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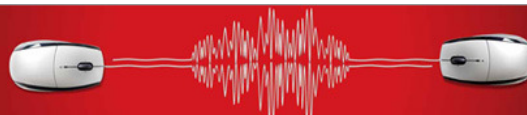
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3rd March 2010 - Vol. XXXII No. 348

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LOCAL NEWS

10-day festivities to observe Onam

Posted on » Friday, August 21, 2009

THE Kerala Social and Cultural Association (KSCA) has planned a 10-day celebration to mark the Kerala harvest festival of Onam next week.

The Athachamayam celebration will begin with an opening ceremony at 7.30pm on Sunday at the association premises in Gudaibiya.

Onakalkal, an evening of traditional games will take place on August 24, followed by an Onavirinnu food festival on August 25, a Koothambalam dance festival on August 26 and an Onam feast and magic show for children on August 27.

The KSCA has also planned a grand Onasadhya feast and cultural celebration at 7pm on August 28 at the Palace Bahrain hotel, Adliya.

Celebrations will continue at the KSCA on August 29 with a literary evening - Sahitya Sandhya.

This will be followed by an Onappattukal musical evening featuring Indian vocalist Sunil Nedungadi and his troupe on August 30, an evening of entertainment programmes - Nattarangu - on August 31 and a prize distribution ceremony on September 4.

Competition

All events at the KSCA will begin at 7.30pm. Entry will be free for members and their sponsored guests.

A nine-day Pookalam floral arrangement competition will also take place as part of the festival.

LIC International chief executive and managing director R Thamodharan will open the festival.

Indian Embassy first secretary A Ajay Kumar will be chief guest at the grand celebration on August 23, while Kerala-based economics professor, poet and songwriter Murugan Kattakkada will be guest of honour.

More than 1,000 members and guests are expected to attend the celebration that will feature traditional stage items, including Panchavadyam, Thiruvathira, Padayani traditional folkloric dances.

Amad Baeed group of companies managing director Pambavasam Nair, National Fire Fighting Company managing director Rajasekaran Pillai, UAE Exchange Company Bahrain country head Santhosh Nair and Bahrain-based businessmen P Sethumadhavan, J P Mohanan Pillai, C P Prabhakaran, Rajendrakumaran Nair, V R Pillai, Vijayan Pillai, A Anilkumar, V V Sasisdharan and N R Surendranathan were named the event's sponsors.



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