Newspaper Clips

November 17, 2013

HT New Delhi

Young party draws students from IIT-D, DU

AAP VOLUNTEERS Thousands of students in the Capital are sacrificing their weekends and free time to do volunteer work for the party

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HT FOR DELHI

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NEW DELHI: Behind the leaders and candidates of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) lies the overwhelming support of thousands of followers. Considering that AAP is a political party, this is nothing extraordinary. What is surprising, however, is the profile of these supporters and volunteers.

Thousands of students in the city and across the country are sacrificing their weekends and leisure time to do volunteer work for the party. And the biggest support for the party seems to be from IIT Delhi. Close to 500 IIT-D students have been lending their support to the party in the form of technical inputs, social media campaigning and door-to-door campaigning.

According to the students, the main thing that draws them towards the party is their "refreshing attitude" towards governance. "The party ideology is very different from that of any other party. We are telling everyone that if we win, the electors will be the ones to decide what the MLA's funds will be spent on. No party has done this before and we are submitting affidavits so that electors can hold us accountable," said Arun Kumar Verma, who started volunteering for AAP in 2012.

AT DU, STUDENTS ATTEND LECTURES AND HANG OUT, ALL THE WHILE WEARING CAPS, BADGES SUPPORTING AAP

The scene in Delhi University colleges is a little different. Here students attend lectures and hang out with their friends, all the while wearing caps and badges to support AAP.

"The support for Arvind Kejriwal and AAP in colleges is huge. Students are talking about him and most are ready to go out and vote especially because of him this time," said Dhruv Khurana, a final year student at Sri Venkateswara College.

Ishaan Sethi, a student at the same college, is among those who are trying to campaign by wearing the badge and cap.

"AAP is the most democratic, transparent and accountable party and deserves to form the government; this is why I am supporting them," Sethi said.

At IIT Delhi, students are also pitching in with suggestions on policy matters. "We at IIT work on a lot of projects associated with the city and planning. We are trying to help AAP make effective policies on these issues," said Prince Kumar, who is a volunteer coordinator at IIT Delhi.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Shivam Singhal, 18, IIT Delhi
A student of mathematics and computing from Muzaffarnagar, was influenced by the Anna Hazare movement in 2011. "That's when I started to follow the team. After Kejriwal and others formed a party, I decided to volunteer for them," he said. Singhal tracks and updates social media accounts for AAP.

Sachidanand Kumar, electrical engineering student at IIT Delhi
The 22-year-old from Bihar admits that he was never interested in politics till he joined India Against Corruption in 2012. Like most students, he is active in tracking AAP on social media and spreading their message. He has also been part of door-to-door campaigning.

HT Mumbai

DESIGNS FOR SILVERS

IIT-Bombay's Industrial Design Centre developed prototypes for some senior-friendly products in 2009. Some were submitted to the union department of science and technology, which funded the project.

Walking aid with GPRS tracking

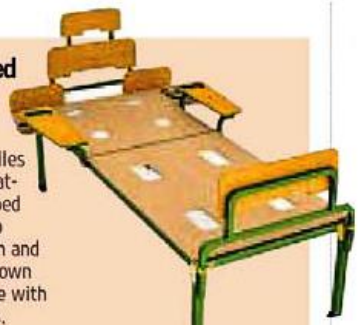
This device aims to improve the aesthetics and usability of a four-legged walker, with the additional advantage of GPRS tracking for those with dementia, who are liable to getting lost.

Security ring/bracelet for seniors living alone

This security device is worn like a ring or bracelet and can be triggered with a push of the finger to alert neighbours or security guards for help in case of a robbery or attack.

Bed designed for the elderly

The many handles and support platforms on this bed are designed to make getting in and out and lying down easier for those with mobility issues.



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India should invest more in science, says CNR Rao

Chethan Kumar & Aparajita Ray | TNN

Bangalore: The chairman of the science advisory council to the Prime Minister and founder and honorary president of the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Scientific and Advanced Research here was quite the grateful teacher on Saturday. Honoured with the Bharat Ratna, CNR Rao dedicated it to his students.

Excerpts from an interview:

You often say China is ahead of us in pure science. What's your advice to the Indian government?

China has invested a lot in science. India should also invest in science, not just in monetary investment but also in people and institutions.

What conversation did you have with the PM today?

I talk to him everyday but today I just thanked him.

How do you feel about you and Sachin getting the Bharat Ratna the same day?

I'm glad for him. In fact, I was telling my wife when I heard he was honoured with the Bharat Ratna that I wish that day would come in my life too. By the time I reached Thiruvananthapuram airport, the PM called to say he had conferred the award on me.

If you hadn't been honoured, would you have left the country?

No, I wouldn't do that. You see, if Homi Bhabha was honoured the same way by the government, he wouldn't have left the country.

Pure Sciences, as you keep reminding the PM, is dying. What's the challenge?

The future for science and research in the country is bright. But the challenge lies in attracting intelligent and young minds. There used to be a time when everybody went to the IITs and management schools. Things are changing now -- students are coming to research in pure sciences. I'm hopeful that more youngsters will come to Science.

To whom do you dedicate this award?

I'm made of my work, and my work involves a lot of what my students do with me.

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DATA POINT

CNR RAO

Chintamani Nagesa Ramachandra Rao, better known as CNR Rao, is from Chikkaballapur district. At 79, the prolific professor was awarded the Bharat Ratna for his research and other achievements.

EARLY LIFE

BORN June 30, 1934, in Bangalore to Hanumantha Nagesa Rao and Nagamma Nagesa Rao

1947 High school at Acharya Patashala, Basavanagudi

BSc from Mysore University, MSc from Banaras Hindu University (1953), PhD from Purdue University, Indiana (1958) and Doctor of Science from Mysore University (1961)

CAREER PATH

- **1963** Joined as professor of chemistry, IIT Kanpur
- Was head of department and later dean of research from 1963 to 1976
- Founder chairman of Solid State and Structural Chemistry Unit and Materials Research Laboratory, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. Was appointed director, IISc (1984-94)
- Visiting professor at universities across the world
- **1989** Founded Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bangalore
- **2008** Chairman of the Karnataka Vision Group for science and technology

HT New Delhi

It is an honour for science and its future: CNR Rao

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THIS HONOUR IS GREATER THAN ANY OTHER INTERNATIONAL AWARD. IT IS AN HONOUR FOR SCIENCE, AN HONOUR FOR THE FUTURE OF SCIENCE
PROF CNR RAO,
Bharat Ratna awardee

NEW DELHI: Unlike his co-Bharat Ratna awardee, Sachin Tendulkar who breathes cricket, Chintamani Nagesa Ramachandra Rao breathes science. Even in this age of technology, he shies away from using a mobile or computer.

"This honour is greater than any other international award. It is an honour for science, an honour for the future of science," Dr Rao told HT over phone.

For a scientist to excel, Dr Rao said one should have doggedness, perseverance and a sense of creativity. "All of us have limitations but we must stretch beyond our limitation."

On how was he able to work so passionately even at this age, he said: "I love to work with young people. You have to be childlike to get that energy to work."

Born in Bangalore, Dr Rao obtained his bachelor's degree from Mysore University in 1951, a masters from BHU and Phd in 1958 from Purdue University. He joined the faculty of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in 1963.

Rao is currently the national research professor and Linus Pauling research professor at the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research. He is also the founding president of the institution.

As chairman of the scientific advisory council to the Prime Minister, he has unfolded a plethora of reforms in science education and has been the driving force for the setting up of the Indian Institute of Science, Education and Research.

A true disciplinarian and a strict believer in time management, Dr Rao does not like to take his work home. He works from 8am to 5pm and once at home, he likes to listen to classical music and news, and indulge in cooking once in a while.

"Once when I had gone to Cambridge, he invited all my colleagues for dinner and cooked all the food himself," said Dr Rao's son in law Dr KN Ganesh, director, Indian Institute of Science, Education and Research, Pune.

Ganesh recalls how Dr Rao till five years back used to write his papers as hard copies. "I once asked him how always his first draft was his last, and he said this was because he spends a lot of time thinking what to write."

C.N.R. Rao, a champion of basic science research

N. Gopal Raj

Professor C.N.R. Rao, who has been conferred the Bharat Ratna, is an internationally renowned chemist who has championed basic science research in India.

The 79-year-old scientist has received several prestigious international science awards and is a member of many of the world's science academies. He remains an active researcher with a phenomenal output. Since his first research paper came out almost 60 years ago, Prof. Rao has gone on to publish over 1,500 papers. In addition, he has written and edited more than 40 books.

Prof. Rao has been influential in formulating the country's science policies over many years. He was a member of the Scientific Advisory Council to Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Subsequently, he headed the Scientific Advisory Councils to four Prime Ministers: Rajiv Gandhi, H.D. Deve Gowda, I.K. Gujral and, most recently, Manmohan Singh.

Prof. Rao promoted initiatives in high-temperature superconductivity and more recently in nano sciences, which provided funding for Indian scientists to carry out frontline research in these fields. At his urging, five Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research have been set up to capture promising students at the undergraduate stage and provide them high-quality science training in a research environment.

After taking his doctorate from Purdue University in the U.S. and working as research associate at the University of California, Berkeley, he returned to India in 1959 and joined the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bangalore.

He then moved to IIT Kanpur, but returned to IISc in 1976. There he set up the Materials Science Centre and the Solid State and Structural Chemistry Unit. "This was a momentous initiative" that allowed him and his colleagues to keep pace with all the developments in the new chemistry of materials, remarked P. Rama Rao, himself a materials scientist who has known Prof. Rao for over 50 years.

Prof. Rao was director of IISc from 1984 to 1994. During that period, he expanded and transformed the institute in many ways, according to P. Balaram, its current director.

Prof. Rao was the founder president of the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR) in Bangalore. He is a National Research Professor and also the Linus Pauling Research Professor at the JNCASR.

The scientist was influential in formulating country's science policies

He has published over 1,500 papers

HT Chandigarh

Ropar scientist to be chief guest at IIT convocation

RUPNAGAR: Noted nuclear scientist and former chairman of Atomic Energy Commission, Anil Kakodkar, will be the chief guest at the annual convocation of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Ropar, to be organised here on November 30. Dr Kakaodkar at present is department of atomic energy Homi Bhabha chair professor at the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre. About 100 graduates would receive degrees.

NITK seeks policy to patent research

Staff Correspondent

Sweta P.Pai, who won two gold medals (Civil Engineering), receiving her degree from Satish Udpa, executive vice-president, Michigan State University.— Photo: R. Eswarraj

National Institute of Technology Karnataka (NITK), Surathkal will come out with a policy on Intellectual Property Rights in an attempt to increase the number of patents filed from their institute.

Addressing presspersons after the 11{+t}{+h}annual convocation of the college on Saturday, NITK officials said the need for the policy arose when they realised that the research works in the college had commercial opportunities.

"One of the research works published in a journal has already been taken up by an industry in Washington. However, this had not been patented by us," said Sai Datta, Dean Alumni and International Affairs, who heads the cell that will come up with the policy. He said at present six projects submitted by their faculty were awaiting patents, while "many more" were in the pipeline. These spread over fields of Electronics and Communication, Chemical engineering, Chemistry, among others.

"Traditionally, institutes in India are mainly teaching schools, and do not have a close connection with the industry. But, in the last decade this has changed and institutes have recognised the need to patent. IPR policy will be a formal policy for this," said Swapan Bhattacharya, Director, NITK.

Apart from just patenting their research, universities must also market their portfolio of patents to the industry, Satish Udpa, Executive vice-president, Michigan State University (MSU) which has "aggressively" pursued IPR.

With NITK and MSU having inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), which among others also involved collaborative research, Mr. Udpa said: "The immediate focus will be on fire research, and to aid the building industry in developing better standards and models...These collaborations will involve patenting so that the Intellectual Property Rights will cover both countries."

Degrees awarded

At the convocation, a total of 771 Undergraduate and 488 Post-graduate students were given their degrees. As an indication of the growing research opportunities in the college, 62 persons received their PhD's, which is up from 34 given last year. A total of 12 gold medals were handed out at the convocation.

While India may lack the monitory resources for research, there is a niche market for research that produces low-cost technology, said Satish Udpa, executive vice-president, Michigan State University (MSU).

In the backdrop of the launch of a mars mission by space agency ISRO at the fraction of the cost when compared to other space agencies elsewhere, Mr. Udpa said: "There is much opportunity for India in this sort of research. It is innovation that has driven some of the biggest companies in the world."

Though the country has no shortfall of “brain power and innovation”, Swapan Bhattacharya, Director, NITK, believes the present curriculum — where focus is on theory and not research — doesn’t support innovation. “Research is relatively new to India. But this has been changing rapidly in the past five years,” he said.

Leadership programme at IITM

Chitradeepa A.

Indian Institute of Technology Madras is all set to offer its unique postgraduate programme for executives, Visionary Leadership in Manufacturing (VLM). The initiative is a unique tripartite national-level leadership-building programme in India involving industry, academia and the Government.

PGPEX-VLM is a one-year Executive MBA programme jointly offered by IIT Madras, IIT Kanpur and IIM Calcutta, and it focuses on developing leaders for global manufacturing operations by training them on the best paradigms of technology and management.

Elaborating on the details of the programme, Dr. Venkatesh Balasubramanian, Associate Professor, Department of Engineering Design, says that the manufacturing sector in India is facing a crisis in terms of the limited supply of manpower at an appropriate skill level. Also the available engineering talent pool is shrinking both in quality and quantity. “The reason for the decline in mid-level leadership in manufacturing is due to manpower migration to Information and Communication Technology jobs that provide higher pay,” says Dr. Balasubramanian.

The VLM programme has been developed by the National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council in collaboration with the Ministry of Human Resource Development represented by the institutes of technology (IITs) and management (IIMs) and Confederation of Indian Industry, as a training programme, under the Indo-Japan Cooperation Agreement 2006.

The course aims at creating visionary leaders at the level of senior and middle-management in manufacturing industries in India. This is an advanced, innovative education and training programme with the assistance of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

Candidates with four to ten years (self-sponsored) and four and a half years (for sponsored candidates) work experience in manufacturing, engineering and related sectors are eligible to participate.

IIM Calcutta confers its highest honour to four achievers

Ashoke Nag, ET Bureau Nov 16, 2013, 12.06PM IST

KOLKATA: It was the Annual Foundation Day of IIM Calcutta, a day when the institute's highest award is given out to some of the most distinguished alumni from past years. And, despite the achievements that they have scaled in the days that followed their passing out as IIMC grads, the alumni mingle with each other just like they used to as students decades back.

This year, the IIMC Distinguished Alumnus Awards were handed out to Mr Ravindra Dhariwal, CEO, Bennett, Coleman & Co. Ltd for "his immense contribution as a corporate leader in the Indian media industry", to Prof Ravi Dhar, fellow of the University of California, for his "contribution in the field of consumer behaviour and marketing through extensive research and teaching", to Mr Bhupendra Madhiwala, social entrepreneur and founder of SHAPE, "for taking a path less trodden and bringing hope, happiness and promises to the lives of a

large number of underprivileged people" and finally, to Prof Venkatesh Shankar, professor of marketing and Coleman Chair in Marketing at Mays Business School, Texas A&M University, "for his outstanding contributions to the field of academia through teaching and extensive research".

The evening took off with an absolutely surcharged IIMC Foundation Day talk by Dr Sam Pitroda, advisor to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on public information, infrastructure and innovations, and chairman, National Innovation Council.

"The key to the country's development is inclusive growth and innovation. I graduated not too long ago — about 50 years," Pitroda said, much to the amusement of students who had thronged the auditorium.

"I was born in a village. There were no doctors or basic facilities available there. My mother delivered eight kids and all at home. My father was a carpenter. Being Gujarati, my father sent me to a small boarding school in Gujarat. After school, my brother and I realised that we had to move to a bigger city. So we went to a college in Baroda. There I fell in love with a beautiful girl. My professor told me that nothing would happen in my life because I was always chasing that girl. By the way, she still remains my wife," Pitroda remarked to much laughter.

He didn't have money, and so he borrowed cash, went to the US, studied electrical engineering and physics, worked for a few years in the US and then returned to India. He tried to call his wife in Chicago and could not get through after several attempts. He returned to the US and told his wife that he would work for the next decade fixing India's telephone network. But, what was essentially taking root in Pitroda's mind was the dire need of buoying up India's sagging infrastructural system.

When he finally got to meet the late Indira Gandhi, he made a presentation. Indira was impressed and took him on to set in order India's IT and telecom sectors. When Indira Gandhi was assassinated, Sam Pitroda teamed up with Rajiv Gandhi. He had already set up the Centre for Development of Telematics by then. "The years with Rajiv were probably the best in my life. After he died, my heart broke. I worked with Narsimha Rao, but I was too emotionally drained. In 2004, I called Sonia and said I'll campaign for her. I came back from the US again.We have set up six technology missions," Pitroda said. His vision has broadened and spans the spectrum of utilities.

Today, it's not just IT and telecom, but everything from water to sanitation and agriculture and spreading education to the impoverished. Meanwhile, Pitroda has had a heart attack, two multiple bypass surgeries and fought cancer. "But, there's no substitute for hard work and celebrating life without thinking of the destination," he said emphatically.

Ravi Dhariwal took off from where Pitroda left. "I don't know why I'm here," said Dhariwal, as he received his award. "I remember I was 40 minutes late for my IIMC admission exams. I had fallen asleep. I was in IIT Kharagpur. However, I knew from the beginning that I would make a hopeless engineer," he said with a laugh.

"My professor in IIMC failed me in the project I was doing at Levers. But HLL offered me a job when the time came. Then, I was working on overseas assignments with Pepsi. Now, I have had a ball at Bennett. But, finally, I think it's all luck," Dhariwal smiled.

IITs to study heritage buildings for ancient knowledge

Prakash Kumar, November 16, 2013, DHNS:

Taking note of the intelligence behind magnificent buildings and other structures built centuries ago, the government is engaging Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) to discover "ancient knowledge" and their application in modern technology and science.
The Union Ministries of Culture and the Human Resource Development have also urged the premier technical institutes to provide their expertise in protection and preservation of various ancient heritage sites spread across the country.

The collaboration between the government and the IITs has been titled "Science and Heritage Initiative – Sandhi".

"The idea is not only to preserve the present form but also ancient knowledge. Classical knowledge can still be useful. Cultural repository can be looked into at the IIT both from education and research perspectives. IITs will come forward," Gaurav Raheja, an Assistant Professor at IIT Roorkee, told Deccan Herald.

To start with, the Ministry of Culture recently invited the IITs to contribute in protection and preservation of nine historical sites, including the Red Fort in Delhi, Rajgir in Bihar and Bagh Caves in Madhya Pradesh.

At Red Fort, the Ministry wants IITs to survey ground water and resistivity. With the monument facing seepage of water since long, the Ministry asked IITs to find a solution to the problem.

The premier technical institutes were also urged to study earthquake evidence and water channel of old river system at Vigukot, Rann of Kach, in Gujarat. It also asked them for mathematical modelling of the Harappan city at Dholavira and area around Rann of Kach. The Ministry invited IITs to carry out scientific survey to understand the mounds of the ancient city of Rajgir in Bihar as well as locate earliest structures in the protected area in the Nalanda district.

At a recent workshop organised by the government here on the issue, the ASI suggested that IITs could help it in condition assessment of monuments, heritage structures and provide remedial measures

"The IITs can contribute to a great extent in our various projects for explorations, excavations and conservation in many ways," an ASI official told Deccan Herald.

The expertise of the IITs have been utilised by the government on many occasions in preservation and protection of historical sites in the past.

IIT-Gandhinagar, US institute tie up for electrical engineering education

TNN N ov 16, 2013, 06.59A M IST

AHMEDABAD: In a joint initiative, the Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar (IITGn) and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), US, will develop a series of faculty development programmes for improving education in electrical engineering.
Though the programmes will improve instruction in electrical engineering across the nation, the pilot project will begin from Gujarat. In fact, the state's engineering institutes will

experience the specialized programmes this month itself between November 13 and 17.

The FDP was envisaged in 2012 during a meeting of IIT-Gn and IEEE officials and a rigorous course content in four key areas of electrical engineering - introductory electronics, electronic devices, circuit analysis, and digital systems - was developed.
"Before launching the FDP at the national level, we decided to conduct a pilot project for the electrical engineering faculty in Gujarat," said Prof Sudhir Jain, director, IIT-Gn. The pilot project will be conducted with the help of Gujarat Technological University (GTU).
Over 200 faculty members of engineering institutes from across the state will be trained in the pilot project to be held between November 13 and 17.
Participants will get web-based courses of study, teaching tools, instructor guides, sample problem sets, lab exercises, and online simulations for electrical, electronic, and computer engineering courses.
Professors from IIT-Gn and Prof Michael Lightner, vice-president, educational activities of IEEE will be taking the classes.
Prof Arup Lal Chakraborty, one of the four IIT-Gn professors who will be conducting classes for the FDP, said that going by the current state of affairs, they felt there was scope for improvement. The quality of electrical engineering education in the state could be enhanced by improving the method of teaching, he said."There has been a lot of advancement taking place in quality of teaching materials and teaching method and we want to introduce these through

the FDP to teachers in the state," Chakraborty said

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Science proves there is an afterlife, says physicist

John Hall

© Heidi Benser/Corbis

It's a question pondered by philosophers, scientists and the devout since the dawn of time: is there an afterlife?

While the religious would argue that life on earth is a mere warm up for an eternity spent in heaven or hell, and many scientists would dismiss the concept for lack of proof — one expert claims he has definitive evidence to confirm once and for all that there is indeed life after death.

The answer, Professor Robert Lanza says, lies in quantum physics — specifically the theory of biocentrism. The scientist, from Wake Forest University School of Medicine in North Carolina, says the evidence lies in the idea that the concept of death is a mere figment of our consciousness.

Professor Lanza says biocentrism explains that the universe only exists because of an individual's consciousness of it — essentially life and biology are central to reality, which in turn creates the universe; the universe itself does not create life. The same applies to the concepts of space and time, which Professor Lanza describes as "simply tools of the mind".

'Death as we know it cannot exist in any real sense. We've been taught to accept the idea, but it just exists in our minds'

— PROF ROBERT LANZA

In a message posted on the scientist's website, he explains that with this theory in mind, the concept of death as we know it "cannot exist in any real sense" as there are no true boundaries by which to define it. Essentially, the idea of dying is something we have long been taught to accept, but in reality it just exists in our minds.

He goes on to use the so-called double-slit experiment as proof that the behaviour of a particle can be altered by a person's perception of it. In the experiment, when scientists watch a particle pass through a multi-holed barrier, the particle acts like a bullet travelling through a single slit. When the article is not watched, however, the particle moves through the holes like a wave.

Scientists argue that the double-slit experiment proves that particles can act as two separate entities at the same time, challenging long-established ideas of time and perception.

Although the idea is rather complicated, Professor Lanza says it can be explained far more simply using colours. Essentially, the sky may be perceived as blue, but if the cells in our brain were changed to make the sky look green, was the sky every truly blue or was that just our perception?

In terms of how this affects life after death, Professor Lanza explains that, when we die, our life becomes a "perennial flower that returns to bloom in the multiverse". He added: "Life is an adventure that transcends our ordinary linear way of thinking." THE INDEPENDENT