

## CITY

## Vijayakant visits police firing victims

DMDK president Vijayakant visited the victims of the Paramakudi police firing at the Madurai Government Rajaji Hospital: Page 4



## "Dedicated research, ne

"Forty per cent of the Indian population has no access to power", said S.C. Chidambaram: Page 4

# Books for children on Carnatic music legends

## Works on M.S.Subbulakshmi, GNB modelled on Amar Chitra Katha

Olympia Shilpa Gerald

**TIRUCHI:** If contributions of Carnatic music legends are to be kept alive, their stories must be passed down to the younger generation and what better way to do it than through illustrated books with interesting narratives, observed classical music writer-researcher Lakshmi Devnath, launching her newly released pictorial books for children at a cultural evening organized by the Sri Rama Gana Sabha Trust here on Sunday.

Ms.Devnath, noted for her novel attempts to decode Carnatic music for children through fiction and columns in various publications including *The Hindu*, said there was a paucity of literature on Carnatic music for children. "What we read as kids always stays with us. There is no point in blaming the younger generation for their lack of knowledge of classical music legends, if we don't tell them

these stories," she said.

Published by Heritage House, 'M.S.Subbulakshmi: the Queen of song' and 'G.N.Balasubramaniam: Speed Thrills' modelled on the lines of 'good old Amar Chitra Katha' format as Ms.Devnath acknowledges, attempts to present the biographies of the two stalwarts succinctly.

There was much to be learnt from the life histories of both celebrated artistes. Consciously adhering to facts but creatively using contexts, Ms. Devnath said she has merely played the role of a story teller.

The highpoint of the books are the inclusion of old scanned photographs and an autographed picture of GNB with the quote 'Love is the loveliest flower in the garden of life'. The writer added that she was working on similar books on Palaghat Mani Iyer and Madurai Mani Iyer.

K.Ramesh, Director, Nadhadweepam Trust, receiving



**MUSIC TO EARS:** Writer-researcher Lakshmi Devnath handing over books on Carnatic music for children to K. Ramesh, Director, Nadhadweepam Trust, in the city on Sunday. —PHOTO:R.M. RAJARATHINAM.

the first copies said the books were well researched and should be read by every child.

Soft cadences in the form of a violin recital by young artiste Shreya Devnath and a docu-

mentary screening on M.S.Subbulakshmi marked the evening.