

The Unsung Heroes

What does it take to organize an event of the Centenary's magnitude successfully? The organization involves handling registration, financial operations, accommodation, managing the traffic and parking chaos, food organization, managing each session and so on. On top of that, there are various security issues where we have a host of high-profile people such as the Vice-President Hamid Ansari and former President APJ Abdul Kalam coming. All that the general public will see over the next few days is everything going on smoothly with a minimum of chaos (hopefully). Who is to be credited with that?

Well, the credit goes to the Centenary Committee, headed by Professor V.Nagaraj and Professor Y.Narahari, and a number of other professors who have been working round the clock for the past few months to make this event a success. Along with them is a team of over a hundred student volunteers who have worked willingly, keeping their course work, research work and egos aside. Egos have been mentioned because the higher authorized students often give orders to the volunteers and yet everyone obeys these calmly for the Centenary Conference's cause. These students deserve a special mention because they are the only ones in the three thousand-odd student community who volunteered for the organizational work for the Centenary. All these are the people who will stay in the background for most of the time and yet deserve the maximum plaudits.

Vivek Chawda, a member of the Core Organizing Committee and a M.E. student said, "It does get stressful and tempers become frayed at times, but at the end of the day, it is all worth the effort". Kudos to all the members of the Centenary Committee who have worked hard to make this once-in-a-lifetime event a success!

Some of the events to look out for during the four-day conference are keynote talks by S. Ramadorai (CEO, Tata Consulting Services), Subra Suresh (Dean of Engg, MIT), Sir Martin Rees (President, Royal Society), Nandan Nilekani (Co-Chairman, Infosys), Kiran Mazumdar Shaw (MD, Biocon), Arcot Ramachandran (Chairman, TERI), Sam Pitroda (Chairman, National Knowledge Commission), Nobel laureates, Sydney Brenner (Medicine, 2001) and Eric S. Maskin (Economics, 2007); a talk on 'IISc: Past, Present and Future' by Dr P. Balaram (director, IISc) and former directors; a number of panel discussions on various issues and a host of divisional and interdisciplinary workshops. Also, Vice-President Hamid Ansari will release two special stamps to commemorate the centenary year.

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