

## CITY

**Bike marathon**

A bike marathon to create awareness of organ donation will be flagged off from D.G. Vaishnav College, Arumbakkam, at 2 p.m.

**Students welcome extra time**

The State's decision to provide 10 minutes extra time to students appearing for the public exam was welcomed by Class XII students: Page 8



# Concerted move to develop music and artists

Musicians from North and South join hands and take the harmonious initiative



**CONFLUENCE:** (From left) Musicians Sudha Raghunathan, U. Srinivas, M. Balamuralikrishna, Ajoy Chakrabarty and Zakir Hussain interact before the start of a press conference in Chennai on Monday. — PHOTO: V. GANESAN

Staff Reporter

**CHENNAI:** It was a rare confluence of music in the city, as musicians from different parts of the country came together on Monday to discuss ways to protect the art form, be it classical or folk.

Popular Hindustani and Carnatic musicians formed the All India Musicians Group (AIMG) with the objective of preserving the art of making music, improving the life of veteran artists and creating awareness of music education in schools.

The group comprises six musicians from the north and six from the south. The AIMG

musicians from north are Ajoy Chakrabarty, Zakir Hussain, Jasraj, Rajan Mishra and Shivkumar Sharma. Those from the south are M. Balamuralikrishna, Chitraveena N. Ravikiran, Sudha Raghunathan, T.N. Seshagopalan and U. Srinivas.

Addressing presspersons here, sitar artist Arvind Parikh said the group was formed two years ago to take stock of the current situation in the light of globalisation. "If musicians raise a united voice for Indian music, the impact would be better," he said. Several issues such as protection and development of traditional forms of music

and nurturing young talent were discussed during the meetings held sometime ago in Mumbai and Delhi.

**More funds allotted**

Briefing about the meeting with Prasara Bharathi representatives in New Delhi, Mr. Parikh said the fund allocated for promotion of arts and culture has been increased from Rs. 33 crore to Rs. 49 crore. The representatives have also agreed to set up an appellate authority for musicians. A new committee to review the audition system, including two AIMG members would be formed.

Mr. Sharma said one of the best ways to preserve music is

to reach out to school and college students and spread awareness of traditional music.

Ms. Raghunathan said the group would function as an intermediary between the corporate sector and musicians to identify talent and help veteran musicians. She also highlighted the need for more art coverage in the media to encourage artists.

Mr. Hussain spoke about providing financial support to up and coming musicians and insurance policies for artists. The meeting in Chennai with representatives of corporate sector saw these issues being addressed.