

“We wanted to help the most needy people in society”

Nurturing traditional music



Ustad Zakir Hussain, Dr M Balamuralikrishna, Pandit Shivakumar Sharma, Sudha Raghunathan and U Shrinivas among others at the meet — Express Photo by P Jawahar

All of them are sparkling luminaries in Indian classical music. The love and concern for the future of this eminent art form brought them to a common platform despite their tight schedules. They were in the city on Monday to discuss the ways to nurture and protect traditional music forms in the present era of globalisation.

All India Musician Group (AIMG),

a group formed with the objective of providing proper platforms for young talents, supporting veteran artists and creating awareness about the importance of music in curriculum, comprises 12 popular musicians from Hindustani and Carnatic streams. The members are Pt Ajoy Chakrabarty, Ustad Zakir Hussain, Pt. Jasraj, Pt. Rajan Mishra, Pt Shivkumar Sharma, Pt Aravind Parikh, Dr M Balamuralikrishna,

Ravikiran Chitravina, T N Krishnan, Sudha Raghunathan, T N Seshagopalan and U Shrinivas.

“The impact will be more if we work as team,” said Pt Shivkumar Sharma while addressing media persons at ITC Chola Sheraton. The group was formed two years ago and this is their third meeting. The earlier meetings held in Mumbai and Delhi highlighted various aspects like nurturing younger artists, pro-

viding financial assistance for needy musicians and imparting knowledge about music among students.

“The discussions we had with Prasar Bharathi representatives at New Delhi was highly fruitful,” said Pt Arvind Parikh. He added that the amount allocated for art and cultural programmes has been increased from 33,000 crore to 49,000 crore. They have also agreed to form a new audition committee, which would include two members from AIMG.

Ustad Zakir Hussain said that AIMG is planning to have discussions with cooperate sector on issues such as financial support to the upcoming musicians and insurance policies for veteran artists. “In the case of young artists, getting a good exposure is very important. So we are trying to get cooperate sponsorship for providing a platform for them to perform,” he said.

“We are working as an intermediate body between the cooperates and the musicians,” said Sudha Raghunathan. She also spoke about the importance of music education in schools and colleges. “This will help to increase the interest and knowledge about our music and culture,” she added.

Pt. Ajoy Chakrabarty, Pt Rajan Mishra, Dr M Balamuralikrishna, U Shrinivas and Pt Sajan Mishra also participated in the meet.

— Smitha Peter