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LAND

The Island Leisure

Inside

Bollywood star Madhuri Dixit to play former **Indian PM Indira Gandhi**



Former Bollywood queen Madhuri Dixit will play Indira Gandhi, India's first and only female prime minister, in a biopic, according to reports in the Indian media.

Children should be allowed to play in the dirt, new research suggests



Scientists have discovered that bacteria on the surface of the skin play an important role in combating inflammation when we get hurt.

Lost: Darwin's missing notebook



An appeal has been launched to track down one of Charles Darwin's most important notebooks, which was probably stolen in the early 1980s.

Christmas at the Grand, Nuwara Eliya

by Steve A. Morrell

Christmas this year at the Grand Hotel Nuwara Eliya is going to be as grand as it was in spacious times long gone. "That will be what Christmas will be this December," said Managing Director, Nuwara Eliya Hotels Company PLC, Gerard Ondaatjie.

"The emergence of peace has



much to do with it. We had lean times, but this year we are determined to celebrate Christmas as we did in the old days. The tradition of Christmas will be brought back."

The Grand Hotel, steeped in Colonial culture, once the residence of Governor Sir Edward Barns (1830-1850), is located amidst sprawling gardens, located in transformed settings of the old English countryside.

Icons of that pristine age are still within striking distance of the 'Grand': the Nuwara Eliya Golf Club, Gregory's Lake, all indelible landmarks that attach that degree of romanticism to the entire landscape.

The Grand Hotel this year at Christmas will probably give the environs of the hotel and then some, that special something that only Nuwara Eliya could give.

Ondaatjie said that the hotel has 156 well appointed guest rooms and the usual five star comforts.

A giant 16-foot Christmas tree will dominate the entrance and straight

off, as you enter the drive in from the main road intersection, you will be enveloped in the ambiance of Christmas.

Pictures on this page will identify what words could not quite portray.

The jump off day for festivities will be December 13. It's the second Sunday in December and will continue throughout the month, right up to December 31.

'Carols by the log', an exciting innovation will deliver what it promises. Different choirs will sing, with guests joining in.

What more could you ask for?

December 19 will be the Grand Christmas Party for the hotel staff and he said they could look forward to a rollicking time with Santa, but no reindeer.

Also present at the press discussion were General Manager, Grand Hotel, Palaka Perera, Group Accountant, Ravindra Fernando, Accountant Head Office, Asheeni Boteju, Sales Manager, Tangerine Beach Hotels Ltd., Kanishka Fernando and Interior Designer, Andre Estafan.

In the picture, at center, Gerard Ondaatjie, right, Palaka Fernando, at left, Ravindra Fernando, Asheeni Boteju, Kanishka Fernando and Andre Estefan.

