

## Release of Book 'Stuti Kīrthana Mālā'



Pujya Sri Swami Dayananda Saraswathi released the book: "Stuti Kīrthana Mālā" written by Sri R. Gopalan at a function held at Bharathiya Vidya Bhavan, Coimbatore on the 16<sup>th</sup> of July 2010. This book contains 54 devotional songs in Sanskrit written by Shi R. Gopalan.

Sri B.K. Krishnaraj Vanavarayar welcomed the gathering.

Sri R. Gopalan said that while standing before Goddess Mīnākṣi at Madurai, he sought Her grace. After that he was able to compose these songs. He gave these songs to well versed musicologists and musicians and all had approved all the songs.

Pujya Swamiji in his anugraha bhāṣanam said: "During sṛṣṭi, the first manifestation was ākāśa— space. Śabdha—sound is a product of space. Hence music is the first manifestation of Īśvarā. Music is a glory of Īśvarā. Fire is the first manifestation with form. We can invoke any devata in Fire. Everything

here is Īśvarā. When one is absorbed in music, there is a resolution. In that resolution, one is in harmony with Īśvarā. All individual problems are resolved for the time being. One is elevated by the music and the meaning of the lyric.

The carnatic music is preserved and popularized through soulful, lyrical compositions. Sri R. Gopalan has given us in this book his compositions in different ragas. He has imbibed through years of listening in to the maestros in Carnatic music. From the words of the composition in a given melody, the melody gets unfolded, giving room for improvisation by the artists. That he has abundant gift and blessings of Īśvarā is evident in every composition born of sheer inspiration. Pujya Swamiji blessed that these songs will inspire the artists as well as the listeners.

Sri S. Vaidyanathkrishnan, Musicologist felicitated. He said that these songs are the outpourings from the heart of a rasika and baktha soaked in sincere devotion. The kṛtis are brimming with bhāva, overflowing as they do from a devout heart.

Neyveli Sri R. Santhanagopalan gave a wonderful carnatic music concert on the compositions by Sri R. Gopalan.

*Report by N. Avinashilingam*

