

After six years, the Kutcheri in Park is going strong



CHENNAI, January 08: Celebrating six years of Kutcheri in the Park and on the final morning of the 10th Sundaram Finance Mylapore Festival, 55 students from Vidya Mandir, Mylapore, presented a group mikesless kutcheri at the jam packed Chess Square of the Nageswara Rao Park on a specially-erected centre stage.

This is the largest group Kutcheri that has taken place at the Nageswara Rao Park, where Sundaram Finance has been organizing Sunday Kutcheri in the Park since February 2006.

Guided and directed by Guru Smt. Hari Kripa, the 55 students, all aged below 15 years, lit up the Margazhi morning with their lively presentation that drew in all the morning walkers into the Chess Square.

Applauded all the way by this huge crowd and accompanied by K. Krishna and V. Sreeraman on the Flute, G. Sandhya on the Veena, G.S. Krishna Sampath, RA Shravan Kumar and B. Nandhan on the Mridangam, G. Gokul Srinath on the Ghatam and K.S. Vijay Balaji and S. Abhinava on the Violin, these students presented songs such as Sri Vigna Rajam Bhaje (Gambira Nattai), Nagumomu (Abheri), Mudugare yashodha (Kurinji), Azagu Deivam (Kaavadi Sindhu) and Anbirundal Adhuvu Podhume (Sindhu Bairavi) that kept the audience engrossed through the one hour.

Commenting on the concept of mikesless kutcheri, Guru Smt. Hari Kripa, who has been training several hundreds of these students on music said, "The early morning informal park ambience was very pleasant and conducive for a kutcheri for these young children. The mikesless kutcheri is an interesting and innovative concept and even took some of my students by surprise. Each one of them enjoyed this first ever experience of a mikes-less open air kutcheri and I thought that this mikesless kutcheri brought out the natural voices in these students."

Mr. T.T. Srinivasaraghavan, Managing Director, Sundaram Finance Ltd., said, "This morning is a milestone for the Sundaram Finance Kutcheri in the Park event, as we complete six years. During this period, over 500 children aged below 15 years have presented their first kutcheri here at the Nageswara Rao Park. It is heartening to hear that this concept of mikesless kutcheri has genuinely served as a launch pad for these young children, for many of them have subsequently graduated to present kutcheris in the Sabhas, including the prestigious December Kutcheri season."