

A Year Ago, They Didn't Know How To Switch On A Computer. Now, They're Making Robots

Pavan.MV@timesgroup.com

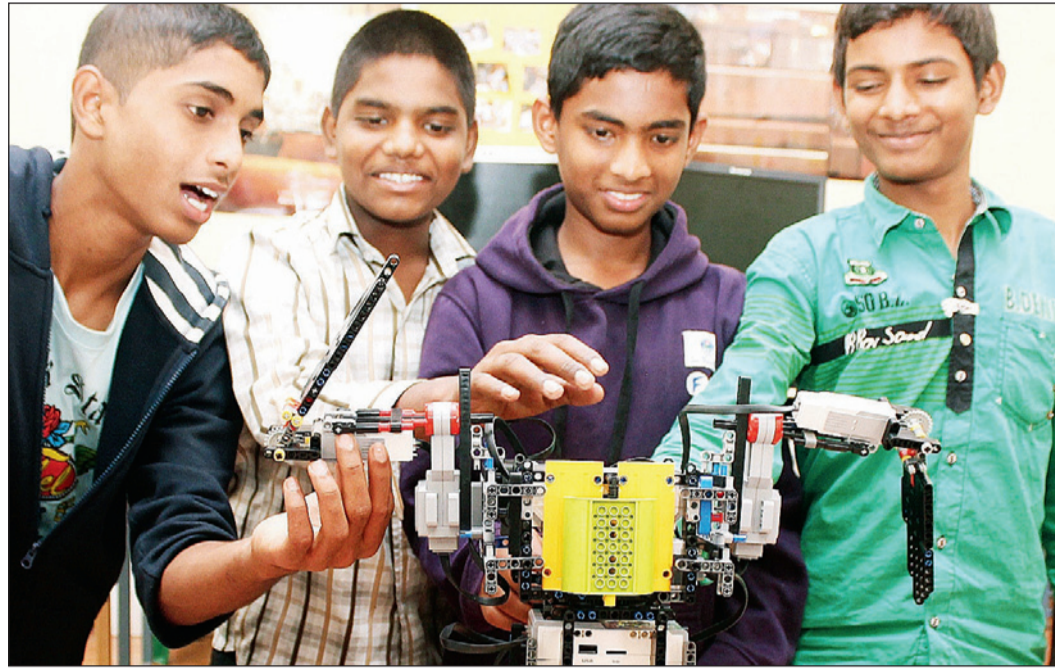
Five years ago, Lawrence Aga had to drop out after class 5 as his father, a labourer in a factory, was bedridden. On seeing his zeal for studies, his elder sisters got him back to school two years later, by sacrificing their own career and joining as sales girls in shops after completing SSLC.

Today, Lawrence, who is in class 8, has made his family proud by winning the Robocop Junior, a regional level robotics competition, along with three friends — Ramesh A, Ramakrishna R, and Aravind Reddy — who also come from poor families. With this big win in the city last week, the four boys have shown that poverty is not a barrier to scaling great heights.

The boys, who started learning computers and robotics just one year ago, have participated in four robotics competitions, including one at the national level, till now.

"My mother works as a domestic help. We spent around Rs 1.5 lakh to save my father, but he passed away last year. I have faced many problems in my life. But I will not give up my studies," said Lawrence.

Four boys beat poverty to become Robocop Juniors



NO STOPPING THEM: Fighting all odds, Lawrence Aga, Ramesh A, Ramakrishna R, and Aravind Reddy won the regional level robotic competition. Now, they are all set to win more accolades



a student of Sacred Heart School (SHS).

"I want to become an engineer and my passion is developing robots," he added.

Lawrence and his team have been learning computers and robotics for free at Akshara Foundation, a charitable trust, which has also been funding them to participate in competitions.

Sridhar P, a graduate from IISc, has been teaching them robotics and computers at Akshara Foundation. "One year ago they didn't even know to switch on a computer, but today they can develop and program a robot," Sridhar said.

Last year, the four boys won the First Lego League and participated in the national-level First Lego League held in Delhi. Like Lawrence, Ramesh, a class 8 student of SHS, has also a lot of determination. Ramesh's father and elder brother are construction workers.

The other two members of the team are not as lucky as Lawrence and Ramesh, who are studying in a private school.

Ramakrishna R is studying in class 9 at Seva Bharath Trust Government High School, Viveknagar. His father is a gardener and his mother passed away four years ago. "We haven't won in some competitions because students from international schools participate and they speak very well in English," he said.

Participants have to make a presentation about their robots in English. This is the area where these kids are failing. Aravind Reddy, a class 9 student of Seva Bharath Trust Government High School and son of a construction worker, said "We will learn English and one day win an international robotics competitions."

CCB seeks govt nod to prosecute officials

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The Central Crime Branch (CCB) will seek government sanction to prosecute four doctors, including three from the Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS), for alleged involvement in

RGUHS SCAM

the answerscript exchange scandal.

CCB is investigating the racket, said to have taken place during the 2014 medical, dental, ayush examinations. Investigations had revealed that answerscripts of 19 medical students were replaced, thus assuring they passed the exam. Nine persons were arrested for allegedly tampering answerscripts.

Investigation officials said a chargesheet will soon be filed against Shankara Gowda Patil, assistant registrar, RGUHS, and superintendent J Madegowda.

Swaminathan panel to study farmer suicides

Bengaluru: The government has asked the MS Swaminathan committee to study the cause of farmer suicides in the state, agriculture minister Krishna Byregowda said on Friday. The committee will also suggest how to improve their livelihood.

The minister said an estimated 832 farmers had committed suicide in the state; the government gave compensation to 262 families. In some cases, those who died of natural causes were also given relief.

Within a week, central funds will be distributed among drought-hit farmers. The present compensation has been set at Rs 6,800 per hectare. The amount will be transferred directly to their bank accounts, the minister said.

History should be packaged in form of great stories, says Sudha

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

History has always been told as a chronicle of events, a long list of what happened when. This is not something children would enjoy. History should be taught in the form of great stories, which would take children back to their roots, where they can enjoy the little and big stories of the past, said Sudha Murty, chairperson, Infosys foundation.

Sitting at Montgomery Hall of Baldwin Girl's High School on Friday morning, Sudha was as enthusiastic as any teenager. She was there to launch her latest book, *The Magic of the Lost Temple*.

When the floor was opened for questions, Sudha was more than happy to listen to the young minds. When one kid asked her if her love for history was the reason behind Rohan Murty's Classical Library of India, Sudha said, "My grandfather was a history teacher; he'd



IN BEST COMPANY: Sudha said she wrote this book for her granddaughter Anushka

describe history in a different way, which got me fascinated. So, I used to discuss a lot of history with my children and, subconsciously, they acquired the love for history."

When another student asked her about the role of an author, the sexagenarian said: "Authors, especially children's writers, have a great responsibility as writing for kids is like writing on a mud wall. It's written when the wall is soft and the words remain forever.

So, the words have to be chosen carefully."

For those who aspired to be writers, Sudha said the best thing is to be like a sponge, a sponge that absorbs everything around it. "Write about everything you have experienced. Apart from making a good writer, it makes the memories sweeter," she said, recollecting her childhood memories and her chronicles of her visits to Badami caves.

BE COMPASSIONATE

A writer also has to be compassionate. Writing should be your observation, along with your emotions. An extremely practical person won't make a great writer

Sudha Murty | CHAIRPERSON, INFOSYS FOUNDATION

THE BAROMETER

MESSAGE NOT DELIVERED

300



year-old letters and a journey back in time. A trunk containing 2,600 letters from the 17th century will be studied by an international team of researchers after being granted access from a postal museum in The Hague. In 1926, the leather chest containing scores of private conversations, from 1689 and 1706, was bequeathed to the Museum voor Communicatie in The Hague. Of these, 600 remained sealed. Aristocrats, spies, merchants, publishers, actors, musicians... there are undelivered messages from all, a stitching together of which will throw light on life in that century, believe researchers

OFFSIDE

R-A-M-E-S-H!
SACHIN RAMESH
TENDULKAR!



Auto drivers slap woman for parking car near stand

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: A 50-year-old woman who went to the Vijayanagar vegetable market on Monday evening became the victim of a vicious attack by autorickshaw drivers because she parked her car near an auto stand, police said.

Suma (name changed), a Congress worker, went to the market at 7pm on Thursday. Unable to find a parking spot, she parked her car near an auto stand.

When she returned around 7.45pm, she found five to six autos parked around her car. When she started her car, it jerked and hit an autorickshaw in front which had a passenger.

According to Suma's police complaint, auto drivers from the area ganged up on her and began abusing her. Two drivers allegedly slapped her. Suma went to BGS Hospital and then registered a complaint at the Vijayanagar police station against unidentified auto drivers.

Vijayanagar police registered a case under sections 354 (outraging the modesty of a woman), 341 (wrongful restraint), 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace), 324 (voluntarily causing hurt by dangerous weapons or means).

The investigating officers said two autos from another area had come there. Eyewitnesses told police that Suma began an argument after hitting the autorickshaw and the passenger. The other auto drivers gathered around, the fight escalated and two drivers slapped her.

Priest's phone stolen from home minister's office

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Home minister G Parameshwara's first day in his new office saw some tense moments on Friday. A priest, who had come to perform puja in the minister's chamber in Vidhana Soudha, lost his mobile phone even while the home minister and the top brass of state police were present in the room.

According to sources, the priest left his phone in the chamber while performing rituals. After the puja, he realized it was missing. However, he decided not to lodge a complaint as it wasn't a costly instrument.

Following the cabinet reshuffle, Parameshwara was allotted an office on the second floor of Vidhana Soudha. However, as KJ George had his office on the third floor of the building when he was home minister, Parameshwara too insisted on having his office there. He was eventually allotted a room on the third floor that was blessed by the priest on Friday.

ONE TOUCH FESTIVE OFFER*
FOR PEOPLE WITH DIABETES

Buy a OneTouch glucometer this November and get additional 10 strips and 25 lancets WORTH ₹555 FREE.

ONE TOUCH
Every Touch is a Step Forward™

GIVE A MISSED CALL ON 80-1099-1099 TO CLAIM LIMITED PERIOD OFFER

*Please visit www.s1t.in to know about the Terms and Conditions and redemption process of the offer. Offer available for calls made from mobile phones only.

MDI GURGAON Management Development Institute

Admissions Invitation | Commencing April, 2016

Post Graduate Programme in Management
29th National Management Programme

Post Graduate Programme in Management
Energy Management

12 Month Residential Executive PGPM

Accredited by Association of MBAs (AMBA) UK, SAQS and NBA and approved by AICTE
MDI - Ranked Consistently amongst TOP B-schools in India

Eligibility: Minimum 5 years of work experience after graduation
NMP/PGP-EM are 12 month Residential Programmes (followed by 3 months of dissertation at work place)
For admissions, the Candidate should appear either in the MDI Test to be conducted on **Sunday 13 December 2015** at Bangalore, Gurgaon and Mumbai OR the Common Admission Test (CAT 2015)

Online Application Forms: Tuesday, August 25, 2015 to Saturday, November 28, 2015

For more information and details, contact: Admissions Office, Management Development Institute
Mehrauli Road, Sukhrali, Gurgaon - 122 007, Haryana, India Phone: (+91 124) 4560000, 4560555, 4560666
Fax: (+91 124) 4560456 Email: admissions@mdi.ac.in | Website: www.mdi.ac.in

UPGRADE TO WORLD'S LARGEST SELLING RANGE OF WATER PURIFIERS^

PUREIT UPGRADE OFFER UPTO ₹ 3,000/-* OFF

Bring any old water purifier and get up to ₹ 3000/- off on purchase of Pureit water purifiers.* Upgrade to Pureit today and make the most of this limited period offer.

Hindustan Unilever pureit

CASH ON DELIVERY (Option available through www.pureitwater.com/IN)

HURRY! OFFER CLOSES ON 20th NOVEMBER 2015
1860 210 1000
pureitwater.com

*Based on the unit shipment sales for 2014. Excludes pitchers and faucet mount system sales and includes only in-home point-of-use drinking water treatment system. Offer valid in select cities/regions and valid from 21st Oct 2015 to 20th Nov 2015 or until stocks last. Offer not valid in States: 14, and mobile models. Log on to www.pureitwater.com/IN for details. T&Cs.

Please call 1860 210 1000 to find an outlet near you.