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Science, Technology, Industrial Revolutions and the Future of Education

Srinivas K Saidapur*

India celebrates National Science Day on February 28th annually to pay tribute to Sir C. V. Raman, the first person from India and Asia to receive the Nobel Prize in Science. Raman received the Nobel prize in the year 1930 at the age of 42 in recognition of his breakthrough research on the light scattering effect known as the *Raman Effect*. Raman happened to announce this ground breaking discovery on February 28, 1928. The discovery of the Raman effect has made a significant impact on *optics, molecular physics*, and the development of a wide variety of technologies with applications in the field of *forensics, chemical analysis, pharmaceuticals*, etc. Western companies made the 'Raman Spectrophotometer' and commercially exploited the discovery of the Raman effect. In all fairness, India should have done this!

The celebration of National Science Day started in the year 1986 by the Government of India following a proposal from the National Council for Science and Technology Commission (NCSTC), New Delhi, to foster the promotion of science & innovation. It is celebrated in all educational institutions; schools to universities and research institutions, through activities like exhibitions, seminars, public speeches, quizzes and so on to spread awareness on the importance of science in daily life as well as to inspire the pursuit of science & innovation.

The National Science Day is celebrated each year with a specific theme. This year's theme is '*Empowering Indian Youth for Global Leadership in Science and Innovation for a Developed India*'. And so, this message needs to be spread among the youth studying or involved in research in educational, research and development institutions to undertake the pursuit of science with a purpose. They need to be impressed on the importance of making innovations for the sustenance of growth and prosperity of the country.

Sir C. V. Raman (1888-1970) epitomises one of the most brilliant and creative minds: He was a person passionately involved in research. Though Raman began his career as a top Accounts Officer of the Government of India, he simultaneously pursued research interests outside office hours at the *Indian Association for Cultivation of Science* (IACS- founded in 1876) in Calcutta (now Kolkata). Later, he was offered the newly created endowment Chair Professorship in Physics, called Palit Chair of Physics, in the year 1917 by Sir Ashutosh Mukherjee the Vice Chancellor of Calcutta University. Raman moved to Bangalore in 1933 to become the first Indian Director of the Indian Institute of Science (IISc). He founded the Indian Journal of Physics (1926), Indian Academy of Sciences (1933), and Raman Research

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