

# Ranchi boy leaves engineering studies to become filmmaker

**SETTING TREND** Manish recently won awards from UNESCO, Sigma for video production and editing of his documentary 'Adi Kar Radio'

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**RANCHI:** This story of a 22-year-old engineering dropout who rose to become an international fame award-winning filmmaker.

Meet Ranchi boy Manish Kumar, a journalism and mass communication student at Central University of Jharkhand (CUJ) who today stands tall as an inspiration for all the students who surrender to the social stereotypes and lose the courage to follow their passion.

Manish recently won awards from the UNESCO and Sigma for outstanding video production and editing of his latest three minute documentary "Adi Kar Radio".

He has worked for the graphics and video editing of 13 documentary films by now and aspires to make films on the gender diversity in India. All this happened after he dropped out from one of the best engineering colleges in the country, the Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT).

Many thought that his career was going down when he left automobile engineering in VIT after attending classes for only 20-odd days. However, this photography enthusiast showed the courage and talent to prosper



■ Manish Kumar

in the profession of his choice.

"It wasn't easy though," he says. By the time he quit engineering and returned to Ranchi in 2009, the admission process in the majority of colleges here was over. However, he managed to get admission in the journalism department of CUJ. Social pressures questioning his career

decisions kept him in a spot of bother for months until he got a camera in his hands.

His film "Adi Kar Radio" narrates a story about the impact of radio on the rural denizens in Jharkhand. Some of his other achievements include a Cine Kala Award from the state government for his film "The Dark Side" which showcases water crisis in the state. One of his works, "Swarnarekha" - a documentary on the pollution in the Swarnarekha river in the outskirts of Ranchi has also been appreciated across the state.

Manish come from a humble family in Ratu Road and is a pass out from Shradhanand Bal Mandir.

His father works at a cloth store in the city.

However, if you think he wants to pursue a career in Bollywood, you would be surprised to know that Manish has no interest in entering mainstream cinema in India. He plans to do a PhD on gender diversity in England and make documentaries on the life of eunuchs here.

"Bollywood is not realistic. I want to picture real India in my films," Manish said, adding, "Our viewers will soon understand the impact of well-researched documentaries."