

Press Release

The two-day annual World Tamil Diaspora Day 2025 was organised by the Commissionerate of Rehabilitation and Welfare of Non Resident Tamils at the Chennai Trade Centre, Nandambakkam, on January 11 and 12, 2025.

The Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. Udhayanidhi Stalin inaugurated the fourth edition of the World Tamil Diaspora Day 2025 themed "எத்திசையும் தமிழ்ணங்கே." This event saw the participation of Hon'ble Ministers SM Nazar, TM Anbarasan, Anbil Mahesh, Ma Subramaniam, R Rajendran, MP Saminathan and a number of MLAs and MPs

The Honourable Deputy Chief Minister in his special address at the event highlighted the vision behind the World Tamil Diaspora Day, focusing on the importance of recognising the Tamil diaspora's significant contributions to global society. He spoke about the historical outward immigration of the people of Tamil Nadu for education, trade, warfare, occupation etc and their succesful integration into the societies to which they moved to which highlighted the adaptability of our people into the global society. He also spoke elaborately on the sustained vision of the Govt of Tamil Nadu on Science, Technology, Engineering and Medicine in the recent past which have also resulted in the Tamils contributing the global growth in addition to being flag bearer of the Tamil identity across the globe.

He urged the global Tamil citizens to play an active role in upgrading the infrastructure in the places of their origin, their alma mater at Tamil Nadu to global standards. He appealed the global Tamil business leaders to expand their footprint to Tamil Nadu and leverage the extraordinary skill of the local youth for the economic growth of the State and also their personal economic growth.

The Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister also visited the exhibition featuring more than 200 stalls which showcased various aspects pertaining to the life of Tamil across domains like technology, agriculture, publications, realty, food & beverages, culture to name a few. The presence of the stall of the various departments of Govt of Tamil Nadu like Industries,

social welfare, education, Information Technology, tourism highlighted the various initiatives of the Govt of Tamil Nadu for the Global Tamil Diaspora. Stalls erected by the numerous Tamil associations around the world and showcased the yeoman services rendered by these organisations to enhance the quality of life of the Tamil diaspora and nurture the linkages with Tamil Nadu

The Day 1 of the World Tamil Diaspora Day featured 7 engaging sessions with about 50 distinguished speakers from across the globe. Discussions covered a wide range of topics like Tamil education across the globe, Economic and industrial growth of Tamil diaspora, Future of Fintech and e-Commerce, EV Technology, Tamil for the world and World for Tamil, Linkage between Tamil and Indo-European languages, Welfare initiatives by the Govt of Tamil Nadu for the Tamil Diaspora in general and the rehabilitation of Sri Lankan Tamils in particular and the effectiveness of Naan Mudhalvan scheme in elevating the skill set of Tamil youth in the State and its potential global impact. The event also celebrated Tamil heritage and culture through music, dance, and theatre performances.

The celebrations of the World Tamil Diaspora day on 12 January 2025 was graced by the presence of the Honourable Chief Minister MK Stalin.

The Honourable Chief Minister during his address proudly mentioned that despite Tamils being divided by miles across oceans and continents, but united in their collective goal of enhancing the achievements and stature of Tamil diaspora, had gathered at Chennai to strategise the next steps towards achieving the common goals. He also added that the Govt of Tamil Nadu has created a new Dept for the welfare of Tamil Diaspora, which has been striving continuously towards enhancing the quality of life of Tamils, across the globe. He also shared various examples of how the newly created department swung into action whenever there were incidents of Tamil diaspora in the world facing serious problems – some of them being Tamils impacted due to the conflicts at Ukraine, Israel, fire accident at Kuwait or the political upheaval at Bangladesh. He mentioned that the Govt while playing a role for Tamils in distress, has also been an active partner for their economic and social wellbeing by formulating various schemes for the welfare of the the global ambassadors of the State – some of them being “vergalai thedi”, “enadhu gramam”, enadhu palli.

The Govt of Tamil Nadu also recognizes the efforts of global Tamil diaspora by constituting awards like “kanian poongundranar virduhu”, “thamizh mamanidhar virudhu”, “kalachara thoodhuvar” to deserving individuals. He also spoke about the various sessions organised over the 2 days wherein experts discussed various topics which celebrated the achievements of Tamils, helped curate strategies for the future of the diaspora, provided insights into technological developments which would shape our futures, dwell upon the opportunities for Tamils to build futures and various initiatives of the Govt like Naan Mudhalvan which are fast forwarding the future generations of the State. He profusely thanked the global Tamil diaspora for being at Chennai to celebrate being Tamils and assured that the Govt of Tamil Nadu would be a partner in the growth of the Tamil diaspora irrespective of their nationalities. The Hon’ble CM also announced a financial grant of Rs 10 crores for training teachers who would take Tamil language and Tamil folks arts to the global diaspora.

On the second day of the session, there were a total of 5 sessions with about 50 eminent speakers discussing on topics of interest to Tamil economic and social growth like Tamil Archeology, Biotechnology & Life sciences, Opportunities for education & employment for Indian Tamils in international economies, Medical tourism in Tamil Nadu and evolution and longevity of Tamil culture over time.

The event also witnessed a large number of Naan Mudhalvan students participating and a keen interest amongst the global Tamils to help the scheme achieve even greater results. A number of technical sessions on EV, Life-sciences, quantum computing, Semicon were also organised with a large number of accomplished Tamil scholars and scientists who shared their experience and vision with the Naan Mudhalvan students. This event also saw these accomplished scientists expressing their keenness to mentor Naan Mudhalvan scheme.

There were also a reverse buyer-seller meet organized jointly by FaMe TN, Commissionerate of Rehabilitation and Non Resident Tamils and South India Chamber of Commerce and Industry. A total of 26 overseas buyers and 226 Indian sellers (which included 82 first time exporters) participated in this event. This meet resulted in exchange of 43 MoUs worth over Rs 70 crores of economic opportunities for the global Tamils. In addition, the Govt of Tamil Nadu owned Tamil Nadu Centre for Smart and Advanced Manufacturing

(TANSAM) signed 3 MoUs with Sobha Builders Dubai, GM Ship Tech Dubai, Indira Projects Maldives which envisage training of Tamil youth through Naan Mudhalvan scheme as per the needs of these industries and creation of about 5000 jobs. A multi-partite MoU was also signed between TN Skill Development Corporation, TANSAM, Commissionerate of Rehabilitation and Non Resident Tamils and International Tamil Engineering for creation of job opportunities for Tamils across the globe.

Creation of Tamil Nadu desk at 10 countries(Germany, France, USA, Canada, South Africa, South Korea, Indonesia, Mauritius, UAE and Australia) was also formalised during the event. Tamil Sangams/Associations across the globe, Commissionerate of Rehabilitation and Non Resident Tamils and South India Chamber of Commerce and Industry signed a tri-partite MoU for enabling collaboration to establish these desks with focus on segments which include trade & investment promotion, cultural & language promotion, education & skill development, Research & development, startup & innovation, health care and tourism.

More than 2,500 attendees from over 70 countries, comprising of over 1500 global Tamils, over 500 entrepreneurs/ professionals participated in the two day event.

The World Tamil Diaspora Day 2025, true to its theme "எத்திசையும் தமிழ்ணங்கே" (Tamil in every Direction), went beyond merely nurturing connections—it provided a unique platform to celebrate Tamil heritage, culture, and innovation globally. The event created indelible marks in the minds of global Tamils which would go a long way in advancing the common goals of cultural preservation and socio-economic progress.

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