

EMBARGOED RELEASE
2300hrs, Saturday 3 April 2021

TAMIL LANGUAGE FESTIVAL 2021
ASPIRATIONS FOR THE FUTURE GENERATION

Virtual Tamil Language Festival 2021

The Tamil Language Council (TLC) is pleased to present the virtual Tamil Language Festival (TLF) 2021, taking place from 2 April to 2 May. This year's celebration will feature 44 programmes by 42 partners, as the community unites to promote and preserve the Tamil language in Singapore.

The TLF 2021 launch ceremony "*Thamizhodu Inaivom*" took place at 9pm on Saturday 3 April via a special programme telecast on Mediacorp, featuring a variety of performances by TLF programme partners and Vasantham artistes. Mr S Iswaran, Minister for Communications & Information and Minister-in-charge of Trade Relations, was Guest-of-Honour. The focus of TLF 2021 continues to underscore the importance of nurturing our future generation.

During TLF 2021, 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. TLF 2021 will welcome 6 new partners, as they present programmes featuring drama, musical, competitions and talks.

"The Tamil Language Council thanks 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," says Mr S Manogaran, Chairman of the Tamil Language Council.

Mr Manogaran adds, "This year's Tamil Language Festival celebrates the future of Tamil in Singapore. Having the festival officially launched by children and youths during the launch programme, represents our vision for the younger generation and our hopes for them to be empowered to take the lead in promoting the use of our Mother Tongue. We are also marking the 20th Anniversary of the Tamil Language Council, by introducing a Tamil Youth Festival this September. With programmes organised by youths for youths, we hope the community will support the Youth Festival and encourage the younger generation to continue using the Tamil language."

Specially for Youths and Students

The TLF has over the years, cultivated a strong youth following, and the TLC hopes that this year's festival will continue to enjoy the community's support for the youth and students' programmes.

"Tamil Aruvi", organised by Elakeyaa Selvaraji, is the festival's first-ever Tamil podcast based programme. The 5-episode podcast series will feature segments by language experts and an oratorical competition for secondary school students. This programme aims to inspire the students' confidence in speaking the Tamil language, and create an avenue for them to express their thoughts and develop their language capabilities.

Tertiary students may also be interested in “Maathi Yosi”, a Tamil short film competition based on *Bommalattam*, or shadow puppetry, organised by Singai Tamil Sangam. The competition requires the participants to select an existing Tamil movie script, and change the ending scenes based on their own imagination. They will then be required to depict their edited script using shadow puppetry. The competition aims to engage participants to express their creativity and revive the traditional art forms amongst the youths.

Anderson Serangoon Junior College, a new partner to the festival, will present a programme to showcase Tamil literary works and values through Tamil cinematic songs. Students will appreciate the intricacy of the Tamil language through its songs, as they present the values and meaning of the selected songs through dance and drama.

“You are the journalist!” is a journalism workshop and competition for secondary and tertiary students, organised by Goldfish Publications. This programme aims to cultivate student reporters as they report on TLF 2021 events. The experience will instill in students, an interest for journalism in Tamil.

For details on all programmes taking place during the Tamil Language Festival 2021, follow its Instagram page @TamilLangFestival or visit the Tamil Language Council’s Facebook page at facebook.com/tamilanguagecouncilsinsingapore, 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.