



He may or may not make it to the Guinness Book of World Records but former musical child prodigy Master N Ravikumar's remarkable feat of performing non-stop for 24 hours on the Gotuvadyam at the Padmanabha Swami temple in Adyar, Madras recently, will long remain unrivalled. For him the amazing recital was a thanksgiving to the deity for blessing him with the gift. Of which his parents became aware, when at the age of three he stunned them by recognising all the 72 ragas. Ravikumar gave his first full-fledged vocal concert at five and began his instrumental recitals over All India Radio and Doordarshan when only 12.

"THE
ILLUSTRATED WEEKLY"

AUGUST 18, 1985

A novel record

ONE rare thing deserves another. And indeed, the United India Insurance Company's venture into the world of music is as rare an act as the sound of the gotuvadyam. And two rarities cannot but attract the talents of a third: Ravikiran, who played the gotuvadyam for the UIIC's LP of devotional music is a child prodigy and his fame has spread far and wide.

The gotuvadyam has a history of 2000 years but in its present form it is believed to have evolved in the city of Tanjore a few centuries ago. It is similar to the Saraswathi Veena (and is in fact known as the Maha Nataka Veena) minus the fret and waxy edge. A cylindrical stick held in the left hand is made to glide over the strings which are plucked by the index and middle fingers of the right hand or sometimes a wire plectrum. The range of this instrument stretches over four octaves.

Very few players of gotuvadyam exist today. Ravikiran in one of them. A child prodigy, Ravikiran could identify ragas at the age of two, gave full-fledged concerns at five and has emerged, at the age of 18, as one of the finest exponents of the instrument. His music has earned him wide acclaim and will be heard in Paris during the

Festival of India.

The UIIC's Chairman, Mr. K. C. Ponnappa, conceived this novel idea. It is not often that a company, Government or private, takes an interest in such activity. The album brought out by the UIIC has Ravikiran playing the compositions of Thyagaraja, Purandaradasa, Muthuswamy Dikshitar, Shyama Shastri and Swati Tirunal in ragas Kalyani, Kafi, Gamakakriya, Anandabhairavi and Sindhubhairavi. Ravikiran, who created a record of sorts by playing non-stop for 24 hours at a concert in Madras last month, is a musician of rare quality. The album is proof.

"DECCAN HERALD"

5.8.85

FEMINA JOTTINGS

MEET MASTER RAVIKIRAN... GIFTED GOTUVADYAM PLAYER

GOTUVADYAM

Played by N RAVIKIRAN



Presented by
UNITED INDIA INSURANCE CO. LTD.

"FEMINA"

AUGUST 08, 1985



Master N. Ravikiran

It is an era of glory for 17-year-olds. If Boris Becker is producing currents in the tennis circuit with his hard-hitting strokes, then back home, it is Master N. Ravikiran who is making waves in Carnatic music. He has already established himself as a gifted gotuvadyam player.

Young Ravikiran was only two

when he could already identify ragas. Three years later, he was holding audiences spellbound with vocal concerts. But soon after, he channelised his energies into learning the gotuvadyam, and now, is part of the star-spangled coterie of performers scheduled to play at the Festival of India in France.

Master N. Ravikiran's talent was spotted by the publicity department of the United India Insurance Company and soon they had finalised details for producing a long playing record featuring the young artiste. Their aim was to popularise Carnatic music, and with this production entitled *Gotuvadyam* they have achieved what they set out to do. The record is not for sale. **f**

—R.S.