

EMBARGOED RELEASE
7pm, Saturday, 30 March 2024
Unless otherwise indicated

HIGHLIGHTING NEW CAPABILITIES IN THE TAMIL LANGUAGE FESTIVAL 2024

The Tamil Language Council (TLC) is pleased to present ‘*Aatral*’ (Capabilities), as this year’s theme for the Tamil Language Festival (TLF) 2024. As testimony to the community’s capacity and partners’ capabilities, TLF 2024 is also supported by nine new partners this year.

All programmes delivered in conjunction with the festival will be focused on ‘*Aatral*’, so that the TLC can harness the collective capabilities of all partners, to highlight the richness and magnificence of the Tamil language, for all to appreciate and enjoy.

““For the first time ever, the Tamil Language Council had arranged for an open call for proposal submissions. This enabled us to discover new partners and programmes for the Festival, and also provide a platform for them to demonstrate their talent and capabilities. We would like to thank and welcome these nine new partner organisations who have come forward to be a part of the Tamil Language Festival. Such results give us the confidence to engage even more new partners in future, for both the Tamil Language Festival and Tamil Youth Festival,” says Mr S Manogaran, Chairman of the TLC.

He adds, “The Tamil Language Council places great importance in engaging and enabling especially the young in the community, to speak and use the Tamil language. Out of the 47 programmes presented this year, 65% of them are targeted at youths, creating a wealth of opportunities for the youths to use and enjoy the language with confidence.

Official Launch of the Tamil Language Festival

This year’s Tamil Language Festival (TLF) will take place from 30 March to 28 April 2024. The official launch of the TLF 2024 will take place at Studio 1, Mediacorp at 7pm on Saturday, 30 March 2024. The programme will be broadcast “live” on Vasantham and meWATCH.

Ms Indranee Rajah, Minister for Prime Minister’s Office, and Second Minister for Finance and National Development will officially launch the TLF 2024.

Tamil Language Festival 2024

This year’s TLF will feature 47 programmes by 48 partners, as the community comes together to present a variety of literary, oratorical, arts and cultural programmes. These programmes will encourage everyone to “Love Tamil, Speak Tamil”, embrace their mother tongue, and use the language in their daily lives.

The TLF continues to be supported by new partners, who deliver programmes to suit different interests and segments in the community. As refreshed effort for this year’s TLF, the TLC implemented an open call for proposal submissions, to seek out new partner organisations for the TLF. This move aims to inject fresh and innovative ideas to engage the younger generation, and also provide a platform for new partners to come onboard.

The Kalari Academy, one of nine new partners for TLF 2024, will be conducting a *Silambam* workshop to demonstrate the capabilities of the traditional Tamil martial arts. This workshop will introduce participants to the history of *Silambam*, the different weapons and the basic Silambam skills using the 5-foot wooden staff.

KriyaiD SG will be organising *Camp Vetri*, a one-day cultural camp for primary school students, featuring interactive learning experiences, storytelling, song, dance and games in Tamil. This camp aims to nurture a deeper capacity for the Tamil language, and connect the youths to their linguistic and artistic heritage.

Yet another new partner, Sarva Fine Arts, will present *Meenakshi* – the dance of wisdom, a Bharatanatyam production. Rooted in the rich tradition of Tamil culture, the dance drama revolves around Goddess Meenakshi, renowned for her wisdom and governance skills. The captivating story aims to unveil the beauty and depth of ancient Tamil verses through the various dance sequences.

For full details on all TLF 2024 programmes, visit the TLC's Facebook page at facebook.com/tamillanguagecouncilsinsingapore or follow the TLC's Instagram handle @TamilLangFestival or check out the website at www.tamil.org.sg.

~*~

About the Tamil Language Council and the Tamil Language Festival

The Tamil Language Council (TLC) was formed in 2000 and comprises representatives from the education sector, major community organisations, arts groups and the media. All members are appointed by the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth.

The TLC has organised the Tamil Language Festival (TLF) since 2007 with partner organisations, marking it as a major annual event in the community's calendar. It enjoys working with a strong number of partners each year to present literary, oratorical and cultural events that encourages all Festival goers and the community to embrace the Tamil language.

While the TLF remains TLC's signature festival, it inaugurated the Tamil Youth Festival (TYF) in 2021, as a dedicated initiative to encourage the youths in the community to embrace their mother tongue.

Since 2017, the Tamil Language Council has also provided additional funding to support and cultivate capacity building initiatives for the youths and students within the community, in an effort to inspire them to use and develop the Tamil language.