 2023 and brilliant summer to come. Have a great conference!

Yours sincerely,

MELISSA LEE MP

National Member of Parliament

National Spokesperson for -

Broadcasting & Media | Digital Economy and Communications |

Ethnic Communities



Deputy Commissioner Wallace Haumaha

Nau mai, haere mai,

I am pleased to acknowledge and congratulate the Tamil Community on the opening of the 2022, Inaugural Tamil Conference in Te Whanganui-a-Tara, New Zealand. While the conference seeks to observe the challenges and opportunities, to innovate and harness ideas to reflect safer communities, NZ Police are proud partners committed to promoting cultural diversity and inclusion in a safe Aotearoa, NZ.



The richness of diversity between NZ Police and communities continues to build our understanding of the things that are important to Police and to the people, and together we can make the difference to keep our communities safe. We are highly appreciative of the relationship that we have built with our Tamil Indian Community so important for solidarity, unity, respect and responsible policing. The past two years have been challenging both nationally and globally, but we are hugely encouraged of the continued commitment and support at home, sticking together and doing what matters most in perfect symmetry. We still have a long way to go but we have made tremendous strides in understanding and respecting cultural differences, which help shape cultural diversity in this country.

Within NZ Police, we have built a more inclusive, more integrated organisation through dedicated teams who work nationally and across 12 Policing Districts to ensure that all communities can be safe and feel safe. 'Our Business' is NZ Police's key document that focuses us to work towards shared goals, to prevent crime and harm through exceptional policing and I thank the Tamil community again for your contributions to preventing crime through strengthened partnerships. We are focused on priority areas that need our attention, working hand in hand, encouraging strong relationships between communities, ensuring our children are growing up in a safe space, people able to go to work without fear, families living in safe streets, which means huge opportunities for effective partnerships and fresh ways of working together. Policing with the consent of our communities is based on trust and confidence between the public and police and we know this can vary, but our intent is to make every contact count as an opportunity to build confidence in a more inclusive NZ Police service, focused on community policing and engaging with the people, doing the right thing, at the right time, in the right way.

I am particularly supportive of the creation of the Māori Tamil coin which creates unity and a community sense of belonging, along with the launch of a Tamil language translation of Te Tiriti O Waitangi, further strengthening social cohesion between Tangata Whenua and Tangata Tiriti, in Aotearoa. Similar to that of our Māori heritage and culture, we want to see all cultures celebrated and embraced in Aotearoa, to allow all communities to strive and thrive and be proud within their own culture. The 2022 conference sees a number of highly educated individuals that will provide you all with fruitful insights into topics such as Women Empowerment, Ethnolinguistic Identity, Youth & Literature and Tamil Youth Identity.

Wishing you all a warm welcome from NZ Police to the Inaugural Tamil Conference.

Arohanui
Wally
Deputy Commissioner Wallace Haumaha ONZM, QSM
Iwi & Communities



Mervin Singham, Ministry of Ethnic communities



On behalf of the Ministry for Ethnic Communities, I would like to extend our best wishes for the inaugural Aotearoa New Zealand Tamil Conference.

As a new community event, promoting and celebrating the connectedness of Tamil Sangams/Societies, its members and the wider cross-sections of communities within New Zealand is a significant achievement.

Such opportunities to connect and promote heritage, language and culture, create a sense of belonging and provide the building blocks for a socially cohesive Aotearoa where everyone feels welcome, valued and empowered to be themselves.

I look forward to seeing the outcomes from this inaugural conference and wish all participants a wonderful two days enjoying the wide range of speakers and activities.

Mervin Singham

Chief Executive

Ministry for Ethnic Communities.

Race Relations Commissioner



Nau mai haramai koutou

As the race relations commission I want to firstly welcome our special manuhiri to Aotearoa New Zealand distinguished guests from overseas

I want to acknowledge the hard work of organising committee for putting together this conference

The Tamil community has contributed so much to Aotearoas wellbeing
You have enhanced my work in maintaining and enhancing harmonious communities which I'm indeed grateful

I acknowledge your desire and active relationship building with Tangata whenua and I thank you all for including me on your whakawhanaungatanga journey

I wish you all a very enjoyable and positive conference. I hope you get a lot out of the many programs you have organised. You are truly inspirational
Kia maia Kia kaha

Meng Foon

- Race Relations Commissioner



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Rights.**

Human Rights Commission
Te Kāhui Tika Tangata

Brent Reihana, National Maori Authority



Mauri tu, mauri ora!

The National Māori Authority are proud to support the great initiatives of the Tamil people here in Aotearoa New Zealand. Māori pride ourselves on our hospitality and hold the practice of hosting guests as a very sacred aspect and something to celebrate when guests choose to honour us with their presence. In Rotorua at Waiteti marae earlier this year the willingness of the Tamil people to gain a deeper understanding of te Ao Māori was clear. Watching the children play together on the marae forecourt reminds us all that our children are our future but as adults it is our responsibility to ensure that their environment is healthy, welcoming so that they may thrive and prosper.

The initiatives that focus on the wellbeing of a people with the children at the centre is something that we call “mahi rangatira” or the work of a chief. Similarly, language is at the very core of what binds a people, as do their belief systems, shared history and culture. Ensuring the longevity of these values is something Māori share and understand how these aspects bind our communities but can also add value to those around us no matter where we are in the world. Weaving these knowledge and learning systems imbues a richer understanding into the tapestry of our community.

The Tamil community must be admired internationally for continually striving to shape and be a part of a society that builds positive and meaningful relationships. A society that acknowledges that it is enriched by having each other represented in it. Where we can share our knowledge, cultures, heritage and the richness that come with it. Māori as tangata whenua, look forward to walking beside and supporting the Tamil people in their continued journey here in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Heoi anō mo tēnei wa, noho ora mai tātou.

Brent Reihana

National Maori Authority

TAMIL CONFERENCE 2022

AGENDA

- ❖ Grand Opening
- ❖ Karakia by Ngati Poneke Young Maori Club
- ❖ New Zealand National Anthem | Tamil Thai Vazhthu by Swaratmika School of Music
- ❖ Speech by Deputy Mayor Tui Lewis (Hutt City)
MP Ginny Anderson (Hutt South – Labour Party)
Former MP Chris Bishop (Hutt South - National Party)
- ❖ Speech by MP Melissa Lee - Spokesperson for Broadcasting & Media
Digital Economy and Communications - Ethnic Communities
- ❖ Speech By Rt Hon Sir Anand Sathyanand (Former Governor General)
- ❖ Speech by Raveen Annamalai (President - ANTS Inc)
- ❖ Launch of Te Tiriti o Waitangi | 101 Tamil Māori Quotes | Tamil Māori Coin
- ❖ Launch of Aotearoa's Standardised Tamil Syllabus
- ❖ Dance Performance by Shivam Dance Academy
- ❖ Refreshment
- ❖ Conference Segment 1 - Empowerment
- ❖ Lunch
- ❖ Conference Segment 2 - Ethnolinguistic Identity
- ❖ Tea Break
- ❖ Conference Segment 3 - Youth Panel Discussion



Speaker profiles

தமிழ் மாநாடு

Inaugural Tamil Conference

SESSION 1: WOMEN EMPOWERMENT
12 NOVEMBER 2022, 9AM - 10.30AM

SPEAKERS & TOPICS



PRABHA RAVI
NEW ZEALAND
WOMEN AND ECONOMY

பெண்களும் பொருளாதாரமும்



KOKILA ANNAMALAI
SINGAPORE
GENDER EQUALITY

பாலின சம உரிமை



EZHILARASI MANAVALAN
INDIA
THE NEED FOR COHESION AMONGST WOMEN

பெண்ணை பெண்ணின் எதிரி



DR. MALINI AMAV
AUSTRALIA
WOMEN: REAL LIFE HEROES

பதுமை அல்ல புதுமைப்பெண்கள்



SHEBA SOUNDHAR
MODERATOR



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Mrs. Prabha Ravi, QSM, JP, New Zealand

Prabha is a management consultant, facilitator, coach, mentor, assessor, presenter, panel speaker and an experienced governor. She sits on various not for profit boards in NZ across various sectors such as health, sports, arts, community, regional council and education, bringing the much-needed ethnic & cultural diversity and thinking to the boards spending several hours of her own time to ensure there is fair and equal representation on the board where key decisions are made. She is a strong advocate of equity, diversity and inclusion across all sectors. She is regularly invited as a panel speaker by local and international organisations to share her knowledge and experience in arts, education and governance.

Kokila Annamalai, Singapore.

Kokila has over 10 years of experience in the non-profit and community arts space, often wearing multiple hats. She has conceptualised, organised and led community development programmes, research projects, arts festivals, conferences/forums, community arts and education programmes that brought diverse groups together for learning, relationship building and collective action. Kokila has done arts and community programming in mainstream and independent spaces. These experiences have facilitated her growth as a writer, researcher, facilitator, community builder and arts practitioner who builds strong relationships with communities, government agencies, artists, media, educational institutions, funders and other stakeholders. Her understanding of and sensitivity to diverse groups and cultures has enabled her to bring people together in safe and stimulating spaces for dialogue, collaboration and new, intersectional ways of tackling shared issues.

Ezhilarasi Manavalan, India.

Ezhilarasi Manavalan is a world renowned pattimandram (debate) speaker who has shared the stage with Suki Sivam, Mohanasundaram and many more orators! She is known for her quick wit and her sharp observational skills. She has also donned the role of a moderator in many pattimandram.

Dr.Malini Amav, Australia.

Dr. Malini Anandakrishnan (Pachaivathy), Psychiatry and Mental Health Certified by the University of Sydney, she lives in Sydney Australia. She is also a speaker, poet, composer, translator, Interpreter, researcher and writer, she has written more than 30 books. She runs an organisation called AMAV Australia, she has trained many teachers around the globe about Tamil Methodology and helped them to teach Tamil in a short time. She is actively involved in various community projects.

Speaker profiles



127th Anniversary of the Tamil Federation of New Zealand

தமிழ் மாநாடு
Inaugural Tamil Conference

SESSION 2: ETHNOLINGUISTIC IDENTITY
12 NOVEMBER 2022, 1PM-2.30PM



B H ABDUL HAMEED

SRILANKA

THE ARCHITECTURE OF LANGUAGE FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

தலைமுறை தாண்டியும் தமிழ் வளைப்போம்



M. NAVIN

MALAYSIA

WRITING DIASPORA - TACTICS OF INTERVENTION

புலம்பெயர்ந்த இளம் தலைமுறையினர்
எழுத்து கவனம் கொள்ள வேண்டிய
அம்சங்கள்



DR MAHESH BABU P

NEW ZEALAND

TAMIL: THE SCIENTIFIC ELIXIR

தமிழ்: நஞ்சில்லா விஞ்ஞான அமுதம்.



DEEPAN RAJ P

INDIA

META-ANALYSIS OF THE HISTORY OF TAMIL DIASPORA

தமிழும் தமிழர்களும் கடந்து வந்த பாதை



SITHURAJ PONRAJ

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B.H.Abdul Hameed, Sri Lanka.

B.H.Abdul Hameed was a very popular Tamil announcer of Radio Ceylon - the oldest radio station in South Asia. Abdul Hameed also compered many events in Colombo. He joined a band of announcers who enjoyed iconic status across South Asia. Millions of listeners tuned into the radio station once known as Radio Ceylon. Abdul Hameed was also honoured to act in the 2001 Tamil film Thenali as a guest role starring Kamal Hassan. Now he is usually chosen as master of ceremony for many international Tamil functions.

M.Navin, Malaysia.

Navin is a Malaysian Tamil writer. He currently runs an e-magazine by the name of Vallinam. In 2010, he received the Young Talent Award from the Malaysian state of Selangor. In 2019, he received the Tamil Literary Garden of Canada Award. To date he has written and published more than fifteen books. His novel Peichi (2019) stirred controversy within the Indian community, resulting in a ban by the Malaysian government in 2020. As a publisher, Navin has published thirty-nine Malaysian Tamil literary works, from poetry, fiction, non-fiction and anthologies. He has also produced sixteen documentaries on Malaysian Tamil literary pioneers.

Mahesh Babu Purushothaman, New Zealand

Mahesh Babu Purushothaman received his Ph.D. from Auckland University of Technology with research interests in the human factors influencing lean manufacturing systems and waste reduction. He works in the School of Future Environments, Auckland University of Technology. Prior to joining AUT, Mahesh has 25 plus years of industrial experience dealing at Middle and Top management level. He has managed lean manufacturing units for 25 years. He has implemented projects, which combined digital and Information technology integration in the process to reduce stress in the manufacturing environment. Mahesh has designed process architecture and was involved in developing IT projects for facilities, manufacturing, and SCM. Mahesh has publications in the Journal of Cleaner production and conferences. Mahesh has published an edited book titled "Lessons from lockdown". Mahesh has research interest in Lean thinking, digital technologies, Cognitive influence, stress, and well-being of the people in the business and industrial processes to create a healthy and safe community.

Deepan Raj, India.

Deepan Raj is an experienced Radio Jockey and social media manager at Suryan FM, Sun TV Network, Chennai. He has over 9 years' experience in the respective field and is also a well-established YouTuber. His passion and unconditional love for Tamil language made him embark his YouTube journey in 2020. His channel named "Deep Talks Tamil", stays true to its name and focuses primarily on in-depth talks on Tamil history, culture, literature, and much more. With his hard-hitting, factually correct and effective production quality videos, he has earned over 8 lakh subscribers till date. Deepan is also a recipient of a few digital awards held by Chennai and Pondicherry based events.

Sithuraj Ponraj, Singapore.

Sithuraj Ponraj is Senior Visiting Fellow at the RSIS Centre of Excellence for National Security (CENS) where he researches and writes on digital and cyber issues. He was previously Director of the International Cyber Policy Office in Singapore's Cyber Security Agency, where he played a key role in the development of Singapore's international cybersecurity strategy and in its international and regional engagement and capacity building initiatives. He is an exceptional speaker on Tamil literature and Tamil history.

Speaker profiles



Aotearoa NZ Federation of Tamil Sangam

தமிழ் மாநாடு
Inaugural Tamil Conference

SESSION 3: PANEL DISCUSSION
12 NOVEMBER 2022 3PM-4PM



JAYASUTHA SAMUTHIRAN
SINGAPORE



MATHUSHA PARANEE
NEW ZEALAND



DR KANNAIYAN RABINDRANATH
MODERATOR



VELMURUGAN SELLAKKANNU
NEW ZEALAND



SUNDERESAN THANDAVAN
NEW ZEALAND

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Youth Tamil Identity And Social Norms

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Jayasutha Samuthiran, Singapore.

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Velmurugan Sellakkannu, New Zealand.

He is an engineer by profession and working as IT Infrastructure Team Lead, but he is also an active participant in Tamil language talks and Pattimandrams. Also, he is the Vice President of Auckland Tamil Association and an Executive committee member of ANTS.

Sundaresan Thandavan, New Zealand.

Sundaresan Thandavan is into IT, Devops Engineer as profession. He did Tamil medium school in India and he completed his Engineering degree in Coimbatore. He is a volunteer Tamil Teacher @ Wellington Muthamizh Sangam.

Mathusha Paraneetharan, New Zealand.

Mathusha Paraneetharan is a 20-year-old, Eelam Tamil girl. She is currently a student of Finance and Information Systems at Victoria University of Wellington and a drama teacher at Chilton Saint James School. Her passions and interests lie in Bharathanatyam, theatre and the history of Eelam Tamil.



Wellington Mutamizh Sangam President message



வணக்கம்!

Our hearts fill with joy and pride when we say Tamil is one of the ancient classical languages of the world that has been continually in use for millennia.

Members of Wellington Muthamizh Sangam are proud to be part of the inaugural NZ Tamil conference to be held in Wellington in November 2022.

I am privileged to be the president of Wellington Muthamizh Sangam and be part of ANTS. As a Tamil who hails from the ancient city of Madurai and living in New Zealand, I am indeed proud to be part of this historic event.

We are excited to invite and host Tamil's from all over New Zealand, and from all over the world to Wellington to come together as one family to celebrate Mother Tamil and her ancient history, the inimitable Tamil Culture and our efforts to pass this precious heritage to the next generation.

நன்றி!

அன்புடன்
மு கருணாநிதி

President

Wellington Mutamizh Sangam

Auckland Tamil Association President message

யாமறிந்த மொழிகளிலே தமிழ்மொழி போல்
இனிதாவது எங்கும் காணோம்



On behalf of the Auckland Tamil Association, it is with great pleasure that we welcome you to the inaugural Tamil conference – Tamil Maanaadu organized by the Aotearoa New Zealand Federation of Tamil Sangams.

It is a great honor to be here along with our fellow members from various organizations. Auckland Tamil Association conveys our sincere appreciation to Ants president Mr. Raveen Annamalai and the Committee for the phenomenal job bringing together the conference in New Zealand to promote Tamil heritage, language, and culture leading to stronger community connections.

I am inspired by our Tamil Federation's commitment to bond with the country that we now call home, leading to many successful collaborations with the New Zealand community, naming one such pilot project to teach Te Reo Māori to members of the Tamil community. Auckland Tamil Association has worked together with ANTS since its inception on a few successful projects like the COVID-19 – national vaccination project, celebrating the Pongal festival in parliament, and most recently Sangamam - Māori Tamil Hui.

We look forward to working closely with the Aotearoa New Zealand Federation of Tamil Sangam on pan-Indian programs in all spheres in the coming years to nurture, embrace and develop strong community integration.

Kind Regards,

Vai Ravindran | President |Auckland Tamil Association.

9 Linden Street, Lynfield, Auckland, 1041

Mobile: 027 275 8266

Website: www.aucklandtamilassociation.co.nz

Tamil Society Waikato President message



Vanakkam / Kia Ora,

Tamil Society Waikato is a nonprofit organization founded in 1989 to promote Tamil language, culture and literature. We are happy to associate Aotearoa New Zealand Federation of Tamil Sangams for the first international Tamil conference in New Zealand at Wellington on 12th November 2022.

Tamil scholars from many countries are participating in this, and many interesting panel discussions are lined up. Let us unite and make this event successful with a dream that one day World Tamil Conference will happen in New Zealand.

தமிழன் என்றொரு இனமுண்டு
தனியே அவர்க்கொரு குணமுண்டு
எங்கு பிறந்தோமோ எங்கு வளர்ந்தோமோ
தமிழால் இணைவோமே

Srinivasan Jaganathan

President

Tamil Society Waikato

Email: president@tamilsocietywaikato.org.nz

தமிழ் சங்கம் வைக்காட்டோ

உங்களை அன்புடன் வரவேற்கின்றது

TAMIL SOCIETY WAIKATO
warmly welcomes you

Dunedin Tamil Society President message



Kia Ora and Vanakkam,

Well done on attending the inaugural Tamil Conference that is organised by the Aotearoa New Zealand Federation of Tamil Sangams (ANTS). You are a part of the history that is happening in New Zealand. This is the first ever Tamil Conference held in New Zealand.

Dunedin Tamil Society has a working relationship with ANTS who aim to bring all the Tamil speaking communities living in New Zealand together. It is not easy to organise a conference at this level and DTS very much appreciates the efforts taken by ANTS to make this conference a successful one.

On behalf of DTS, I congratulate ANTS for organising this conference and I wish them all the best for its success.

Anbudan/ Ngā mihi nui

Assoc Prof Rajesh Katare

President

Dunedin Tamil Society

Christchurch Indian Tamil Association President message



அனைவருக்கும் வணக்கம்

கேன்டர்பரி இந்தியத் தமிழ்ச் சங்கம் கடந்த மூன்று வருடங்களாக மக்கள் சேவை பணியை தொடர்ந்து செய்து வருகிறது. குறிப்பாக கிறிஸ்ட்சர்ச் பகுதி வாழ் தமிழ் மக்களின் சமூக ஒன்றுகூடல் மற்றும் தமிழ் கலை, கலாச்சாரம் , மொழி ஆகியவற்றை ஒன்றடக்கிய மக்கள் பணியை செய்து வருகிறோம். நமது முக்கியத்துவம் வாய்ந்த கலாச்சார நிகழ்வுகளில் பொங்கல், தீபஒளி திருநாள், தமிழ் வருட பிறப்பு மட்டுமின்றி மகளிர் விளையாட்டு நேரம் ஆகியவற்றை செய்து வருகிறோம். அதிலும் குறிப்பாக தமிழ் மொழி கல்வியை அடுத்த தலைமுறையினருக்கு கொண்டுசெல்லும் விதமாக ஒவ்வொரு சனிக்கிழமைகளில் தமிழ் பள்ளி நடத்திவரப்படுகிறது. இவ்வனைத்து பணியும் செவ்வென நமது தன்னார்வலர்கள் செய்து வருகிறார்கள்.

இன்னும் வருகின்ற நாட்களில் அநேக நற் பயனுள்ள சேவைகளை நமது தமிழ்ச் சமூகத்திற்கு செய்ய திட்டமிட்டுள்ளோம்.

வாழ்க தமிழ்! வளர்க நமது பணி!

நன்றி

கேன்டர்பரி இந்தியத் தமிழ்ச் சங்கம்
CANTERBURY INDIAN TAMIL ASSOCIATION

காட்வீன் சார்லஸ்

தலைவர்

கேன்டர்பரி இந்தியத் தமிழ்ச் சங்கம்

கிறிஸ்ட்சர்ச்

Taranaki Tamil Association President message



We, Taranaki Tamil Association Inc, have been Incorporated since March 2022. There were Tamil families in New Plymouth for more than ten years now. We've been having our family gatherings since then regularly. We used to have regular gatherings for more than 7 years now but have been doing that in a smaller scale. We formed an interim committee which took over the proceedings and organized all the events and brought everyone together for few years. Then, we decided that we'll have to move on to next level to get our community together, since it was growing bigger with more Tamil families migrating to Taranaki region. With unanimous decision, we decided on a name "Taranaki Tamil Association" and function under that name, and to get registered as Incorporated society.

We thought, this would be helpful for us to plan for future programs like Tamil school, Women's wing, cultural wing, Tamil book club. In March 2022 we've become an Incorporated society. Right after this, we had our first AGM, where the first term of committee of 7 were formed. Soon after, Taranaki Tamil school was started, followed by Women's wing, cultural wing, Tamil book club and all these being successfully run thus far. Also, we've decided to associate with ANTS (Aotearoa New Zealand Federation of Tamil Sangams) and hence participated in first Māori-Tamil Hui and AGM. Also, TTA had an opportunity to be part of the executive committee member of ANTS for the current term.

From being associated with ANTS, TTA is also proud to support the NZ Tamils' first ever Tamil conference and encourage such activities in future.

We've had our first big scale Diwali program on 29th Oct 2022, where we had around 80 guests for the event and had our Tamil school children taking stage for thirukkural, Bharathiyar songs and speech, Silambattam. TTA, from being in the infancy period, in future, we're planning activities like blood donation camps, First aid classes, Silambattam classes and Tamil sports like kabaddi.

Regards

Barani Baskar Sampath

President

Taranaki Tamil Association

taranakitamilassociation@gmail.com

Tamil Association of New Zealand (TANZI) President Message



The Tamil Association of New Zealand is proud and honoured to be part of the Aotearoa New Zealand Federation of Tamil Sangams, which is conducting the first international Tamil conference at in Wellington, New Zealand.

The conference aims to display the cultural heritage of the Tamil community in New Zealand. Further, the conference shows the love and affection the community has for its language and fellow people.

We wish the success of Tamil conference and ANTS which is working towards the upliftment of Tamil Community in NZ.

Sowndra Rajan Palanisamy

President

The Tamil Association of New Zealand

Thenindia Sanmarga Sangam Wellington INC. President Message



Namaskaram,

Congratulations and best wishes to Aotearoa New Zealand Federation of Tamil Sangams (ANTS) for the Inaugural Tamil Conference. It is indeed heartening to see the efforts made in preserving the culture, tradition and language of the people of Tamil origin.

Then India Sanmarga Ikyu Sangam (TISI) Wellington is proud to be associated with your organisation and work alongside in promoting the shared values and goals of our organisations.

TISI Wellington Sangam Inc was established upon the basis of the hopes and dreams of our forefathers, under the leadership of Sadhu Kuppaswamy, the founder of Sangam movement who strongly believed in the preservation of our religion, language and culture. In 2018 another chapter was added to the TISI Wellington Sangam, our women's group Maathar Sangam was formed and workers alongside with us to give our organisation a greater strength.

TISI Sangam Wellington Inc. opens its doors to the wider communities through social meetings and various organizational outings. An Annual Diwali celebration, Annual Sangam Events or any other cultural events are examples of our commitment to gather the community together to unite as one. We are committed to service our community and wider communities at large whenever opportunities arise.

Once again, I wish ANTS all the best and success for the Inaugural Tamil Conference.

TISI President

Krishna Gounder

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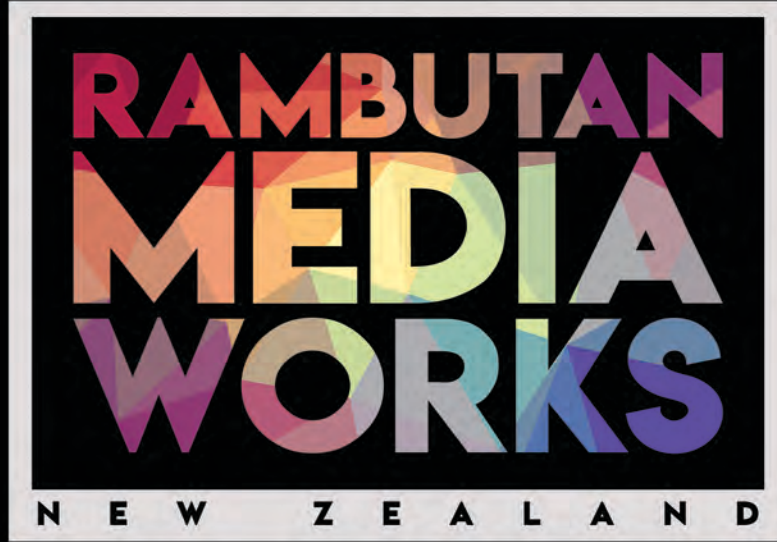
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