

# Recordings of Carnatic music stalwarts donated to Madras varsity

They were donated by Bhairavi Fine Arts Society, Cleveland

Staff Reporter

**CHENNAI:** The Department of Indian Music, University of Madras, received a collection of recordings of music concerts of stalwarts, on Tuesday.

The recordings were donated by V.V.Sundaram, secretary, Bhairavi Fine Arts Society, Cleveland, and 'Toronto' K. Venkataraman, president of the Society.

Speaking at a function organised in this connection, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Madras S. Ramachandran said the university would start two distance learning centres in Toronto and Cleveland in January. "These would be in addition to the centres we currently have in seven countries. We will begin offering online lessons at the two new centres."

At present, the nearly 3,000 students who have registered with the distance education centres in the seven countries are taught by teachers there, but take the examination conducted by the University of Madras.

"Soon after we launch online classes for students based in Toronto and Cleveland, we will extend the facility to other countries," Prof. Ramachandran said. The centres sought to promote arts



**VALUABLE RESOURCE:** (From left) President of Cleveland-based Bhairavi Fine Arts Society K. Venkataraman, Vice-Chancellor of University of Madras S. Ramachandran, secretary of the Society V.V.Sundaram and Professor and Head, Department of Indian Music, University of Madras M. Premeela Gurumurthy at the function in Chennai on Tuesday. — PHOTO: K.V.SRINIVASAN

and culture in other countries, he added.

Mr. Sundaram said after he moved to the United States he missed Carnatic music very badly. "So from the sixties, I have been passionately collecting recordings of our music, with my good friend Mr.Venkataraman."

Mr.Venkataraman said they would request visiting artists touring the US and

Canada to perform rare pieces and have them recorded during concerts. "We are aware of issues of royalty here, but this donation made to the university will be used strictly for academic and research purposes," he said. Some of the recordings were sourced from The Music Academy, he added.

M. Premeela Gurumurthy, Professor and Head, Depart-

ment of Indian Music, University of Madras, said besides library hours, the Department would provide "listening hours" to students to use the rich archives they will hence have.

The recordings of concerts span nearly four decades, and include performances of stalwarts such as T. Mukta, Semamangudi Srinivasa Iyer and K.V.Narayanaswamy.