

50 golden years at RRI

WHAT started as an ambition of one of the greatest physicists the country has ever produced is today the jewel in the crown among the scientific institutes in the country.

The golden jubilee celebrations of Raman Research Institute founded by Sir C V Raman himself, which today has reached the pinnacle of excellence in scientific research was held last week in Bangalore. Renowned scientists and some former students of Raman participated in the celebrations. It was a nostalgic trip all the way as the speakers remembered the 'Prof' (as his students used call him), his enthusiasm, dedication and the love he had for Physics.

Raman may be well known around the world for the effect that goes by his name, for which he won the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1930, but his humane side was revealed by his close friends.

Raman cancelled his visit to New Delhi, where he was invited to receive the country's greatest honour the Bharat Ratna, because he had to guide one of his research students complete his thesis before the university deadline. Such was the commitment Raman had towards his students.

During the function which incidently was held on his 110th birth anniversary, Prof Jayaraman, one of the students of Raman and a researcher associated with the RRI, pointed out that when there was no electricity at the Institute for two years, Raman had worked on optics, using sunlight to study the optical phenomenon of minerals and precious stones. Raman's love for nature knew no bounds, his work on optics was greatly inspired by his love for nature.

Even today on a visit to his 15-acre institute we are greeted by lush green lawns, bright coloured flowers and neat patterns of trees as envisioned by Raman himself.

Today, RRI with its 30 faculty and 35 research scholars is engaged in research activities in liquid crystals, formation of neutron stars in binary systems, gravitational lens, atomic trapping and several other fields.

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