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Vigneshwar's keyboard concert on Friday



By Our Staff Reporter
V. G. Vigneshwar (17) (resident of BRP Street, West Mambalam. Ph: 98409 68953/ 98400 68953) will present a keyboard concert at 6 p.m on Friday, Feb. 21 in TTD Sravanam Hall, Venkatanarayana Road, T. Nagar.

He started performing at the age of 5. He has presented more than 1000 concerts all over India. He plays Carnatic music, devotional songs and film songs. He is a disciple of vocalist and mridanga vidwan T. V. Gopalakrishnan.

Vigneshwar is doing 1st year B.Tech.

All are welcome.

Bhajan program from Feb. 22

By Our Staff Reporter

Sri Rama Bhaktha Jana Samaj (K. K. Nagar. Ph: 2366 1529) has organized bhajan programs starting Feb. 22 in Conference Hall, Meenakshi College of Engineering, Vembuliamman Koil Street, K. K. Nagar.

The following are details:

Feb. 22: 6 p.m: Mumbai Ganesh Kumar.

Feb. 23: 4 p.m: Ananthanarayanan; 6 p.m: Prof. Anantharaman.

Feb. 24: 6 p.m: Kalyani Margabandhu.

Feb. 25 & 26: 6 p.m: Udayalur K. Kalyanaraman.

Feb. 27: 6 p.m: Bhakthaswara Bhajan Mandali.

Feb. 28: 6 p.m: Abhang bhajans by Pushpa Anand.

March 1: 6 p.m: Cuddalore Gopi.

March 2: 9 a.m: Radha Kalayanam by Kovai Jayaraman; 6 p.m: Chaithanya Bhajan Mandali.

All are welcome.

Minor accident causes traffic jam

By Our Staff Reporter

A minor accident involving an autorickshaw and a tourist cab on Nageswaran Road, T. Nagar at 2 p.m on Feb. 10 resulted in traffic disruption for more than half an hour before it was cleared by police.

The accident was caused when a passenger in the cab suddenly opened the righthand side door just as the vehicle stopped in the middle of road, and the autorickshaw hit against it. The autorickshaw driver parked his vehicle in front of the cab and a quarrel broke out. Passersby also interfered resulting in the traffic jam.



Prize for poster on palliative care



By Our Staff Reporter

Medical social work students of Loyola College, Madras Christian College and Mar Gregorious College undergoing field and job training in palliative care in RMD Pain and Palliative Care Trust (13, Raghavaiah Road, T. Nagar. Ph: 93810 16588) won the 'Best poster award' in the International Social Work Conference conducted by

Department of Social Work (Shift II, Madras School of Social Work) on Feb. 8.

Mousumi Sinha (student of Mar Gregorious College) received the award on behalf of the winning team.

The poster aimed to create public awareness about palliative care, improve access to services and involve communities in palliative care.

Homam for students appearing for exams

By Our Staff Reporter

Sri Anusham (functioning in Goshala, Kasi Viswanathar Koil Street, West Mambalam. Ph: 98842 90540) will perform 'Avahanthi homam' and 'Medha Dhakshinamurthy Homam' at 9 a.m on Saturday, Feb. 22 in the Goshala

premises on the occasion of Sri Maha Periva Anusham Day and for divine blessings for students appearing for public examinations this year.

Shyamala Subramanian (Organizer) said that holy 'rakshai' kept in the pooja will be distributed among students after the homam.

There will be annadhanam on the occasion.

Devotees may contribute for the annadhanam under the 'Oru pidi rice' scheme as directed by Maha Periva.

All are welcome.

335 students participate in State-level chess tourney

By Our Staff Reporter

335 players from all over Tamilnadu participated in the 20th Sri Ahobila Math Inter-School Chess Tournament held in the school's premises on Feb. 9.

It was conducted in four age categories separately for boys and girls.

Prizes to the winners were distributed by M.A. Kabeer (Judge, Metropolitan Magistrate Court).

Exhibition-cum-sale by Vaigai Sanitation

Vaigai Sanitation (Mylapore) is holding its annual exhibition-cum-sale of sanitary items and tiles from Thursday, Feb. 20, to Monday, Feb. 24, from 10 a.m to 8 p.m at all its branches.

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TAMIL CINEMA 75 - A LOOK BACK

By RANDOR GUY

TAMIL CINEMA AND MUSIC - 83

Viswanathan used a wide array of musical instruments - accordion, piccolo, melodeon, xylophone, tuba, bongos, keyboard and Indian, Western and even African percussion instruments - which had never been used earlier in Tamil Cinema. He has also sung in some films.

At one stage Viswanathan and Ramamurthi parted company. But MSV continued to forge ahead in his career. He also turned producer, which of course did not make him a happy man!

Viswanathan had the excellent support of a talented team of arrangers, composing assistants, and instrument players. Mention must be made of Sankararaman (Subbaraman's brother), G. K. Venkatesh, Henry Daniel, Joseph Krishna, Joe (keyboard), Sivamani (drums), Nanjappa Reddi (flute), Gopalakrishnan (percussion), Mangalamurthi (accordion), Ben Surender (keyboard) and Frank Dubier (trumpet).

Now in his eighties, Viswanathan still composes music and acts in movies and television serials.

ELLIS R. DUNGAN

ELLIS R. DUNGAN, an Ohio-born American, became a memorable Tamil film-maker and made hits and classics in Tamil. He knew not a word of the language its culture, customs or tradition. Yet, he created many immortal movies based mostly on its classics, epics and folk myths, 'Sathi Leelavathi' (1936), 'Iru Sahotharargal' (1936), 'Ambikapathi' (1937), 'Kalamegam' (1939), 'Sakunthalai' (1940), 'Meera' (1945), 'Ponmudi' (1950) and 'Mantirikumari' (1950). The last-mentioned movie is a cult film and still in circulation.

He was a brilliant film technician equally at home with the movie camera, lights, editing tools, screenwriting, make-up, direction and more. To this day he is admired for his incredible achievements and the mastery over the movie camera was one of his extraordinary assets. He studied the customs, rituals, rites, tradition, and beliefs of the period of the film he was making. As he did not know Tamil he insisted in involving himself heart and soul in the picture from the day he was engaged. He took active part in every session of the story discussion, film treatment, and the final screenplay of his films with his writers and assistants. He had every Tamil word translated into English and typed in double space paper sheets for his study.

For 'Kalamegam' (1939), in which the nagaswaram genius T. N. Rajaratnam Pillai was the hero, he shot a sequence never done before in South Indian cinema. Kalamegam, a famous Tamil poet, had the gift of his abuses and curses coming true! In anger, he curses that a village beside the sea should be destroyed in storm and floods! To shoot this exciting sequence Dungan took shots in the village and then erected large-sized miniatures on the sands of the Bay of Bengal beyond Adyar in Chennai. In that period, areas of today like Besant Nagar and beyond did not exist. It was all a vast open stretch of sand and sea! Operating the camera himself, he shot the storm and flood scenes there, using fans and churners, and the effect was electrifying!

Ellis R. Dungan was born in Barton, Ohio, U.S. on May 11, 1909. His ancestors hailed from Dungansville, a village in Ireland. Dungan joined the Department of Cinematography and Motion Picture Production of the renowned University of Southern California (USC) in Los Angeles. At USC, Dungan made friends with two fellow students and the three formed a group. They made a student film called 'The Oval Portrait' with some B-grade but known Hollywood stars acting free.

Thus, Dungan and others came close to several Hollywood personalities. Such persons included the celebrated stars Bob Hope, Bing Crosby and Alan Ladd. The other two in the trio were an American, Michael Omalov, and an Indian, Manik Lal Tandon.

M. L. Tandon was to play a leading role in Dungan's life. He invited Dungan to come to India and work with him. He was a successful film-maker of 1930-1940s and made hits in Tamil like 'Bhama Vijayam' (1934). Dungan joined M. L. Tandon's unit for 'Nandanar' (1935) - in which K. B. Sundarambal was the 'hero'! - and shot many sequences which did not require Tandon's presence. Then it happened!

(To be continued)

Metro Rail to conduct 5-km test run on Koyambedu-Ashok Pillar stretch



Chennai Metro Rail Ltd. (CMRL) is gearing up for a 5-km test run on the Koyambedu-Ashok Pillar stretch along Jawaharlal Nehru Road. While the project faced a set-

back with the recent cancellation of a contract between CMRL and Consolidated Construction Consortium Ltd., officials have asked other contractors like L&T, URCL and

Soma to pitch in to ensure that the test run takes place in the coming week. "We are almost set for the longest test run of the project so far," said an official of CMRL. Earlier, a metro

train was taken out of the Koyambedu depot to a ramp to check the basic functions, he said. The initial deadline for the trial run on the line was mid-July of last year, he added.

Aid provided for underprivileged persons



Apoorva Women's Association (27, Arulambal Street, T. Nagar. Ph: 93814 93939) provided assistance for differently abled and underprivileged persons during its 19th anniversary

celebrations in Vani Mahal, T. Nagar on Feb. 12.

The program was also organized as a tribute to late Sarojini Vardhappan.

Radha Krishnamoorthy (As-

sociation President) said that aid distributed included 3 tricycles and, 2 calipers for physically challenged persons, sewing machines for 3 women and marriage assistance for two girls. She said that Rs. 5000 each was given to Women's India Association, Arvind Foundation (a charitable organization for special children) and Gnanodaya (for rehabilitation of leprosy patients).

Members of Apoorva presented watches, calculators and other stationery to 3 school students adopted by the Association.

Radha said that the Association has been providing educational assistance for poor students for several years.

Wins State-level spelling bee contest



By Our Staff Reporter

K. Niveditha (resident of 37/18, Raj Villa, Chakrapani Street, West Mambalam) came first in the State-level spelling bee contest conducted by WIZ National Spell Bee in Kolkota recently.

She secured the 21st position at the national-level contest.

She is a Std. 7 student in B.S. Mootha Girls School, West Mambalam.

Lions Club honours Tex Bioscience MD

By Our Staff Reporter

The title of 'Jana Seva Rathna' was conferred on R. P. Krishnammachari (Managing Director, Tex Bioscience Pvt. Ltd., Textan House, 75, 4th Avenue, Ashok Nagar) by Lions Club International District 324 A8 during its zonal meeting in Kanna Farms, Uthandi on Feb. 8 for humanitarian service in the fields of education and medicine.

Krishnammachari handed over a cheque for Rs. 10 lakhs to Sankara Raman Secretary, Amar Seva Sangam, Ayikudi, a non-government organization caring for 650 physically and mentally challenged persons. He has been giving the donation to the Sangam for the past 5 years.



Wins 1st prize in drawing contest



By Our Staff Reporter

G. Sanchi (resident of 33/1, Thiruvalluvar Street, Ethiraj Nagar, West Mambalam and Std. 6 student of Chettinad Vidyashram) won the 1st prize in the inter-school drawing competition conducted by Vasantha Memorial Trust in Rosary Matriculation School, Mylapore on Feb. 2.

About 250 students from various schools participated in the competition.

Exhibition of sculptures and wood carvings

By Our Staff Reporter

'Sirpangal', an exclusive exhibition of bronze idols, wood carvings and stone sculptures organized by Tamilnadu Handicraft Development Corporation (108, Anna Salai) is ongoing from Feb. 7 to 20 in Sankara Hall (TTK Road, Alwarpet).

On display are a wide selection of metal statues made of bronze and brass, wood carvings made out of sandal, rose,



white and country wood, marble, gem stone, granite, terracotta, papier mache statues and Vellarukku Chennapatna and Kondapalli figurines.

The bronze idols specially sculpted for the exhibition in Swamimalai include Belur Krishnar, Lakshmi standing, Natarajar, Chandrasekar, Siddhi Buddhi Vinayagar, Rishabadevar, Siva Rudhrathandavam, Chennakesava

Perumal, Vinayagar, Nadana Vinayagar, Nadana Saraswathy, sets of Ranganathar, 32 Vinayagar, Ramar, Perumal, Mariamman and others.

The exhibition is open from 10 a.m to 8 p.m. A discount of 10% is offered on all the items.

An official said that the exhibition is a rare opportunity to see and buy statues made with different materials and appreciate the skill of the craftsmen.

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Project to redevelop T. Nagar bus terminus cleared



committee on non-motorised transport and infrastructure at its recent meeting.

There is heavy congestion in the terminus though a number of buses are also being parked on Burkit Road and Police Quarters Road. Traffic is also disrupted in the area. There is also a proposal to build a multi-storied complex in the bus terminus. Benches and a public convenience are required for waiting passengers. A board displaying timings is also a necessity.

By Our Staff Reporter
Redevelopment of T. Nagar MTC bus terminus was among

the key projects cleared by the Chennai Unified Metropolitan Transport Authority's Sub-

Akhanda Ganam in Ayodhya Mandapam from Friday

By Our Staff Reporter

CARVA (C.A. Rajasekar's Violin Academy, Rajaji Street, West Mambalam) will conduct Sri Purandaradasar Mahotsavam on Friday, Feb. 21, and Thyagaraja Swamigal Akhanda Ganam (non-stop 24-hour rendition of the Thyagaraja krithis without repetition, sans raga alapana, niraval and kalpanaswaras) from 8.30 a.m onwards on Saturday, Feb. 22, and Sunday, Feb. 23, in Ayodhya Mandapam (Arya Gowda Road, West Mambalam).

All are welcome. For details, please contact CARVA in 2489 6073 or 98401 39156.

No easy rider!



By Our Staff Reporter

A physically challenged woman driving her 3-wheeled scooter with her mother seated in front her on G. N. Chetty Road, T. Nagar on Feb. 10.

Lec-Dem on 'Krishna Karnamrutham' at 6 p.m today

By Our Staff Reporter

M. Vijayalakshmi and 12 of her students will perform 'Sri Krishna Karnamrutham' - a Lec-Dem comprising of songs of Oothukadu Venkata Subaiyer on Saturday, Feb. 15, from 6 p.m to 8 p.m in Sraavanam Hall (Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam, Venkatnarayana Road, T. Nagar).

She is a resident of Nu-tech Vijaya Apartments, 11/5, Rajunaicken Street, West Mambalam, and has been running her music school Vijaya Kalalaya from her residence for more than 30 years.

She has performed a number of Lec-Dems with her students in various temples in Chennai. His contact number is 98844 84860.

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Ayurveda camp today, tomorrow

By Our Staff Reporter

Limra Ayurveda Panchakarma Center (28/4, Brindavan Street, West Mambalam. Ph: 99623 68246. 99621 64142) has organized a free ayurveda medical camp for those suffering from 'Lumbar spondylosis and cervical spondylosis problems' from 10 a.m to 5 p.m on Feb. 15 and 16 in its premises.

A team of doctors led by Dr. A. Abdul Latif (Ayurvedic consultant) will examine the patients.

The camp will be suitable for persons suffering from neck pain, back pain and rheumatic problems.

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Trust helps man undergo rare surgery

By Our Staff Reporter

Ungalukatha Charitable Trust (1, Vijaraghava Road, T. Nagar) helped 29-year-old Karthikeyan, afflicted with polyarthrits from childhood, undergo rare surgery in Gov-

ernment General Hospital which has enabled him to walk again.

He underwent multiple major joint replacement surgeries costing Rs. 2 lakhs provided by the Trust after Dr. Suneel (Founder and Managing Trustee) was contacted by Dr. V. Kanagasabai (Dean, Rajiv Gandhi General Hospital). Dr. Suneel said that lack of proper medical facilities and attention resulted in Karthikeyan's condition deteriorating. The debilitating disease affected his major joints which left him bedridden for 17 years. He was admitted to GH for treatment.

Firstly, he needed replace-



ment of joints in hips, knees and elbows besides corrective surgeries in wrists and fingers. Not only were the operations extremely complex but expensive too. The cost of the hip prosthesis along with stem extensions worked out to Rs.1,32,000 and that of the hip implant Rs.68,000.

The right hip and knee replacements were carried out under the Chief Minister's

Health Scheme.

The surgeries included uncemented hip arthroplasty and semi-constrained knee arthroplasty with femoral and tibial stem extensions.

Dr. Singara Vadivel, senior Orthopaedic Surgeon, and his team performed the surgeries.

Those who need medical assistance may contact Dr. Suneel in phone 95512 96999.

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Talk on 'Thiru Arutpa' on Tuesday

By Our Staff Reporter

Under the auspices of Valalar Sanmargasangam (V.O. C Street, MGR Nagar, Ph: 94453 43706), M.B. Babu will give a discourse on 'Thiru Arutpa - Abaya Thiran' on Tuesday, February 11, at 6 p.m in Sakthi Vinayagar Temple (P.T. Rajan Salai, K.K. Nagar).

All are welcome.

Elected president of Administrative Tribunal of ADB



By Our Staff Reporter
In its 35th session held on Feb.

10, the Administrative Tribunal of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) elected Lakshmi Swaminathan (resident of 32, Thirumurthi Street, T. Nagar) as its president for the next three years.

Lakshmi, who has been a member of the Tribunal since 2010, had been its acting president since August last year. ADB consists of 64 member countries including India. It finances infrastructure development projects in India and other developing countries.

She is the first Indian to be elected to the post.

She is the 7th president of the Tribunal which was established in 1992.

She is an eminent jurist and was the vice chairman of the Principal Bench of the Central Administrative Tribunal (New Delhi).

She had served in the Ministry of Law & Justice for over 20 years.

She is a member in the panel of arbitrators of several public sector undertakings and the National Stock Exchange of India.

She was also a legal advisor to several ministries and departments of the Govt. of India.

Bhagavatha Sapthaham in Sankara Math from Wednesday

By Our Staff Reporter

Sri Sringeri Jagadguru Sankara Math (38/29, Krupasankari Street, West Mambalam, Ph: 2483 5701) has organized Sri Bhagavatha Sapthaham - a seven-day recitation and discourse of the 18,000 slokas of Srimad Bhagavata Puranam by Brahmasri B. Sunder Kumar from Feb. 19 to 26 in its premises.

The sloka recitation will take place from 4 p.m to 6 p.m and the discourses will be held from 6.45 p.m to 9 p.m on all the days.

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