

# THE TIMES OF INDIA

## SILVER LINING

BHARAT KALACHAR HAS A LONG STANDING TRADITION OF PROMOTING ARTISTES ESPECIALLY DURING THE MARGAZHI MUSIC FESTIVAL. AS THE SABHA COMPLETES ITS SILVER JUBILEE, **KAUSHIK RAJARAMAN** REPORTS ON THE PLANS FOR THIS SEASON



**T**he Margazhi season is here and so is the rain. But this has not deterred music enthusiasts who have lined up outside the Bharath Kalachar to buy tickets for the forthcoming music season. In Chennai, the love for swaras and talas runs as deep as the love for filter kaapi and Kanjeevaram sarees. The tradition of hosting brilliant concerts and promoting artistes which began since the inception of the cultural centre in 1986, continues as Bharat Kalachar celebrates its silver jubilee this year.

"The season offers a huge platform for upcoming artistes. The positive aspect is the emergence of young artistes on the scene. Even though many of these artistes have degrees in other subjects, they are extremely passionate about music," says Y Gee Mahendra, Secretary of Bharat Kalachar.

Bharat Kalachar has always been famous for innovations and a disciplined audience, Mahendran adds. "People come to our sabhas to listen to various combinations by artistes. In the past, our sabha has hosted some scintillating jugalbandis. Moreover, our rasikas are known to wait for the opportune moment, and then break into a thunderous applause". However, he regrets the fact that young people are fewer in the audience. "It is sad that young people do not attend these concerts. But the number of sabhas as well as music and dance performances has gone up in the last few years which is quite encouraging."

Apart from K J Yesudas and Aruna Sairam's concerts which will be held at Kamarajar Arangam, most other performances will be held at YGP Auditorium on Thirumalaipillai Road.