"An evening with a legend"



Weekly Learnings 28 / 2025

<u>Indrajit Gupta</u> (IG) and <u>Founding Fuel</u> organised a wonderful evening with a panel and music at the Hall of Harmony, Nehru centre, Mumbai.

I was honoured to be on the panel with Dr Sivaraman, a 89 year old music maestro and Ishaan Ghosh a 25 year old rising music star.

Swami, Dr Sivaraman's son had a humorous introduction of his dad, the panel and his role in organising the event.

IG moderated the panel and asked us about personal mastery, excellence, tradition and change, and legacy. He is a Padma vibhushan!!.

Dr Sivaraman was sharp, with a great memory, an awesome story teller, full of energy and said:

- 1. He has been playing for 85 years, he started at 5.
- 2. He didn't take a teaching offer in the USA to stay back and finetune his craft in India
- 3.ln any set up, he didnt try to dominate, but if he did a good job he would end up being noticed by all.
- 4. Versatality is a sign of mastery and excellence, playing to a slow singer, a fast singer etc, one has to practice that.
- 5. He played at the Filmfare awards with the great Ashok Kumar.
- 6. He played music for the Satya Paul fashion show in three cities.
- 7. Each generation learns differently and legacy is about giving your craft, teaching it without expectations to the next generation.

- 8. I am 89 but when i play with Ishaan who is 25, I will turn 24. One has to be young at heart.
- 9. He didn't record with a machine till he practiced repeatedly recordings and reached machine quality and the machine was of Dr Sivaraman's quality.

Ishaan spoke of his roots, growing up in a music family, being inspired by his father and grandfather. He discussed practice and its importance in building mastery.

It was a learning evening for me from a different field.

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