

Tamil Language Festival kick-starts its 10th year

P. BALA

CELEBRATING its 10th anniversary this year, the Tamil Language Festival was officially launched by Minister for Trade and Industry (Industry) S. Iswaran on April 2 at MediaCorp TV Theatre (above).

Themed “Love Tamil, Speak Tamil”, the festival will run until April 30. It will have a series of literary, oratorical and cultural events aimed at encouraging the community to use the language in their daily lives.

Since the festival’s inception, youth participation in related programmes has been on the rise, said Mr Iswaran, who is the advisor to the Tamil Language Council, which spearheads the annual event.

He told reporters that it is encouraging to see youths participating in these events as well as coming forward to organise them.

“When youths come forward to organise events for their peers, it reflects their passion for the language and culture and are aware of its importance,” said Mr Iswaran.

The Tamil Language Council with its 40 co-partners will host a total of 42 programmes to celebrate the month-long festival this year.

To engage students from the junior colleges,



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polytechnics and ITE (Institute of Technical Education) colleges, the National University of Singapore – Tamil Language Society hosted the Yutham 2016 game show on April 3 in Woodlands Regional Library.

Said the society’s president Arul Oswin, 23, a second-year mechanical engineering student: “After post-secondary education, there are limited opportunities for most students to be involved in Tamil language-related activities. We thought that organising a game show centred around guessing Tamil words would rekindle their interest in the language.”

Chairman of the Tamil Language Council R. Rajaram said he was pleased with the increasing youth participation.

“We started with the intent of reaching out to youths. Ten years have passed and we are well on course to realising our aim. Youth participation in the Tamil Language Festival has increased progressively and we are confident that the growth will be sustainable in the coming years,” he said.

P. Bala is a journalist with Tamil Murasu.