

How crowdfunding is fuelling this Gold medal winning Indian Para-athletes' dream to bring more glory to India!

Mark Dharmmai is ranked 3rd in the world in Doubles in Badminton. He's won numerous gold medals for India. Now, this 4-foot-2-inch sportsman who is a giant in the world of para-badminton needs the nation's support to bring more glory to the country.



Mark was born to a struggling fisherman in Chimbai village in Bandra, Mumbai, Mark's struggles in life came earlier and graver than usual. He was born with a severe disability wherein his legs were twisted on the outside.

He has battled his way throughout his life. He realised early in life that he wasn't growing properly. His mother did her best to instil a positive attitude in him. It was this positivity coupled with his zeal to overcome the impossible that propelled him to badminton and excel at the sport. He won a National championship and several other laurels, but his struggles didn't end there. Mark comes from a fisherman family and ultimately there were no funds left for him to follow his dream.

With no way out, he began accompanying his father on the fishing boat. He cast nets, earned a daily wage, it seemed like his future was set. He was going to be a fisherman. It was then that Mark's friends and community members came forward to extend a helping hand. Everyone generously contributed to sponsor Mark's tournaments. It was now up to Mark to give it his all. He braved the odds and achieved the impossible. Mark went on to a World ranking of 10th in the Men's Singles category and World ranking of 3rd in the Men's Doubles and Mixed Doubles category.

HERE IS A LIST OF HIS ACHIEVEMENTS THAT DESERVE A MENTION:

November 2016: Asia Para-Badminton Championship in Beijing, China

Men's Singles - Bronze

Men's Doubles - Gold

Mixed Doubles - Silver

June, 2016: Open International Para-Badminton Tournament in Northern Ireland

Men's Doubles - Bronze

September 2015: BWF Para-Badminton World Championship in Stoke Mandeville, England

Men's Singles - Bronze

Mixed Doubles - Bronze

March 2015: Spanish Para-Badminton International Open in Alcudia, Spain

Men's Singles - Semifinalist

December 2014: 14th Senior Para Badminton Nationals in Mumbai

Men's Singles - Gold

Men's Doubles - Gold

August 2013: BWF Para Badminton World Championship held at Dortmund, Germany

Men's Doubles - Bronze

Mark wants to participate in 5 tournaments in 2017 to make India proud! Here's how he's doing it. He has decided along with a bunch of his key advisors to do a crowdfunding campaign to fund at least 2 tournaments. He & his team worked with the folks at Fueladream.com & created a world-class campaign highlighting his achievements, his plight & the need for funds.

The response was extraordinary. In the first 5 days of the campaign – he raised close to 4L INR and went past his initial goal of 3.85L. The goal of the campaign has now been stretched to 8.85L – the additional funds will be used now for 2 more events.

Ranganath Thota, Founder & CEO Fueladream.com, "It's people like Mark that the world needs more of. The early success of this campaign just

reinforces our belief in the often ignored fact that collectively we can make a dramatic difference to the lives of those who need help.”

Mark Dharmai in his own words, “I’ve never considered giving up my dream, whatever roadblocks have plagued the way. I hope to make India proud, but I also hope to inspire people – a disability doesn’t need to define your life. The only person in control of your destiny is you.”



MARK - QUICK INFORMATION ABOUT HIM

AGE	: 32
HEIGHT	: 4ft 2 inches
STARTED BADMINTON	: 2010
WEIGHT	: 65 kgs
RESIDENCE	: Chawl in Chimbai Village ,Bandra
PRACTICE CLUB	: Bandra Gymkhana (They have given him membership)

Link to the campaign:

<https://www.fueladream.com/home/campaign/806>

About Fueladream.com

FuelADream.com is a crowdfunding marketplace for people & organizations that aims to raise funds for creative ideas, causes, charities etc. and impact 2.2 billion people in India, Africa & S.E Asia. The platform went live in mid-April 2016 and has already raised over INR 3.5 CR (0.5mn USD) from over 85 campaigns. They are Bangalore based.

Fueladream.com is the brainchild of Ranganath Thota. His team is focused on transforming how people raise and contribute money for ideas, social causes and other activities. FuelADream.com connects the campaign owners (people who want to raise money) to funders in a very productive and engaging way.