



EMBARGOED RELEASE
2359hrs, 31 March 2022

TAMIL LANGUAGE FESTIVAL 2022
LANGUAGE APPRECIATION THROUGH INNOVATION

Tamil Language Festival 2022

The Tamil Language Council (TLC) is pleased to present the 16th edition of the Tamil Language Festival (TLF), taking place from 1 April to 1 May 2022. This year's celebration will feature 44 programmes by 44 partners, as the community comes together on predominantly virtual platforms to appreciate and promote the Tamil language in Singapore.

The TLF 2022 launch ceremony "*Thamizhodu Inaivom*" will take place at 9pm on Saturday, 2 April via a special programme telecast live on Mediacorp Vasantham, featuring a variety of performances by TLF programme partners and Vasantham artistes. Mr S Iswaran, Minister for Transport and Minister-in-charge of Trade Relations will also share a special message as the Guest-of-Honour.

The theme of "Innovation" has been adopted for TLF 2022 as the festival highlights how the schools, the community and arts organisations aim to introduce new and refreshing ways of promoting and celebrating the Tamil language. It will explore how innovation has motivated us to think different, pivot to new technologies, and find new pathways in enjoying our Tamil language through the various literary and art forms for all age groups.

"The Tamil Language Council thanks all its partners for adopting, incorporating, and communicating the theme of 'innovation' in their programmes. The community can look forward to participating in a variety of literary, oratorical, arts and cultural programmes via Zoom, Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube. These programmes will encourage everyone to 'Love Tamil, Speak Tamil', embrace their mother tongue, and use the language at home and in their daily lives," says Mr S Manogaran, Chairman of the Tamil Language Council.

He adds, "In addition to celebrating our language in new ways, TLF 2022 will also welcome new partners, as they present programmes featuring drama, musical, competitions and talks. I thank all partners for their continued support in presenting a festival calendar rich with a variety of programmes. We also appreciate the community's understanding of the need to continue to keep everyone safe by presenting our programmes online or within permitted restrictions."

Engaging Youths, Inspiring Students

The TLC is pleased to welcome Thomson CC IAEC as one of the new partners for TLF 2022. Their programme, Kalaichelvangal 2022, is an anchor event popular with primary school students, as it aims to nurture the beauty of the Tamil language, for the very young.

Another new partner, Makoolam Kalaikoodam, will be presenting a performance featuring various Tamil poets' classical songs and folk dances of Tamil Nadu. The presentation will feature well-known songs of famous Tamil Poets like Bharathiyar, Bharathidasan, as well as works by other poets such as Muthuswami Dikshitar, Oothukaadu Venkata Subbaiyer, and Arunachala Kavirayar.

Via the Facebook platform, Singai Tamil Sangam presents "Shall I tell you a comic story?" and introduces a form of storytelling rarely seen in Tamil media. Presenting comic strips in video format with narration, music, animation & sound effects, this virtual live event will showcase 6 productions by finalists of the Comic Slideshow Competition.

Umar Pulavar Tamil Language Centre will also bring together more than 350 students for their Tamil Language Learning Festival 2022. This event aims to engage students in learning the Tamil language and appreciating the use of the language beyond the classrooms. It will inspire students to appreciate language, culture, and heritage through activities such as drama and handicrafts.

Athipathi International Theatre Ltd will also present a play titled "Bharathi and I" in an innovative manner, as it explores the life of poet Subramania Bharathi (1882 - 1921) through the eyes of his family members, fellow literary personalities, freedom fighters and the public.

For details on all programmes taking place during the Tamil Language Festival 2022, follow its Instagram page @TamilLangFestival or visit the Tamil Language Council's Facebook page at facebook.com/TamilLanguageCouncilSingapore, or check out the website at www.tamil.org.sg.

~~~

### **About the Tamil Language Council and the Tamil Language Festival**

The Tamil Language Festival (TLF) is spearheaded by the Tamil Language Council (TLC) which was formed in 2000. The TLC comprises representatives from the education sector, major community organisations, arts groups and the media.

The TLC has organised the TLF since 2007 with partner organisations, marking it as a major event in the calendar. It has also enjoyed working with a strong number of partners over the years to present literary, oratorical and cultural events that will encourage the Festival goers and the community to embrace their mother tongue.

Since 2017, the Tamil Language Council has also extended 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.