



He's the real deal

By: Shashank Rao
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Charudatta Jadhav (38) had proved that you need vision and not sight to move ahead in life. Jadhav, who is visually impaired, was given the National Award for Best Employee (2006) by President AP J Kalam on December 3. It included a medallion and a certificate.

Jadhav, who lost his sight when he was 13, leads a team of 8 at GTL Limited. He has been working there as a project manager for software solutions for the past two years. His boss Frank submitted the application form for the award.

Jadhav and his team have developed software like Chess Software, Screen Reader, Legal Point and Intranet. Presently, they are working on software called Talk 64, which can verbally interact with people in languages like Hindi, English and a few regional languages.

Facing challenges

Jadhav says the pain of losing his sight at such a young age did not affect him much. "I became blind a detachment of retina that results only after an accident or high fever. However, in his case doctors couldn't determine the reason.

When I was 26, I started learning computer languages. My abilities to understand and cope were questioned by several computer classes that I had approached," adds Jadhav.

All-rounder

However, he obtained Advanced Diploma in Software Programming, Certification from Computer Society of India and has mastered languages like C, C++, SQL.

Apart from being a software expert, Jadhav has also participated in five World Chess Championships for Blind and represented India in the 2004 Commonwealth Chess Tournament. He also played against former world number one Vishwanathan Anand in 1989.

Jadhav was also among the 10 members who participated in the First Himalayan Expedition for the Blind in 1992.