The Hindu
Musical treasure gets richer
Date: 13/03/2015 | Edition: Delhi | Page: 3 | Source: Ranjani Govind | Clip size (cm): W: 9 H: 24
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Musical treasure gets richer

IGNCA's Southern Regional Centre now has a rich audio-visual archive that has recordings from private and rare collections.

RANJANI GOVIND

A music kiosk is up and running at the IGNCA Southern Regional Centre in Bangalore, where an established audio-visual archival centre at Bangalore was inaugurated recently. "This would be a place to relax, music connoisseurs are just going to love it," said R.T. Chari, Managing Director of the TAG Corporation, who has joined hands with the IGNCA for setting up the music archives. "The TAG Group of Companies that has set up a huge digital listening archive of vintage music at the Madras Music Academy decided to collaborate with us and share around 1000 hours of live recordings of Carnatic music right from the 1930s," says Vikram Sampath, Executive Director, IGNCA Southern Regional Centre.

The 1000 hours from TAG are from Chari's personal collections that he has assiduously collected over more than 30 years, digitised and catalogued them painstakingly. Pointing out that all the music collectors were against commercialisation of such a rare collection, Chari said the archive had a distinct software that would prevent downloading or copying of music. Such a facility had been set up at The Madras Music Academy, added Chari, saying that the digital archive would help in passing on the classical music to future generations. Works of several artistes including Chembai Vaidyanatha Bhagavathar, M.S. Subbulakshmi, D.K. Pattammal, K.V. Narayanaswamy, Alathur Brothers, Semmangudi Srinivasa Iyer, M. D. Ramanathan and others are in this collection as also recent artistes.

Chari has also contributed valuable paintings and wall-to-wall murals featuring icons of Indian music, including one by S. Rajam which now adorn IGNCA's archival centre room. In addition to this collection, Vikram Sampath too has donated his private archival collection from the Archive of Indian Music (AIM) for old gramophone recordings. "Our idea is not to hoard these in vaults and keep them inaccessible, but make them available for to scholars, students and the general public to access, as these are audio, visual and textual wealth of our country," says Sampath.

IGNCA invites organisations and individual collectors to join hands as sharing cultural treasures help in their dissemination and utilisation, points out Sampath. Given that IGNCA is a Central Government institution under the Ministry of Culture, collections received from contributors would be given due credit, he says.