



## **Sundaram Finance Spirit of Mylapore Award posthumously presented to Shri. S. Rajam**

Chennai 22nd February 2010: The 2nd Sundaram Finance Spirit of Mylapore award was posthumously presented to renowned artist and musician Shri S Rajam for his legendary contribution in the fields of music and art. Shri. Rajam's second son R. Gurusurthy received the award from Sundaram Finance Managing Director T T Srinivasaraghavan at the ancestral Nadu Street home of Shri Rajam in Mylapore, where the latter had been residing since the age of six.

The Spirit of Mylapore award was to be presented during the Sundaram Finance Mylapore Festival held last month. But the unfortunate turn of events with Shri Rajam being hospitalised and passing away thereafter rendered it impossible.

The family fondly recalled the days of Shri Rajam in his home, while pointing to a table that made up his work station. It is intended to maintain the home as it is, said family members of Shri Rajam.

**T.T. Srinivasaraghavan, Managing Director, Sundaram Finance Ltd., said, “The idea behind the Spirit of Mylapore award is to recognise a long time resident of Mylapore who has embodied the spirit and soul of this historic section of Madras.**

**Shri. Rajam was as true a Mylaporean as one could get. It was from this very house, in Nadu Street, that he began his illustrious journey in music and art, one that made him an iconic figure and a living legend not only in Mylapore but across the world of music and art.**



**We honour this legend - the vibrant colour and the brilliant harmony of his pieces shall ever remain his legacy to Mylapore and the world of art and music.”**

Last year, R. K.Azhvaar, the 80 year old owner of the popular road side book store on Luz Church Road was the recipient of the first Sundaram Finance Spirit of Mylapore Award.

Born on 10<sup>th</sup> February 1919, Rajam began presenting carnatic music performances at the age of 13. He had his training in music from maestros of music like Ambi Dikshitar, Ariyakudi Ramanuja Iyengar, Papanasam Sivan and Madurai Mani Iyer. By 15, he had developed special interest in drawing that would later turn him into a legend.

It was during his stint at All India Radio as a music supervisor that Rajam popularised South Indian Music. During his tenure, he recorded rare songs of Vaggeyakars, produced many operas and musical plays and generated interest among the listeners for Thirukkural by singing them. Rajam was instrumental in bringing out 72 Melakarta Kirthanas of Koteeswara Iyer.

Rajam’s artistic abilities won him the Sangeet Natak Academy award, Sangita Kala Acharya award & the Isai Kalai Chemmal award.

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