TECHNO IN TREND

Have you ever thought of having a technology around your neck as a trendy necklace or something in which you could just plug your keys into? Philips has launched a USB, which has a capacity of 1GB and is distributed exclusively by Swarvoski. The heart shape studded and crystal pendant cum USB will take just your heart away at first glance. A fashion statement as well as a piece of utility! The glamour of this gizmo glitter lock will keep enamouring you till you have one. It is not only trendy but also easy to carry. You can pin the lock on your jeans, bag or a purse and the heart you can wear it around your neck and keep it close to your heart. The designs are named as Heart ware, Heart beat, Lock in and Lock out and are worth Rs 9800. I bet you can find any Lappe cheaper than this one. ASUS Eee PC laptops are available at Rs 16,490 with an Intel - M processor having a hard disk of 7GB. It also has a 512MB RAM upgradeable up to 2GB. It is a compact portable laptop which weighs less than 1 kg.

In this busy world if there is a way of staying in touch with your loved ones then surely it has to be the Internet. Our lives are almost dependent on the net. You can surf the fully functional Internet with an in built Wi-Fi and pre installed web based programs for e-mails, IM and Skype. This little notebook has over 40 built in applications to learn, work and play. In short, get the whole world in your hands by surfing the net, chat, watch videos, listen to music and much more. It is one of the smallest laptop available at the most affordable price. Call on 9322411433, Milan Mall, Santacruz (W).

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FAADING LIGHT

For some people challenges and adversities are an opportunity to prove themselves and it is under pressure and stress that they come to the fore. For them, pressure is a luxury and to quit is a crime. And excuses and clever pretexts are considered just a sign of the weak. Although the people of this breed are rare, definitely Gaurav Gadodia - a chess player - is one of them.

Gadodia suffered from macular degeneration (Stargardt’s disease) when he was 9, due to which he lost 70 percent of his sight. Despite his impaired vision, Gadodia went on to become the first Indian to represent India in Under-21 World Championship for the Blind and securing the second position in the Under-18 category in the World Junior Chess Championship for the Blind held in Belgium 1999. “In the beginning it was very difficult for me to accept the fact I could not see properly, but it was my parents support and constant encouragement I was able to come out of it,” says Gadodia, who was also the first person to be awarded top honours in the Asian Chess Championship for the Blind in which various players from 13 countries participated.

Enthusiastic and passionate Gadodia joined All India Chess Federation for the Blind (AICFB) in the year 1998, and with the help of Charudatt Jadhav (Hon. Secretary of the organisation) was able to achieve many milestones in the world of chess. He has also been coached by Raghunathan Goshabe, the only Donacharla Anand to practice chess every day for around three to four hours and has been playing a number of tournaments thereby bringing fame and accolades for him and his country.

What led Gadodia, a lawyer by profession and also a black belt holder in martial arts, into choosing Chess as his passion. “Now what fascinates me about chess is that so many secrets lie beneath the 64 squares. It seems as if the board is my battlefield and the pieces are my troop. The sheer nature, wholesomeness, quality to foresee and the ability to strategise, attracts me the most to chess,” he reiterates. He also shares a very special bond with his sister Neha, who has been a constant supporter and a pillar of strength to Gadodia through his highs and lows. He reserves special mention for Neha and acknowledges important contribution that she has made in his life.

Gadodia is a living testimony to the power of the human spirit and what sheer persistence and passion can achieve. His example proves what positive reinforcement and the hunger to overcome all hurdles and challenges can result in. One question that, this throws up is: had he not been impaired would he have been different? Not at all! Here is a person that we can learn form and hopefully emulate. So here is an opportunity for us to look within ourselves and start exploring and realizing the possibilities that lies in us and what better role model than Gaurav Gadodia whose retinal light might have faded but the light of hope fired by his steady resolve and unparalleled dedication still rages on! Here is a hero, who believes in action rather than words.

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