



### Press Release

## **Dr. Vijaypat Singhania enters the Guinness World Records**

**- Awarded the certificate for flying in a hot air balloon to a height of 68,986 feet -**

**Mumbai, June 22, 2007: Dr. Vijaypat Singhania**, renowned industrialist and aviator par excellence, today received a certificate from Guinness World Records acknowledging his hot air balloon accomplishment. On 26<sup>th</sup> November 2005, Dr. Singhania became the first man to fly in a hot air balloon to a height of 68,986 feet (21,027 meters) above sea level, breaking the world record of 64,997 feet (19,811 meters), thus creating a new world record

**On receiving the ratification from Guinness World Records, an overjoyed Dr. Singhania said,** "It is a proud moment for me as the record is now officially acknowledged by The Guinness World Records.



I always wanted to do something that would contribute to the glory of my country. Hope this recognition inspires many more Indians, to bring national and international fame".

In 2006, Dr. Singhania was also awarded Padma Bhushan, the third highest civilian award by the Government of India recognizing his feat for flying to a high altitude in a hot air balloon. Rising to challenges and breaking records is nothing new for Dr. Singhania. It has become a way of life for him. This record of **'High Altitude in a hot air balloon'** was the third and greatest aviation record achieved by Dr. Vijaypat Singhania, who in 1994 won his class division in a flying race around the world. He completed the journey in his turboprop Cessna Conquest, 32 minutes ahead of his nearest rival, winning at FAI gold medal, the only such medal won by an Indian aviator.

In 1988, Dr. Vijaypat Singhania had set a record in his microlight, flying solo 5420 miles from London to Ahmedabad in 22 days in a tiny CFM shadow, powered by a two-stroke Rotax engine, beating the 34-day record set the previous year by the English journalist and adventurer, Brian Milton. Dr. Singhania's record was greeted with acclaim throughout India and the Middle East and Dr. Singhania was subsequently conferred by the then **President of India, H.E. Shri. R Venkataraman**, the **Honorary Air Commodore rank** within the Indian Air Force.

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