

# Sudha, Sanjay are best: Rasikas

By OUR CORRESPONDENT

Chennai, Jan. 19: Sanjay Subramaniam and Sudha Raghunathan were rated as the best male and female singers respectively by carnatic music *rasikas* during the recently held annual music festival here.

According to a survey conducted by IRC-Wide Vision Market Intelligence and Future Studies during the festival held between December 15, 2007 and January 1, 2008, 37 per cent of the audience said Sanjay Subramaniam was the best male singer, followed by T.N. Seshagopalan with 23



Sudha Raghunathan

per cent. Among the women singers, Sudha Raghunathan was rated by 30 per cent while 21 per cent voted for Bombay Jayashree. The survey was conducted among 750 people spread across nearly 100 *sabhas* during the festival



Sanjay Subramaniam

season. It said *rasikas* also expressed fear that instruments like violin, veena and nadaswaram would "die" if renditions on these were not given prime time slots during the festival.

Also, the practice of prominent *sabhas* announc-

ing the names of performers seven months in advance has created "pressure" on them. Those left out or not allotted prime time—which is during 0930-1200 hours during the day and the entire evening time—were ignored by the other *sabhas*. This would create mental tension among the budding artistes, the survey added. It also said 41 per cent of the *rasikas* preferred Music Academy as the best managed auditorium for its ambience and sound system. It was also preferred by 33 per cent of the audiences for "judicious selection" of artistes.