

KaniTamil24 - International Tamil Computing Conference in February 2024
by Government of Tamil Nadu
Hon'ble Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's announcement

The Hon'ble Minister of Finance and Human Resource Management announced in the Budget session 2023-2024 that the 'International Tamil Computing Conference' will be held during this year. Following this announcement, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has stated that Tamil Virtual Academy will conduct the '**KaniTamil24**' conference in the month of February 2024.

The Government of Tamil Nadu has planned to hold an International Tamil Computing Conference with the objectives to undertake research, develop new ideas, and identify young talents in emerging language technologies. Scholars, Computational Linguists, IT experts and Tamil enthusiasts across the globe who have been contributing for Tamil will participate in this conference. It is significant that after 25 years of 'TamilNet99' conference held in 1999, under the leadership of Muthamizharignar Kalaignar, the Tamil Nadu Government is again conducting this conference.

The Tamil Virtual Academy was formed as an outcome of 'TamilNet99' conference. Teaching Tamil through internet for Tamil diaspora living all over the world, Digitization of Tamil books, magazines, rare documents and Development of Tamil Computing Tools are the primary tasks of Tamil Virtual Academy. 'Tamil99 Keyboard' was developed with the guidance of experts who participated in the conference. It was approved by the government and a Government Order has been issued. The Government of Tamil Nadu is constantly promoting activities related to software development in Tamil.

After the 'TamilNet99' conference, the technological advancements are immense. Although we started talking about Artificial Intelligence at the end of the last century, it is being emerged at large scale, only in recent times. Therefore, this conference is planned with the aim of strengthening the place of Tamil in this growing age of technology. Through this conference, an environment can be created to increase the use of the Tamil language in the technological sector and new generation can be turned towards it.

The Tamil Virtual Academy, which has been taking various initiatives to promote the usage of Tamil in the field of technology, will conduct this conference. This conference will be held with the aim of increasing the usage of Tamil language in Digital Era. Natural Language Processing Tools (NLPT), Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), Machine Translation (MT), Sentimental Analysis (SA), Large Language Models (LLM), and Automatic Speech Recognition (ASR) for Tamil language are to be developed as it is being done for English which is the goal of this conference.

It is scheduled to be held on 8,9,10th of February 2024 at Trade Centre, Nandambakkam, Chennai. It is remarkable that the 'KaniTamil24' Conference is going to be held on the same day as the 'TamilNet99' conference conducted by the then Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Muthamizharignar Kalaignar. It is a tribute to Kalaignar whose centenary celebrations falls this year. Further details can be obtained by visiting <https://www.kanitamil.in>

This International Tamil Computing Conference is planned with the following features:

- 1) **Lectures and Panel Discussions:** Scholars, Computational Linguists, IT experts, Tamil enthusiasts and executives from organizations developing and using language technology will deliver lectures on different topics. Group discussions will also be conducted. Papers and panel discussions will be held on topics including AI, ML, MT, NLP, LLM, and Modern Language Technologies.
- 2) **Research Papers:** Research papers on Tamil Language Computing will be collected from researchers all over the world and also from the developers of language-specific software in other languages and it will be compiled into a book. Topics such as NLP, MT, SA and ASR would be covered.
- 3) **Hackathons:** It is planned to conduct hackathons separately at national and international levels. Young technocrats will be identified through this competition. Guidance will be provided to them and they will be suitably rewarded for their best efforts.
- 4) **Exhibition:** The latest products, projects, and new ideas related to language technologies will be exhibited. People from the language industry and startup companies will participate.

The importance of language technology has started increasing now. This conference will be held with the objective of bringing out the various dimensions of Language Technologies. This **'KaniTamil24'** Conference, which covers areas like AI, LLM, Digital Content Creation, Learning Technologies and e-governance, will lay the foundations for the future. A souvenir containing deliberations, efforts, initiatives, etc. related to Tamil Computing in the last 25 years will be published during this conference. An unique logo has also been created for this conference.



This technical conference being organized by the Tamil Nadu Government will promote and preserve the Tamil language and pass it on to the next generation. The Tamil Nadu Government is pioneer in implementing this kind of programme for language that no other state in India has even thought of...

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