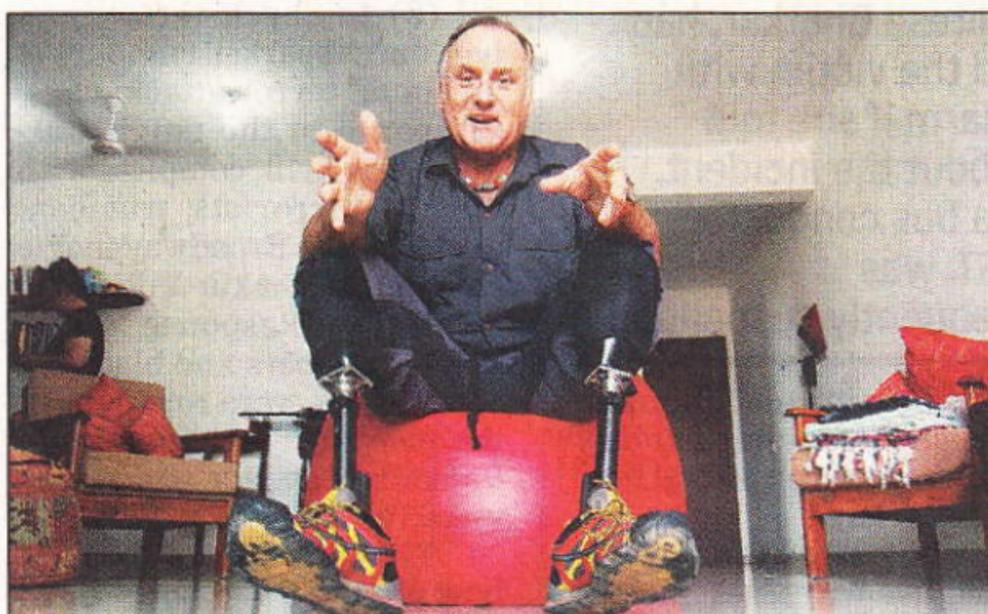


Iron-willed Kiwi in Mumbai with a message of hope



TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mark Inglis rarely wears trousers. One of the world's most famous double amputees, Inglis is most comfortable in shorts that end just below the point at which his metal prosthetic legs start. There's a practical reason for that. "You set off all the alarms," he jokes. "It's easier if people see what's coming."

At The Times of India Literary Carnival, Inglis, who is from New Zealand, will be in conversation with Ketna Mehta, editor and associate dean of research at Welingkar Institute of Management. Mehta became a paraplegic after a paragliding accident in 1995. She follows Inglis's principle that disability is a state of mind. Their physical handicaps have done little to deter their activities. Mehta runs Nina Foundation, an organization that helps people with spinal cord disabilities. And Inglis is a globe-trotting motivational speaker.

Inglis lost his legs in a mountaineering accident in 1982. As a 23-year-old search and rescue mountaineer, Inglis was trapped in an ice cave for 13 days during a blizzard on New Zealand's Mount Cook. Both his legs had to be amputated below the knee as he had severe frostbite. After his accident Inglis earned a degree in bio chemistry and became a professional winemaker. In the meantime, he began skiing, cycling and returned to mountaineering. He scaled the summit of Mount Cook with prosthetic legs in

2002. Four years later, Inglis reached the summit of Everest, becoming the first double amputee to do so. Inglis says he would climb Everest again if he had the financial support. "It took nine months to train and 18 months to recover," he says. "There was damage to the stumps, frostbite in the fingers. It's very hard on the body."

On the occasion, Inglis and Mehta will present a prosthetic leg to Angad Sabat, a 25-year-old engineering student of Swami Vivekanand College. Sabat's left leg was amputated below

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the knee after a train accident in 2007. Back then, Sabat, a school dropout, used to be a reckless commuter who often performed dangerous stunts while travelling. Sabat's first prosthesis was a Jaipur limb. But it didn't fit well. He will be given a prosthetic leg from Otto Bock, a manufacturer of physical rehabilitation products such as prostheses and wheelchairs. That should give him the confidence to carry out his immediate plans: finishing his degree and getting a job so that he can support his family.