

Press Release

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has announced the launch of a new initiative titled "Reaching Your Roots". This scheme aims to strengthen the bond between the Tamil diaspora and their ancestral culture and heritage. Under this program, every year, 200 students from the Tamil diaspora community will be given the opportunity to embark on a cultural tour of Tamil Nadu.

As part of the inaugural batch, 57 students were selected from Australia, Fiji, Sri Lanka, and Canada. These students experienced a 15-day tour from December 27, 2023, to January 10, 2024. The Commissionerate organized visits to various historical and cultural destinations across Tamil Nadu, providing participants with a deep understanding of the region's rich art and cultural heritage.

The second batch of this program is scheduled for August 1, 2024, to August 15, 2024. As of June 28, 2024, 107 students from 11 countries – South Africa, Uganda, Fiji, Indonesia, Mauritius, Australia, Maldives, Canada, Myanmar, Malaysia, and Sri Lanka – have registered their interest in participating in the program.

This initiative is a testament to Tamil Nadu's commitment to fostering a strong connection with the global Tamil community and ensuring that the younger generation remains connected to their roots.

Schedule (Proposed) as follows:

| Day | Date | District | Activity |
|------------|-------------|-----------------|--|
| Day 1 | 01/08/2024 | Chennai | Welcome Address - Tour Briefing. |
| | | | Presentation by students & Interaction with Hon'ble Minister |
| Day 2 | 02/08/2024 | Chengalpattu | Dakshina Chitra Heritage Museum. |

| Day | Date | District | Activity |
|--------|------------|--|--|
| | | | India Seashell Museum |
| | | | Light house |
| Day 3 | 03/08/2024 | Chengalpattu & Cuddalore | Mamallapuram Shore Temple and Beach sightseeing |
| | | | Sculpture Museum Tour & Sculpture practice |
| Day 4 | 04/08/2024 | Cuddalore, Ariyalur & Thanjavur | Veeranam Lake |
| | | | Gangaikonda Cholapuram temple |
| | | | Cultural workshops & Kalvettu Payirchi at Swami malai |
| | | | Dharasuram Temple |
| Day 5 | 05/08/2024 | Thanjavur | Thanjavur Big Temple |
| | | | Saraswathi Mahal Library |
| | | | Thanjavur art gallery |
| Day 6 | 06/08/2024 | Thanjavur | Art and Culture workshops -Tamil Parambariya Isai & Bharatanatyam. |
| Day 7 | 07/08/2024 | Pudukkottai & Sivaganga | Chittannavasal Cave |
| | | | Kanadu Kathan Palace |
| Day 8 | 08/08/2024 | Thoothukudi & Tirunelveli | Bharathiyar birthplace visit |
| | | | Ki. Rajanarayanan Memorial House |
| | | | Workshop on Tamil Language. |
| | | | Kattabomman Memorial House |
| Day 9 | 09/08/2024 | Kanyakumari, Thoothukudi & Tirunelveli | Tiruvalluvar statue |
| | | | Adichanallur Archeological site |
| | | | Koonthakulam Birds Sanctuary |
| Day10 | 10/08/2024 | Tirunelveli | Nellaiappar Temple |
| | | | VOC Memorial |
| Day 11 | 11/08/2024 | Tenkasi | Courtallam waterfalls |
| | | | Workshop on Tamil language and Tamil Siddha Medicine |
| Day 12 | 12/08/2024 | Madurai | Meenakshi Amman Temple |
| | | | Gandhi Memorial House |
| | | | Thirumalai Nayakar Palace |
| Day 13 | 13/08/2024 | Sivaganga & Trichy | Keeladi Heritage Museum |
| | | | Kallanai Dam |

| Day | Date | District | Activity |
|--------|------------|------------|------------------------------|
| Day 14 | 14/08/2024 | Villupuram | Gingee Fort |
| | | | Melsithamur Jain Temple |
| | | | Village Culturals |
| Day 15 | 15/08/2024 | Chennai | Independence Day celebration |

Today, a special meeting was conducted at the Commissionerate of Rehabilitation and Welfare of Non Resident Tamils. Hon'ble Minister for Minorities Welfare and Non-Resident Tamils Welfare, Thiru Gingee K.S. Masthan chaired the meeting and advised the officials of different government departments to take necessary steps to implement this program.

Thiru B. Krishnamoorthy, Commissioner, Commissionerate of Rehabilitation and Welfare of Non-Resident Tamils, and officials from the Department of Archaeology, Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation, Tamil Virtual Academy, Department of Tamil Development and Information, Department of Art and Culture, Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department, Department of Medical and Rural Health Services participated in this meeting.

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