



Madurai Today
A pleasant and hazy morning on a warm afternoon. Generally partly cloudy sky. Possibility of storm in the evening. High 31°C, low 23°C. RH max 87%
Read RH as Relative Humidity



Madurai Tomorrow
Another hazy morning and warm afternoon. The sky remains partly cloudy. High 32°C, low 22°C. RH max 86%

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CLASSIFIEDS

BRIEFLY**Water level**

MADURAI: Water level in the Periyar dam on Friday stood at 132.40 feet (full level 136 feet) with an inflow of 644 cusecs and a discharge of 1,746 cusecs. The level in the Vaigai dam was 59.09 feet (71 feet) with an inflow of 1,639 cusecs and a discharge of 3,673 cusecs. The combined Periyar credit stood at 6,954 mcf. Shanmuganadi recorded 7 mm of rainfall followed by Manjalar dam and Sothuparai 3 mm each, Veerapandi 2, Perandai 1.3, Vaigai dam 1 and Tekkadi 0.5 mm.

Independent withdrawals

TUTICORIN: S. Ganesan, an independent candidate, who had filed his nomination papers before D. Ravichandran, Returning Officer, for contesting the byelection to Tiruchendur Assembly constituency, withdrew his candidature.

Special trains

MADURAI: Southern Railway will run Madurai-Melmaruvathur-Madurai special trains to meet the demands of the passengers during pilgrim season.

"Language education should be made simple"

It should be as simple as learning mother tongue: K. Chellappan

Special Correspondent

SIVAGANGA: K. Chellappan, former Director, State Institute of English, Chennai, has emphasised the need for making the language education, including English, as simple as learning the mother tongue.

Inaugurating a two-day international conference on 'Emerging trends in language and literature,' organised by the Department of English and Foreign Languages at Alagappa University in Karaikudi on Friday, he said the current pattern of systematic and structural English teaching right from the grammar level had not so far yielded the expected results.

The inefficiency of the system, though it was an organised one, had been felt by academicians.

"Repetition kills the creativity. Hence, the teaching method must focus on exploring the language through a practical manner," he said.



INFORMATIVE: K. Chellappan (second from left), former Director, State Institute of English, releasing a souvenir at Karaikudi on Friday. Andreas L. Katonis of University of Thessaloniki, Greece, receives the first copy. — PHOTO: L. BALACHANDAR.

Mr. Chellappan added that no mother spent time and took special effort to make children learn the mother tongue. They learnt language by way of life and means of action. The same system could be introduced for learning and teaching English and other languages. The practical usage of lan-

guages was the best way for better learning. S. Sudalaimuthu, Syndicate Member, Alagappa University, who presided over the function, said it had been clearly established that Indians had good command of English language. However, there was a concern that the standard and quality in using

English had been deteriorating. S. Subbiah, Head (in-charge), Department of English, in his thematic address said revolution in information and communication technology and globalisation had caused a paradigm shift in teaching of language and literature. Traditional approaches of language teaching were becoming a thing of the past. Language classes had been emerging smarter with speech technicians and linguistic scientists. With the invention of mobile phones, e-mail facilities, grammar, spelling, idiomatic expressions had gone off the window, making the task of the language teaching more challenging for the teachers.

Earlier, Mr. Chellappan released a souvenir, which was received by Andreas L. Katonis, University of Thessaloniki, Greece.

A. Shenbagavalli, Registrar (in-charge), and R. Nataraajan, Syndicate member took part.

"English mix will affect uniqueness of Tamil"

Time for stakeholders to take corrective steps: Greece linguist

C. Jaishankar

SIVAGANGA: Andreas L. Katonis, University of Thessaloniki, Greece, said that too much of influence of other languages, including English on Tamil, might endanger the language (Tamil), one of the ancient languages in the world, in the longer run.

"I find people in Tamil Nadu often speaking Tamil with the mixture of many English words. Almost all people have the same style of speaking. The attitude will not be useful in developing the language," he said.

Mr. Katonis, a linguist, was touring the State to attend conferences organised by the Alagappa University, Karaikudi and Sri Venkateshwara College of Education, Peravurani.

Speaking to *The Hindu* at Karaikudi on Thursday, he said as a linguist he would support people learning more languages in addition to the mother tongue. But, they should not use mother tongue with



Andreas L. Katonis. — PHOTO: L. BALACHANDAR.

mixture of words of other languages. If the trend continued, the influence of other languages might increase and Tamil would slowly lose its significance, uniqueness and credibility. It might figure in the list of borrowed language. Hence it was high time for all stakeholders to take corrective steps immediately.

Though it was a general phenomenon happening in several countries, it should not be allowed to continue. Though it was impossible immediately to prevent the usage of other elements in

day to day life, the stakeholders must find a balanced approach to set right the issue.

Citing an example, Mr. Katonis said that Irish was a rich language in all aspects. Despite its richness it was disappearing very fast due to the influence of another language.

He said mother tongue should be the medium of language and instructions. All materials including medicine, engineering and technical should be in mother tongue. Mother tongue languages were the medium of instruction from lower to higher level in many countries, including Greece. The people of Greece never compromised Greek, which was an ancient and great language in all aspects.

Mr. Katonis said he would try to start a Greek study centre in this part of the region to enable students to know about Greek and Greece. He would seek the support of Greece Diaspora for setting up the centre.