

PR SENSE

Spreading Positive Vibrations

Issue No 71 – Feb 2013
Published by Prime Point Foundation

Man of the month



**Sasi Perumal
Gandhian**

In this Issue:

- P2 Dr Kalam quotes
- P3 Cover Story –Sasi Perumal
- P6 Vivekananda 150
- P7 Ancient Indian Wisdom – Kumbh Mela
- P9 National Science Day
- P10 Interview - Jimmy Wales
- P11 PRince Toon
- P12 Controversy
- P13 Ignited Minds – Navin Gulia

Contact

www.corpezine.com

editor@corpezine.com

From the Desk of Editor-in-Chief



prohibition.

Maha Kumbh Mela is the largest congregation of rulers, people and Sadhus for exchange of knowledge, comparable to that of our national and international seminars. We have brought out the salient unknown facts of this Mela.

We are pleased to present to you the 71st edition of PreSense. In this issue, we have featured one unknown dedicated Gandhian Sasi Perumal who is on fast for the past 31 days (since 30th Jan 2013) demanding total

As usual, we have included many interesting sections for the benefit of readers.

We invite interested persons with flair for writing to join our team and to contribute to the ezine. Interested persons may send us the details through mail.

We are confident that readers will continue to enjoy this ezine. Please send us your feedback.

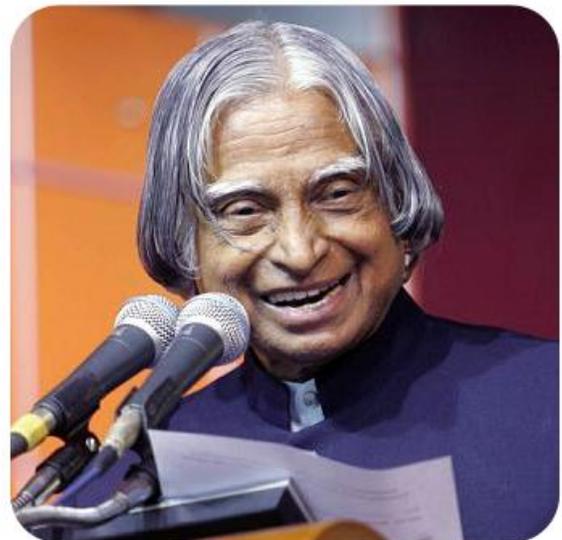
K. Srinivasan

Inspiring Quote from the Speech of Dr Abdul Kalam

“Why other planets are not inhabited?”

When I addressed the Southern Regional Science Congress at Coimbatore, Tamilnadu recently, one student by name Saravanan studying in 10+2 asked a question, "my teacher today told me that the Sun has got eight planets, only earth has got life and life supporting system for thousands of species. Tell me Mr Kalam, why not other seven planets of our Sun not inhabited. My answer to the student was; actually this has been question answered in beautiful way long-long ago by Isaac Newton himself, the discoverer of gravitational law. Newton said, "The only miracle is the earth at a unique distance, gets required warmth and light from the Sun". Let me answer further to your question. What is the environment of other planets?

I said, dear young friend, do you know the planet Jupiter, three times the size of the earth, a powerful hurricane has been raging for the past 400 years: on Neptune wind speeds reach up to 3200 km per hour, that is over 10 times higher than the strongest gusts mustered by Katrina or Tsunami winds India has experienced. On Mars, the dust storm continuously engulfs part of the planet. On Saturn's Moon Titan it rains liquid methane and Venus is chocked by a thick smoggy blanket of sulphuric acid. Is life possible in such an environment for species? Scientific debates are going on, but fortunately none of these happen on our planet earth and we are safe.



Cover Story

Gandhian Sasi Perumal fights a lone battle against liquor



People lined up before the liquor shop

Mr Sasi Perumal (57), a Gandhian and a Siddha doctor from a village near Salem (Tamilnadu) is now fighting a lone battle against the mighty Tamilnadu Government demanding a total prohibition in the state. He is on indefinite fast since 30th January 2013. He has been running 'anti liquor' campaign almost for the past 30 years in his neighbourhood. Even in 1985, he was on similar fast for nine days. In Sep 2009, he held 'padayatra' from Salem to Chennai covering 400 KMs demanding total prohibition. On 2nd October 2009, he sat on a fast against the liquor with 27 social workers. He gave up the fast, after getting an informal assurance from the then Government. Since, he is not a popular or powerful person, neither the media nor the Government cared for him.

Flowing liquor

Though all the states are now having various problems due to liquor, three South Indian States Andhra, Tamilnadu and Karnataka consume nearly 60% of the liquor. Many poor families suffer due to liberal availability of liquor. Tamilnadu is one of the socially worst affected states in India due to liquor sales.

Liquor Policy in Tamilnadu

Tamilnadu had total prohibition policy almost since 1932 to 1972, during the pre and post independent era. Due to some deaths on account of illicit liquor, the then Government liberalised the prohibition policy. From then on, the two generations which were not exposed to liquor, were suddenly exposed to new liquor environment. Because of the formalisation of liquor policy, the Government started enjoying the new type of revenue from liquor sales.

In the past 40 years, the Government had changed the liquor policies to suit their revenue advantage. Though two times, prohibition was introduced due to public demand, it was only short lived. In 1983, the Government started selling the liquor directly to the private retailers, who were holding license. In the early 2000, the total revenue through liquor sales was around 500 crores, out of the State Government's revenue of Rs.20,000 crores.

Huge revenue from liquor sales

In 2003, the Government directly started setting up the retail outlets imposing restrictions on the sale of liquor otherwise. Before 2003, many of the people who felt ashamed to go to the retail outlets owned by private vendors, started visiting the Government owned retail outlets and the bar proudly. This set a new trend for other states also. This increased the



number of drinking customers, which includes teenagers, students, women, workers, etc. Aggressive marketing used to be done during festival times. Presently, Tamilnadu State has nearly 7000 such Government owned retail outlets. Government owned retail liquor shops have now been set up even nearer to Schools and temples, in violation of the guidelines. These outlets provide a revenue of nearly Rs.20,000 crores, out of the State generated revenue of Rs.80,000 crores. That means, the revenue from liquor sales has increased from 2.5% to nearly 25% of the State Government generated

revenue in the past ten years. (only State generated revenue is taken into account here)

This phenomenon of huge dependence on liquor sales for the revenue has put the Government under stress, particularly when lot of freebies are to be distributed, to fulfil the poll promises. In the process, many poor families (75% from Dalit families) are greatly affected due to liquor. This phenomenon may slightly vary from states to states. But however, it is a known fact that the poor people are badly affected in all the states because of the liquor, both economically and health wise.

Sasi Perumal, lone crusader - arrested and jailed for 21 days

In order to impress the Government to introduce a total prohibition, Mr Sasi Perumal sat on indefinite fast under the statue of Mahatma Gandhi on 30th Jan 2013 at Marina Beach.

Since he is not a popular person, this went unnoticed. Police arrested him under Sec 75 of Madras Police Act (causing nuisance to public) and remanded him to judicial custody for 14 days and sent to Central Prison.

Even in the Central Prison, he continued his fast. In the early days, Police did not take him seriously. After his health got deteriorated, they gave him IV drips inside the Prison hospital. He continued his fast and mouna vrita. Again after 14 days, his judicial custody was extended through video conference, as he did not want to come out on bail.

When his health further got deteriorated, Police admitted him to General Hospital at Chennai on 21st February 2013 in ICU and gave him IV drips. Meanwhile, some anonymous person applied and got the bail for him. Police immediately released him and discharged him from the hospital. Only at this stage, media came to know of this incident and started covering him.

Since he was released against his own will, after getting discharged from the Government hospital, he straight went to Gandhi Statue on 23rd Feb 2013 and continued his indefinite fast. On hearing about this, immediately Police came and arrested him. This was covered live by some of the TV channels. After some time, Police denied arresting him and admitted him again in the Government Hospital and gave him IV drips.

On indefinite fast again



After getting discharged from the hospital on 25th Feb 2013, he continues his fast in a private place at Mylapore, Chennai. Some of the political leaders and socially conscious NGOs have started supporting him. Some of the TV Channels telecast exclusive live discussions on his fast.

His only demand is to introduce total prohibition. Though there are differences of views on the imposition of total prohibition, all the socially conscious people agree that the state has to work out a new liquor policy, to reduce

the dependence on liquor sales for revenue, causing hardship to poor families.

At the time of releasing this ezine (1st March 2013), he continues his fast for the 31st day, generating debate on the liquor policy. Many political leaders and social workers have been requesting him to end his fast, to take the campaign further forward. But he is refusing to end the fast. Till now there is no response from the Government.

Some of Members of Parliament have also agreed to take up the liquor issue in the Parliament for a national policy. We are also not sure how the 'liquor lobby' would allow the Governments to save the poor people from the liquor consumption.



Vivekananda 150

How Swamiji inspired John D Rockefeller to give his first donation for public cause?

The Rockefeller Foundation is celebrating its centennial this year. Many people may not know that Swami Vivekananda triggered Rockefeller to give the first ever donation for public cause. Please read the fascinating story as recounted by Madame Emma Calvé (French lady) to Madame Drinette Verdier.



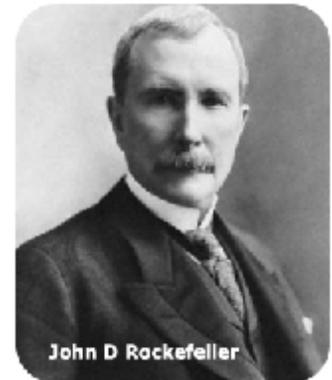
Mr. X, in whose home Swamiji was staying in Chicago, was a partner or an associate in some business with John D. Rockefeller. Many times John D. heard his friends talking about this extraordinary and wonderful Hindu monk who was staying with them, and many times he had been invited to meet Swamiji but, for one reason or another, always refused. At that time Rockefeller was not yet at the peak of his fortune, but was already powerful and strong-willed, very difficult to handle and a hard man to advise.

But one day, although he did not want to meet Swamiji, he was pushed to it by an impulse and went directly to the house of his friends, brushing aside the butler who opened the door and saying that he wanted to see the Hindu monk.

The butler ushered him into the living room, and, not waiting to be announced, Rockefeller entered into Swamiji's adjoining study and was much surprised, I presume, to see Swamiji behind his writing table not even lifting his eyes to see who had entered.

After a while, as with Calvé, Swamiji told Rockefeller much of his past that was not known to any but himself, and made him understand that the money he had already accumulated was not his, that he was only a channel and that his duty was to do good to the world — that God had given him all his wealth in order that he might have an opportunity to help and do good to people.

Rockefeller was annoyed that anyone dared to talk to him that way and tell him what to do. He left the room in irritation, not even saying goodbye. But about a week after, again without being announced, he entered Swamiji's study and, finding him the same as before, threw on his desk a paper which told of his plans to donate an enormous sum of money toward the financing of a public institution.



"Well, there you are", he said. "You must be satisfied now, and you can thank me for it." Swamiji didn't even lift his eyes, did not move. Then taking the paper, he quietly read it, saying: "It is for you to thank me". That was all. This was Rockefeller's first large donation to the public welfare.

Source: Madame Verdier's journal quoted in the New Discoveries, Vol. 1, pp. 487-88

Ancient Indian Wisdom

Kumbha Mela is the confluence of knowledge, comparable with the modern day seminars of experts



Purpose

The Kumbha Mela is one of the oldest and largest congregations of Indian civilization. In a sense, it is more a congregation than a festival.

The purpose of the *Kumbha Mela* in the ancient days was for the rulers, people and the *Sanyasis*, to gather at a confluence of water bodies, stay for period of three months and discuss in that period various aspects of *Sanatana Dharma*, its interpretations, its relevance for their present times, the problems that were faced by the society of that generation and the solutions for them within *Dharma*. This can be broadly compared with the modern day National and International Seminars on various themes bringing together various stakeholders under a single roof for discussions.

The *Snanas* (holy bath) that are interspersed on astronomically significant days are only the ritual highlights. The primary purpose of the *Kumbh* festival has been the interaction between the rulers, people and the *sadhus*, to discuss issues of the society.

In the *Kumbh* festival we see the connect between (a) the allegorical Puranic legend of creation from a *kumbh*, pot, (b) the traditional Vedic explanation of creation and (c) the modern cosmological scientific description of creation from the Big Bang.

Historical reference

There is mention of the *Kumbh* and the bathing ritual associated with it, in the Rig Veda (verse 10.89.7). It speaks of the values of bathing in the river during this period and how it eliminates negative influences and rejuvenates one positively, when done with piety. The praying to the *Kumbha* is also expressed in other Veda such as Atharva Veda and Yajur Veda. This tells us that the concept of *Kumbha* and what it portrays has been venerated from Vedic times itself which goes back to at least 5100 years ago.

We learn this from the accounts of both Huan Tsang or Xuanzang (602 - 664 CE), the Chinese traveller who visited India between 629 - 645 CE, during the reign of King Harshavardhana as well as from Harshacharita, of Bana, the court poet in the kingdom of Harshavardhana. This act of emperor Harshavardhana reflects the ethos of the land, of giving *Dhana* at such confluences.

Even as recent as 1895, Mark Twain, the celebrated author, wrote in his book "Following the Equator: A journey around the world", his experience of visiting the *Kumbh Mela*.



The *Kumbh* festival was instituted and popularized by some of the ancient Kings and saints as an occasion for congregating together to discuss Creation amidst other scientific and governance concepts.

This festival was given the present format by Adi Shankara. Since then, for the last 2500 years, it has been celebrated in this format.

Types of Kumbh Mela

There are three types of *Kumbha Mela*: (1) *Ardha Kumbha Mela*, celebrated once in every six years at Haridwar and Prayag, (2) *Purna Kumbha Mela*, which takes place every twelve years at four places Prayag, Haridwar, Ujjain and Nasik and (3) *Maha* (Great) *Kumbha Mela* which comes after twelve *Purna Kumbha Melas* or 144 years and is celebrated in Prayag only.

2013 Maha Kumbh Mela is being celebrated from Sankaranthi day to Sivarathri. It is expected that more than 100 million persons would be participating during this Kumbh Mela. This is the world's largest congregation.

Source: D K Hari and D K Hema Hari, Bharath Gyan www.bharathgyan.com

Please download all the earlier editions of ezine PreSense

www.corpezine.com

Listen to all our earlier podcasts at

www.poduniversal.com

National – Remembering Historic Events

National Science Day (28th February)

National Science Day (NSD) is celebrated in India on February 28 every year to mark the discovery of the 'Raman effect' by Indian physicist Sir Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman (popularly known as Sir C V Raman) on 28 February 1928. For his discovery, Raman was



awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1930. He was the first Indian to get Nobel Prize for Physics.

History of National Science Day

In 1986, the National Council for Science and Technology Communication (NCSTC) requested the Government of India to designate February 28 as National Science Day. The event is now celebrated all over the country in schools, colleges, universities and other academic, scientific, technical, medical and research institutions. During the first NSD

(National Science Day) on 28 February 1987, the NCSTC announced institution of the National Science Popularization awards for recognizing outstanding efforts in the area of science communication and popularisation.

Sir C V Raman

Sir C. V. Raman worked at Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science, Kolkata, West Bengal, India during 1907 to 1933 on various topics of Physics making discovery of the celebrated effect on scattering of light in 1928, which bears his name and that brought many accolades including the Nobel Prize in 1930. The American Chemical Society designated the 'Raman Effect' as an International Historic Chemical Landmark in 1998.

After the discovery of 'Raman Effect' in 1928, Sir C V Raman was highly confident of getting a Nobel Prize and he even booked his tickets through ship in advance to attend the Nobel Prize Award Ceremony in 1930.

Purpose and theme

Every year NSD is celebrated with one particular theme. The theme for NSD 2013 is "Genetically Modified Crops and Food Security"

On this day, the whole nation thanks all the scientists for their remarkable contributions. The day attracts many young minds and motivates them to take up science as their career. It is celebrated by showcasing the country's competence in the field of science.

From the Archives of ezine PreSense – Feb 2007

This is an extract from the exclusive interview K. Srinivasan, Editor-in-Chief, PreSense had with Mr Jimmy Wales, Founder of Wikipedia on 25th Feb 2007 personally. The full interview was published in the February 2007 issue.

Q: In which year you started the Wikipedia?

Jimmy : Wikipedia was started on January 15, 2001. But prior to that, for two years, I had a project called "Nupedia" which had the same goal as WikiPedia, in terms of having free licenses encyclopedia with thousands of volunteers, but I didn't have the idea of the "Wiki" editing model. So, it was designed as a very traditional top down model that shows something generic.



Jimmy Wales (left) interviewed by K. Srinivasan on 25 Feb 2007

Q: So, how do you ensure the credibility of the information & integrity?

Jimmy : There is a very good community of users very actively and meticulously policing the site and they elect among themselves administrators and also there are many mechanisms on the website that allow the community to exercise controls and quality. And for example, every single change is recorded in the "recent changes" page and all of the past versions of the articles are saved for ever so that, if someone comes up and makes an article that was a lower quality than it was before, someone can restore the best version. Lot of little techniques like that empowers the community to actually build something that's more valuable.

Q: What inspired you to start Wikipedia?

Jimmy : Originally, as I said it was the open source software, i.e., free software movement. As a child, when I was growing up, I had parents who really strongly emphasize education. I went to a very small private school run by mother and grand mother. There were only four children in my grade! It was a one room school-house, very old fashioned, small school. I had lots of fun when I used to read encyclopedia. I used to read the words in encyclopedia Britannica quite a bit. As a child I always had the idea of broad information and just loved reading.

Q: How do you see the future of Wiki's in another 5 to 10 years?

Jimmy: I think one the most important things that you are going to see in five to ten years is that the editing process to become a lot easier, a lot smoother, a lot more approachable by people who are not necessarily IT specialists. I think that is probably the most important thing that you are going to see. And I think you are going to see that Wiki is used for more things that are useful. You are going to realize people can write Wiki and can do fictions and do all kinds of things in Wiki that I would have never expected, but I'm seeing all this creativity emerge online. I actually don't know, I think we have to watch and see what people come up with.

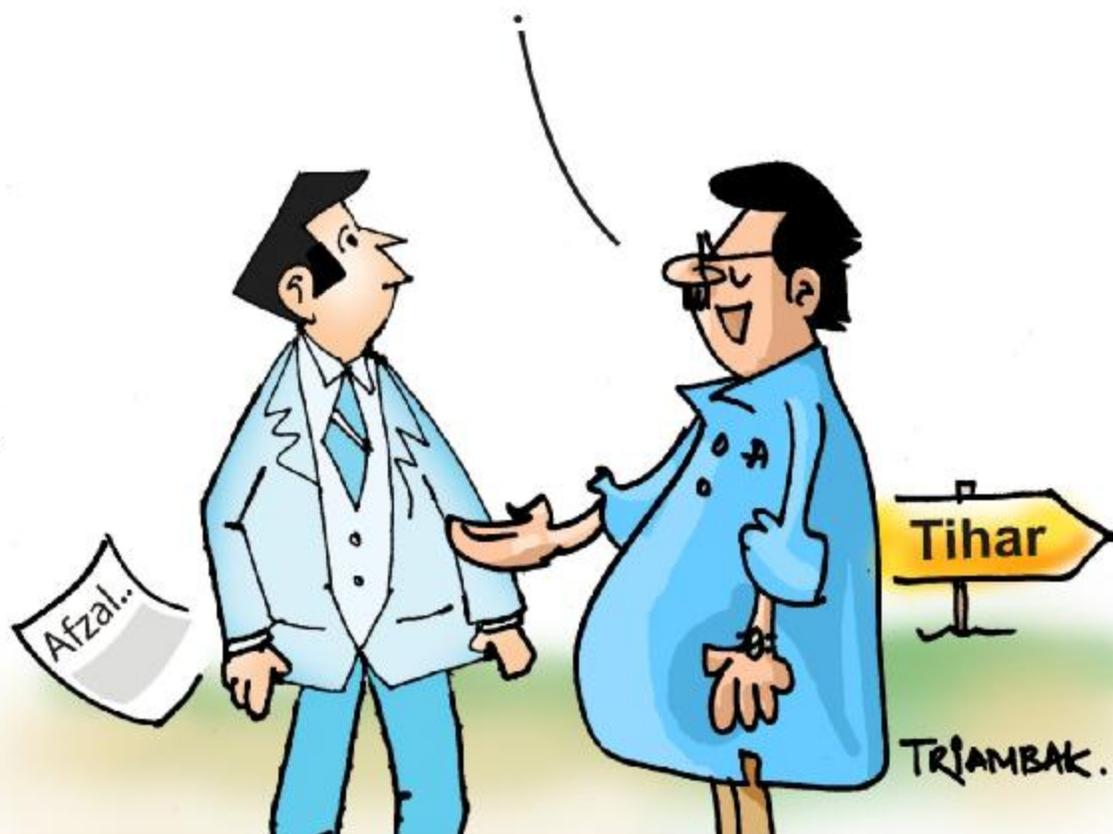
PRince

BY - TRIAMBAK SHARMA

www.cartoonwatchindia.com
cartoonwatch@gmail.com



We don't give easy
death... before hanging...
we hang them for
10 to 12 years.



Controversy

High profile people should guard their tongue

யாகாவா ராயினும் நாகாக்க காவாக்கால்
சோகாப்பர் சொல்லிழுக்குப் பட்டு.-திருக்குறள் -127.

2000 years ago, Saint Thiruvallur wrote:

(Even if you leave unguarded anything that you are required to guard, at least guard your tongue; otherwise, your errors of speech may lead you to misery. – Thirukkural 127)

In our Jan 2013 issue, under this 'Controversy' column, we wrote about Mr Sushilkumar Shinde, Indian Home Minister, who got into 'saffron terrorism' controversy. His statement was hailed by Pakistan based terrorist organizations causing lot of embarrassment to India. Later Mr Shinde had to tender his apology for his remarks.

Justice Markandey Katju, Chairman of Press Council of India and a retired Supreme Court Judge is now in controversy because of his article against Narendra Modi in a Pakistan daily. Even earlier, he was in various controversies for his statements like "90% of Indians are idiots". When the controversy broke, he increased the percentage of idiots to 95%!



Justice Markandey Katju and Justice K T Thomas

Justice K T Thomas, another retired Supreme Court Judge met the media in his native place recently and told them that the death sentence confirmed by him to Rajiv killers 13 years ago, when he was heading the Supreme Court bench, was not correct. His statement has generated a big controversy in the legal circles. The judges are delivering their judgments based on the documents and arguments presented before them and with their application of mind. If every judge starts giving such media statements playing to the gallery, one wonders how the judiciary and administration can function.

Now with the media picking up such sensational utterances of high profile people, they get lot of publicity at their old age and also get into controversy. Such unwanted controversies, may weaken our democratic institutions and systems. When we checked up with another equally competent retired Constitutional Authority on this type of utterances, he simply described this as "lack of maturity".

Justice Katju and Justice Thomas, during their tenure as Judges of Apex court have done great job and functioned as role models for their juniors. After their retirement, they should have adapted to their changing position and taken up the new role of mentoring the youngsters in their profession. They can focus their talents for social cause. If they involve themselves in such cheap and populist controversies, the ordinary citizens may lose confidence on the democratic Institutions and on the persons handling such Institutions.

As Saint Thiruvalluvar said, one has to guard the tongue at all times, to avoid misery.

Ignited Minds

“My success is *because* of the difficulties and not *despite* the difficulties” – Inspiring Story of Navin Gulia, 100% medically disabled person



Navin Gulia (39), from Delhi with 100% medical disability is one of the national role models and inspiration for young and old. He has converted every challenge into an opportunity to showcase his talents.

Hailing from a family of army officers, right from his childhood, he nurtured the idea of joining Indian Army as a 'Commando'. It is the most challenging and risky job in the Army. Right from his early days, he was mentally preparing himself to face and overcome any challenges.

He underwent four years of rigorous training in National Defence Academy and Indian Military Academy. In April 1995, on the final day of OT competition, as Captain of his company 'Sangro' took off from the starting line, within seconds he crossed the 8 feet ditch, the zig-zag balance and

ran up the steps of high ramp. As he reached the top he got an accidental push from behind, due to which he fell head down at high speed. This injured his spine paralysing his whole body and medical science declared him permanently 100% disabled. After two years of hospitalization, he took on the wheel chair.

Since he was mentally prepared to take on the challenges, he started facing the new situation. Sitting on the wheel chair, he completed PG Course in Computer Management. He started teaching Computer science in various Institutions and is now running a coaching centre at Gurgaon.

The 100% medical disability did not deter him from his ambition. He focused on Adventure sports. In September 2004 he made a Limca world record by being the first and only person to drive non-stop from Delhi to Marsimikla 18,632 feet, the highest motorable pass in the world in 55 hours without sleep or break. This place is 50 feet higher than the base camp of Mt Everest. This record is not yet broken by anybody till date.





Navin is highly interested into adventure sports and driving of car. He has designed controls in the car to suit his needs. With the great difficulty, he has also got the license from the authorities.

Besides, Navin has practised flying a microlite aircraft. He has written two books based on his experience. He has started an organization to support the disabled children.

As 100% disabled person, he does not want to be dependent on others. In fact, he is supporting his family members and all others.

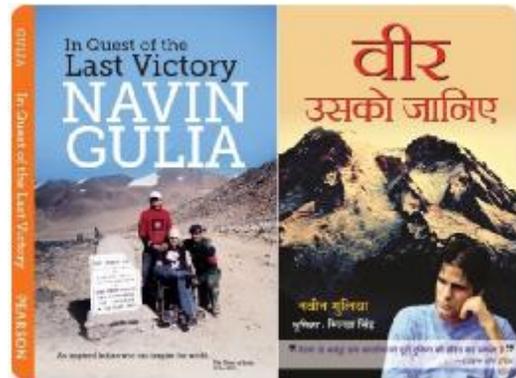
He has won several awards for his achievements, including the President of India Award in 2006 as a 'National Role model'. He has also authored two books, sharing his experience.

He does not like anybody describing his success as 'despite the difficulties'. He attributes all his success and achievements only 'because of the difficulties'.

Please listen to his inspiring interview exclusively for our ezine in the following link.

<http://youtu.be/2Jt--656jAE>

Navin Gulia may be reached through mail at navingulia@gmail.com . Please visit his website www.navingulia.com



Exclusive Podcasts of this month



Please listen to the inspiring interview of Navin Gulia in the following link.

<http://youtu.be/2Jt--656jAE>

Presenters of *PreSense*

Editorial Team



K. Srinivasan



Susan Koshy



V. Rajendran



Triambak Sharma

Editorial Advisors



V. Ponraj



Jhon A



Awards

Published by
Prime Point Foundation

Feedback and sponsorship
editor@corpezine.com

Past issues may be downloaded from
www.prpoint.com
www.primepointfoundation.org
www.corpezine.com

Listen to India's first pod-magazine
www.poduniversal.com
one stop shop for podcasts on all subjects

To subscribe to this ezine.
www.prpoint.com/PR-e-Sense