

# TELUGU PERSON OF THE YEAR

**Name: Dr R S Praveen Kumar IPS**

**Occupation: Secretary Andhra Pradesh Social Welfare Residential Education**

**Institutions Society (TSWREIS)**

**Age: 46 years**

- An IPS officer who made a conscious decision to serve education.
- It was only after he went to Harvard and rubbed shoulders with stalwarts from all fields he realized the value of dreaming a vision for a better society. He was awestruck with humility of established businessmen, entrepreneurs and even soldiers who were his batch mates in Public Administration and aspired to redefine education.
- Praveen Kumar falls into the category of men who have deemed it prestigious to give their life energies for a worthy cause, i.e. Education.
- Having returned with Masters in Public Administration from Harvard University, this dynamic officer kicked off many innovative projects at Andhra Pradesh Social Welfare Educational Institutions Society (TSWREIS).
- Amidst growing concerns over quality of education in the state run schools in rural India, TSWREIS has emerged as the lone bright spot by producing thousands of outstanding students despite many challenges.
- In 2013 alone, it had sent approximately 60 students to IITs and NITs and hundreds to medical and engineering colleges in the state.
- Students of TSWREIS schools have been consistently showing extraordinary performance in the board examinations vis-a-vis other state run educational institutions.

## INNOVATION:

- Armed with thorough understanding of the subject, level-headedness and an able team without wasting much time, simultaneously kick-started several new initiatives.
- Boot camp for the teachers
- Science Projects which allow students to explore the improbable
- Interactive learning programmes with experts on Mana TV
- Digital Learning in the classrooms
- E-PLUS CLUB conducting different activities for the students to enhance their soft skills or CCE (Continuous Comprehensive Evaluation) customised to the State syllabus
- Special programme V4G or Voice for Girls has become very popular senior students started succumbing to peer and social pressures and slipped off into depression. They even started taking extreme steps like suicide, unable to handle the psychological stress.
- Sought the help of an international NGO called Voice for Girls, which conducted motivational workshops for adolescent girls and opened up a whole new meaning of life for them.
- This became extremely popular and caught on like wild fire as it changed the perspective of students in a big way.
- The students started seeing a new and meaningful dimension in their lives.
- These girls called Sakhis turned into volunteers and started propagating the message of goodwill in all 290 schools. We now have a battalion of 1200 sakhis.
- Two students from AP Social Welfare Residential Schools under Dr R S Praveen Kumar have created history by scaling the Mount Everest on Sunday.
- Malavath Purna, 13, from Nizamabad district, became the youngest female mountaineer to scale the peak. Purna was accompanied by 17-year-old Sadhanapalli Anand Kumar, another Class IX student from Khammam district.