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4 held for stoning trains



By Our Staff Reporter

Railway Protection Force personnel from Mambalam arrested 4 persons for allegedly throwing stones and empty liquor bottles at moving trains on Dec. 13.

S. Maharajan (Sub-Inspector) told *Mambalam Times* that the arrests were made under the supervision of S. R. Gandhi (Senior Divisional Security Commissioner, Chennai Division).

The 4 persons were identified as T. Baby (32), K. Raju (26), P. Seenu (25) and G. Sakthivel.

They were said to be drug addicts who were involved in similar cases earlier.

Maharajan said that there is round-the-clock police patrolling to prevent untoward incidents.

Those requiring assistance may contact him in phones 2432 2515 and 94440 69431.

'Ayodhya Hanuman' darshan next Sunday

By Our Staff Reporter

An idol of Hanuman brought from Ayodhya will be kept for darshan on Sunday, Dec. 25 in Pandian Hall, Station Road, West Mambalam.

All are welcome. More details can be had in phone 2471 1678.

In Anjaneya Seva Sabha

There will be 'Vennaikaappu alangaaram' for the presiding deity in Sri Anjaneya Seva Sabha, Hanumar Koil Street, West Mambalam at 9 a.m on Saturday, Dec. 24 as part of Sri Hanumath Jayanthi celebrations.

K. Jayaraman and party will sing bhajans from 4 p.m to 6 p.m.

Devotees can participate in Sankalpam on payment of Rs. 100.

There will be special 'alangaaram' and poojas from 7 a.m to 9 a.m and 6 p.m to 8 p.m on Jan. 1 (New Year's Day) and Jan. 5 (Vaikunta Ekadesi).

There will be special poojas for Hanuman from 7 a.m to 9 a.m and 6 p.m to 8 p.m from Dec. 17 to Jan. 18 (Margazhi month).

More details can be had from R. M. Devanatha Desikan in phones 98415 02313 and 99627 03990.

1-lakh 'vadamaalai' for Hanuman

The idol of Lord Hanuman will be adorned with a one-lakh 'vadamaalai' at 8 a.m on Saturday, Dec. 24 in Sri Karumaari Thirupurasundari Temple, Samiyar Garden, Ashok Nagar as part of 15th year Hanuman Jayanthi celebrations.

S. Ramesh (Purohit) told *Mambalam Times* that idols of

In Sankara Math

Special programs have been organized in Sri Sringeri Jagadguru Sankara Math (38/29, Krupasankari Street, West Mambalam) at 7 p.m on Dec. 24 as part of Sri Hanumath Jayanthi celebrations.

50% discount on mehendi course

By Our Staff Reporter

S. Vijayalakshmi (resident of D-5, 240 TNHB Flats, 7th Avenue, Ashok Nagar), who conducts arts and crafts classes for women, is offering a discount of 50% on a 10-day mehendi course till Dec. 31.

She can be contacted for more details in phones 90433 86540 and 2371 1835.

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Free 'Psoriasis & arthritis' camp

By Our Staff Reporter

Dr. M. Selvakumar will conduct a free 'Psoriasis and arthritis' check-up camp from 9 a.m to 4 p.m on Sunday, Dec. 18 in Surya Health Center, 64, South Usman Road, T. Nagar. He will also offer counselling.

Dr. Amal (In-charge) told *Mambalam Times* that there will be screening for skin diseases, joint pains, hair fall and other problems.

More details can be had in telephone number 98412 93346.

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TAMIL CINEMA 75 - A LOOK BACK

By RANDOR GUY

Balachandar was still in government service and, at one stage, he found it difficult to obtain leave of absence to work in movies. Even in the best of times, cinema is a highly insecure profession. It was more so for the likes of Balachandar with a steady secure monthly take-home-pay government job and no family wealth to fall back upon in times of need. Many creative men in movies and writing around the world have faced this cross-roads crisis in their lives, and Balachandar faced it now. He discussed the situation with Meiyappan. Aware of his abundant creative talent and skills, the great talent scout unhesitatingly encouraged Balachandar to take the plunge. That was not all. He offered him a three-picture contract for three years during which he could not only write the three films but also direct them! Such was the confidence that Meiyappan had in Balachandar. Well, he did not go wrong and he gave the well-deserved break to a major talent of Indian cinema.

Balachandar took his bow as filmmaker taking up his play "Neerkumizhi" (1965) in which he used mostly the cast of his drama troupe such as 'Sowcar' Janaki, Nagesh, 'Major' Sundararajan and V. Gopalakrishnan.

Another film was 'Major Chandrakanth'. In this film the female lead was played by Jayalalitha, an attractive sophisticated actress well on her way to become a multilingual superstar. Later she would emerge forth as a charismatic cult figure and political leader heading her party. She would also head the State of Tamilnadu as its Chief Minister and play a significant role in Indian politics.

Balachandar blossomed forth as trend-setter and a major force in Tamil cinema. In his films he was the star and, indeed, the development of the international concept of the filmmaker as the star began with him in Tamil cinema. He discovered many new talents and groomed them to stardom. Two of them became superstars: Kamalahanan and Rajinikanth, the cult figure of today with an incredible mass following.

The success story of Balachandar began with bells on, thanks to the encouragement given by Meiyappan. One of the many meritorious services rendered in such great measure by Meiyappan to Indian cinema is his talent-scouting and promotion of talent. Not many Indian producers can lay such a claim. Very creditable indeed!

Similarly, 'Javert' Seetharaman's contribution to Meiyappan and his films has been immense and exemplary. One of the finest screenwriters of Indian cinema, he was an expert in adaptation, and had a special talent and skills in introducing scenes of native Indian sentiments in his scripts which touched the deep chords of the hearts and minds of moviegoers. This was the main reason for his success. His deep knowledge of cinema helped him to get the impact and effect of what he had conceived and he would insist on his directors to obtain them. Such was his perseverance and tenacity of purpose!

One of the many successful live-action movies of Walt Disney was 'The Parent Trap' (1961), featuring the famed Hollywood star Maureen O'Hara and noted British actress Hayley Mills as the twins. She was then fifteen. An interesting film about twins bringing together their separated parents, it had a long and successful run in India. Its family sentiments, bond between the twins and such typical Indian family features went well with the local audiences. Seetharaman adapted it well in Tamil, making the necessary changes and giving the screenplay his characteristic touch to suit the local milieu, ambiance and audiences whom he knew so well.

Titled 'Kuzhandaiyum Deivamum' (1965), it was directed by Krishnan-Panju and had the popular 'Bondish' hero of his heyday, Jai Shankar and Jamuna as the separated parents. The talented child actress of her day, Kutti Padmini, played roles of the twins with much appeal and empathy with the right mix of childish innocence and mischief. The film was a box-office success and enjoyed 100-days' run in many places.

The 100-days' run is the benchmark of success in south Indian cinema. If, additionally, a film scores a 25-week run, it is rated as a mega hit!

(To be continued)

Engineer installs 'loft bed' in flat



By Our Staff Reporter

S. Sriram (resident of Rail-way Border Road, West Mambalam), a mechanical engineer, has installed what he calls a 'loft bed' in his flat to save space.

The 'loft bed' has become popular with relatives and friends who have also installed

a similar facility.

It can be reached using a short flight of narrow, wooden steps which can also be used as storage space.

Sriram told *Mambalam Times* that when he bought his 2-bedroom flat 2 years back he decided to do the interior work himself. After repeated

Dharmasastha Thirukalyana Mahotsavam

By Our Staff Reporter

Sri Poorna, Pushkalambal Sametha Sri Dharmasastha Thirukalyana Mahotsavam will be celebrated for the 27th year on Dec. 17 and 18 in Kanchimathi Kalyana Mandapam, 11B, South Boag Road, T. Nagar.

The following is the program:

Dec. 17

6 a.m: Sri Mahaganapathi homam, guru pooja.

7 a.m: Sri Poorna, Pushkalambal Sametha Sri Dharmasastha laksharchanai.

12 noon: Maha deeparathanai, annadhanam.

3 p.m: Bhajans.

5 p.m: Special poojas.

5.30 p.m: 108 Thiruvillaku pooja.

6.30 p.m: Sri Vishnu sahasraama paarayanam.

7 p.m: Janavasam.

7.30 p.m: Ganashathi meditation and dolotsavam.

Dec. 18

7 a.m: Unjavriti.

7.30 p.m: Sri Poorna, Pushkalambal Sametha Sri Dharmasastha bhajans, divyanaamam, Sastha songs, thirukalyanam, Sri Anjaneya utsavam and feast.

All are welcome.

The program has been organized by Agree Kannan (Guruswamy) (98403 05141) and V. S. V. Subramanian (97898 25597).

Special homam for 'Seni Peyarchi'

By Our Staff Reporter

There will be special homam at 6.30 a.m on Wednesday, Dec. 21 in Sri Siva-Vishnu Temple, Usman Road, T. Nagar on the occasion of 'Seni Peyarchi'.

There will be special abhishekam and alangaaram

for Lord Saneeswara at 7.45 a.m.

All are welcome.

More details can be had in phone 2434 6031.

Child Helpline 1098

trial and error, he hit upon the idea of the 'loft bed'.

He said that this was ideal for small flats where they will come in handy if the family is large or expands.

Sriram said that he is ready to provide guidance for installing 'loft beds' according to the space available in a flat. Those interested may call him in 93825 13825.

He also holds MBA (Marketing) and M.Tech (Structural Engineering) degrees.

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Trench in which teacher died still unfilled

By Our Staff Reporter

The open trench dug for a stormwater drain at the junction of Krishna Street and North Usman Road, T. Nagar in which a young teacher lost her life on Nov. 4 is still to be filled.

The trench was filled with rain water and, in the absence of barricades and warning signs, she fell into the trench and was drowned.

In a knee-jerk reaction, the Chief Minister ordered the Corporation to place barricades and warning signs along trenches where work was in progress.

Picture above was taken on Dec. 16.



'Swathi Thirumanjana pooja' on Wednesday

Sri Swathi Nrusimha Maha Yagna Trust will conduct 'Swathi Thirumanjana pooja' for Sri Yagnamoorthy at 12 noon on Wednesday, Dec. 21 in Sri Mukkur Lakshmi Nrusimhachariar Sannidhi, 34/24, Venkatesan Street, T. Nagar.

There will be Sri Lakshmi Nrusimhar manthirajapam at 7 a.m.

There will be 'Vadamalai alangaaram' for Lord Hanuman at 7.30 p.m. on Dec. 24 as part of Hanuman Jayanthi celebrations. All are welcome.

More details can be had in phone 2435 3704.

Kids celebrate Christmas



By Our Staff Reporter

Kindergarten students of Sir M. Venkatasubba Rao School, T. Nagar sang Christmas carols, set up Christmas trees and made a model depicting the birth

of Jesus Christ on Dec. 9 as part of Christmas celebrations.

A. Muthamil Arasan (Principal) told *Mambalam Times* that Santa Claus presented gifts to the children.



Free Veda classes on Sundays

By Our Staff Reporter

Sri Sai Seva Chakra (15, Bharathi Street, West Mambalam) conducts free Veda classes from 6.30 a.m. to 7.30 a.m. on Sundays in Sri Krishna Gana Sabha, Maharajapuram Santhanam Salai, T. Nagar.

Veda classes are conducted from 3.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. on Sundays in Sri Krishna Gana Sabha, Maharajapuram Santhanam Salai, T. Nagar.

All are welcome.

More details can be had in phone 98843 05676.

Tops 1st batch of SRM Medical College

By Our Staff Reporter

Dr. Krithika Meenakshi (resident of Sri Saiflats, Vasan Street, T. Nagar) was presented a gold medal by SRM University for obtaining the 1st rank in examinations in all the years of the MBBS course (2005 to 2010).

A student of the first batch of SRM Medical College, Kattankulathur, she was adjudged the 'Best Outgoing Student'. She has undergone special training in Harvard Medical School, Boston, USA.

Krithika is preparing for PG entrance examination and would like to become a paediatrician or a gynaecologist.

She is an accomplished bharathanatyam dancer and



an expert in fashion jewellery making. She does social service including reading books for visually challenged students. Krithika studied in T.V.S. Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Madurai.

Her mother Revathi Janakiram is also a doctor.

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The parcel center in T. Nagar Head Post-office on Sivagnanam Road will remain open on Sunday, Dec. 18 in view of approaching Christmas and New Year, according to a press release.

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Requisition forms for Admission to classes LKG - X can be had from the school office between 9 a.m. & 1p.m. on 19th & 20th DEC 2011

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