

FROM learning the alphabet on sand in a Telugu-medium school to becoming one of the pioneers of artificial intelligence, Dr Raj Reddy, in an exclusive interview with *TNIE's* Kalyan Tholeti, reflects on his journey, the early days of AI and outlines a future where every student could have an AI companion and education shifts from rote learning to "learning to learn."

Q You learnt to write the alphabet on sand and studied in Telugu medium till high school. Could you tell us when you were attracted to mathematics and how you managed the transition from Telugu medium to English when you went to Loyola College after high school?

I somehow naturally got attracted to mathematics, in particular geometry, theorems, and so on. When I solved a theorem or proved something, it gave me pleasure that I was able to solve it. More importantly, I was naturally curious. Whatever, any book or paper I could get my hands on, I would read it even though I didn't understand all of it. And so, by the time I graduated from Kalahasti High School, I was well-trained, I think, but in Telugu medium. Therefore, when I went to Loyola College, where it was all English medium, especially spoken by foreign lecturers, they would have their own accent. I didn't understand what they were saying. But the thing that saved me was they were teaching the syllabus in a textbook. And I could actually go read the textbook.

Q You studied civil engineering at the College of Engineering, Guindy and from there went to Australia for your master's in it. How did you get into computers?

I worked with Stan Hall. He had

come back from a sabbatical from England where he was using computers. And as luck would have it, the university, at the same time, bought what is called an English-manufactured computer. English Electric Mark Deuce II. Deuce came from Ace. Ace was the original design that Turing did. The first day I saw him, he said, "I'm going to the computer centre. Come with me." He was writing a program to do structural analysis. I understood most of what he was doing. So he said, "Why don't you go and do this work and then bring back the result tomorrow?" I became his programmer for the year.

Q Was that the first time you saw a computer?

When I went on the first day, that was the first time I saw what you would call an electronic digital computer today. But it was the size of a large room. Semiconductors were just coming in. The first semiconductor computer that came out was from IBM. By that time, I finished my degree and went looking for a job. IBM hired me.

Q What was the reaction of your parents?

My parents were from a village. My father never went past school. My mother probably never went to school. But they were literate. They could read and write. In fact, I learned a lot from them. But they were kind of surprised even from earlier. When I was in Guindy Engineering College, I joined the air wing of the NCC. And there, you have to learn to fly planes. I was flying planes in 1956 and 57. Once I was on a solo flying mission. I de-toured from my flight path to go visit my village. And then go from there to Tirupati, did Pradakshinam around the temple. My parents were amazed, I'm sure, at that time. But when I went back to see them, they didn't say a thing. They

Dr Raj Reddy for Everyman's **Alnstein**

h a v e d a s t h o u g h t h e y e x p e c t e d i t f r o m m e .

Q What made you choose a PhD at Stanford because most of us look for a job?

I was reading papers about AI when I was working at IBM. And there were three places that were doing research in AI. One of them was Stanford. The other was MIT. And the third was Carnegie Mellon. MIT had Marvin Minsky. Carnegie Mellon had Newell and Simon. And Stanford had John McCarthy. I had to pick one.

Q So you had a clear idea about what you were going to study.

I didn't have a clear idea. I said, wouldn't this be wonderful if I could work on this problem of artificial intelligence? I didn't know what I needed to do or how I was going to get there. But I was reasonably confident I could work on the problem. It never occurred to me that I can't do something. That was the crucial thing, I think.

Q When did you start working on speech recognition?

I was taking courses with John McCarthy and others. And then suddenly one day, we had this brand new computer. This one came with an analog-to-digital converter. If you digitised it, what you got was 10,000 numbers. What do you do with these numbers? What McCarthy said was, you figure it out. Having grown up in an Indian sys-

tem, I was indirectly aware of Sanskrit grammar and all the other things. So if two vowels came together in your speech, you have to insert a consonant. I didn't know at that time, but since then, you know, I learned there was a great linguist called Panini in Sanskrit, who specified all the rules.

Q Siri says this and we interact with it. I think the origins of it go back to your research?

Right. Absolutely.

Q From 1969 onwards, you have been involved in AI research at Carnegie Mellon.

Yeah. So basically, what is AI? Different people give it different definitions. In particular, some people say it's going to replace human beings. That was never the case. We never talked about that. We said, can a computer do things that human beings do? Why did we do that? We thought, even as early as 1965, the role of computers and AI is to enhance the mental capabilities of the humans. Whatever you do, if you want to cross the ocean, you build a boat. If you want to fly in the air, you build an airplane. Think of AI as a tool that does the same thing for your mental capabilities.

Q Some people think soon we may have AGI, super intelligence and all kinds of frightening scenarios.

What they call existential threats I think are complete nonsense. But there are things, like if I'm hiring somebody since I need a mathematician, in the future I may not need to hire one. Or I may hire one when I need 10. If you have Einstein in your pocket, every time you have a problem, you can just say, what do you do? I can't do that now, right? If I go to school, I'm one of 50 in the classroom, and I'm not going to be able to ask questions.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No. H-GS-UBL-08-2025-26
Dated: 19-02-2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

| Name of the Work | Approx. Value |
|--|--------------------|
| Modernization of Chikodi Road, Raybag and Gangavathi Railway stations along with associated General Electrical and Telecom works under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (Composite work). | Rs. 45,15,99,923/- |

Last date for submission of bids: Upto 11:00 Hrs on 20-03-2026

For details log on: www.irgps.gov.in

Chief Project Manager/Gati Shakti Hubballi

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Under instructions of my client, Sri. Nitinkumar S/o. Brijmohan Agarwal, Ayush Hospital, K. K. Colony, Ward No.22, Basavana Bagewadi Road, Vijayapur, I hereby issue this public notice as under;

That my client has entered into agreement to purchase the property detailed in the schedule below, with Smt. Vidya W/o. Mukund Kulkarni, 'Aishwarya Apartment', 2nd Main Road, near Nandini Hotel, Shivaji Nagar, Bangalore (North), who is the owner of the schedule property. If anybody is having right, interest or any sort of title by way of mortgage, charge etc., over the schedule property and having objection for the said sale transaction entered by my client is hereby informed to submit their objections with documents to my client or to me to the address shown below within 07 (Seven) days from the date of this publication. Failing which, my client will proceed with the transaction entered by him, in which event any objections raised after the conclusion of the transaction will not be binding on my client.

Schedule property: House property situated in Plot No.63+134 of RS No.918+311, measuring 322.5 Sq.mtr., of Ward No.22, PID No.22279, Vijayapur taluka and Plot No.62, District, Bounded by: East Plot No.135, West North-9 mtr., Road, South: Plot No.139.

Place: Vijayapur Date: 24/02/2026

Sd/- Prakash S. Udipikar, Advocate/Shri Vinayak, Vivek Nagar (East), Vijayapur 586109, Cell No.9448102934

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Registered Office: W-4/638A, Manappuram House, P.O. Valapad, Thressur-650 567, Kerala, India

GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

The borrowers, in specific and the public, in general, are hereby notified that public auction of the gold ornaments pledged in the below accounts is proposed to be conducted at the following branches on 16/03/2026 from 10.00 am onwards. The auction is of the gold ornaments of defaulted customers who have failed to make payment of their loan amount despite being notified by registered letters. Unauctioned items shall be auctioned on any other days without any further notice. Reserve price is fixed on the basis of market price of the gold on the date of auction or the 85% of the average 30 days IBA rate whichever is higher. Change in venue or date (if any) will be displayed at the auction centre and on the company website. The details given below are in the order of Branch Name, Loan Number, Customer Name, Total Due Amount ('₹') & Item Name

- List of pledges:-
- BAGALKOT, GANDHI CIRCLE MAHALINGAPURA, 0134520700030775, BHIMAPPA GADIKAR, 5500/-, STUD 1, BELGAUM, GOAVES CIRCLE BELGAUM, 0121430730017021, PRATAPSHINGH CHATURSINGH AGRAWALE, 264790/-, BANGLE 1, BAGALKOT, HUNGUND, 0132520730019116, ARSHAD, 77972/-, FINGER RINGS 1,

Persons wishing to participate in the above auction shall comply with the following:- Interested Bidders should submit Rs. 10,000/- as EMD (refundable to unsuccessful bidders) by way of NEFT/RTGS on the same day of auction. Bidders should carry valid ID card/PAN card. For more details please contact 9072607147.

Authorised Officer For Manappuram Finance Ltd

BENGALURU SOUTH CITY CORPORATION

Office of the Executive Engineer, Traffic Engineering and Mobility Cell, 2nd Floor, 9th Main Road, Jayanagara 2nd Block, Bengaluru-560011

No.: EE/TE&M Cell/BSCC/TEND/05/2025-26 Date: 24.02.2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)

(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPPP Portal only)

The Executive Engineer Traffic Engineering and Mobility Cell (BSCC) invites bids through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal from eligible licensed / registered advertisers with BSCC / any other Bengaluru City Corporation for assignment of commercial advertisement rights in 2-Zones in accordance with the Greater Bengaluru Area (Advertisement) Rules 2025.

| Name of Work | Assignment of Commercial Advertisement Rights in Two (2) Zones of Bengaluru South City Corporation. |
|--------------|---|
|--------------|---|

The tender schedule is as mentioned below:

- (1) Tender Notification No.: EE/TE&M Cell/BSCC/TEND/05/2025-26 Date: 25.02.2026. (2) Date from which bid document is ready for download through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal of Government of Karnataka (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in): 25.02.2026 from 5:30 p.m. (3) Date of Pre-bid meeting and venue: 09.03.2026 at 3:00 p.m. Office of the Addl. Commissioner (Advertisements), BSCC, 2nd Floor, 9th Main Road, Jayanagara 2nd Block, Bengaluru-560011. (4) Last date for seeking clarification if any: 09.03.2026 at 11:00 a.m. (5) Last date and time for uploading of tender in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal platform: 21.03.2026 upto 5:00 p.m. (6) Date and time of opening of tenders: Technical bid & Technical Evaluation: 24.03.2026 at 3:00 p.m. (7) Date and time of opening of tenders: Commercial bid of Technically qualified bidders (if possible): Immediately after technical evaluation. (8) Contact person for queries: Additional Commissioner (Advertisements), Mobile: 9480056951, Email: addl.comm.rev.bscc@gmail.com (9) Place of opening of tenders and address for communication: Office of the Executive Engineer, Traffic Engineering and Mobility Cell, 2nd Floor, 9th Main Road, Jayanagara 2nd Block, Bengaluru-560011. (10) EMD Amount: Rs. 20 Lakhs (out of which Rs. 16 Lakhs as bank guarantee and rest of Rs. 4 Lakhs paid in KPP Portal) for each Zone wise bid. Further details may be obtained from the above office, during office hours or website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Sd/- Executive Engineer, Traffic Engineering and Mobility Cell, Bengaluru South City Corporation

Tamil Nadu Power Generation Corporation Ltd

Notice Inviting Tenders (E-Tendering Process)

| Specification No. | Tender Inviting Authority | Name of the Work |
|-------------------|---------------------------|--|
| OT - 1 | CE / PROJECTS | Ennore SEZ - Establishment of Flue Gas Desulphurisation (FGD) system & its Auxiliaries for 2 x 660 MW Ennore SEZ under Single EPC basis. |

For details of works / Procurement / Due date of submission / Opening, viewing and downloading of e-tenders, please visit websites: www.tnpscgoe.com, www.tenders.tnpscgoe.com, DIPR/1374/Tender/2026

BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION

Office of the Executive Engineer (QA/QC), Zone-2, Room No. 315, 3rd Floor, Mini Vidhana Soudha, Yelahanka, Bengaluru - 560064.

No: EE/QA/QC/Z-2/BNCC/TEND/07/2025-26 Date: 24-02-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION - (CALL-2)

(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, Quality Assurance / Quality Control Division, Zone-2, BNCC, Bengaluru invites Request for Proposal from interested Persons / Firms those who have done similar type of work for Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervision, Quality Control (PMC) for the below works.

| Sl. No. | Name of the Work |
|---------|--|
| 1 | Providing PMC Services including Supervision and Quality Control for Improvements to Roads and Drains at BB Road from Kempegowda Statue to Kogilu Circle in Ward No. 01 of Yelahanka Sub Division. Project Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 150.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 3,750/- |
| 2 | Providing PMC Services including Supervision and Quality Control for Improvements to Roads and Drains at Vishweshwaraiah Park Surrounding Area Main and Cross Roads in 'B' Sector Ward No. 04 of Yelahanka Sub Division. Project Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 150.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 3,750/- |
| 3 | Providing PMC Services including Supervision and Quality Control for Improvements to Roads and Drains at Basaveshwara Park Surrounding Area Main and Cross Roads in 'A' Sector Ward No. 04 of Yelahanka New Town Sub Division. Project Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 150.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 3,750/- |
| 4 | Providing PMC Services including Supervision and Quality Control for Development of Parks and Play Ground and Gym and Playing Equipments in Ward No. 02, 03, 04 of Yelahanka Sub Division. Project Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 200.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 4,625/- |

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender Document may be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 26-02-2026 at 4.00 PM. 2) Pre Bid Meeting will be held on 02-03-2026 at 11.30 AM in the Office of the Executive Engineer (QA/QC), Zone-2, Room No. 315, 3rd Floor, Mini Vidhana Soudha, Yelahanka, Bengaluru - 560064. 3) Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders: 05-03-2026 upto 4.00 PM. 4) Date of Opening of Technical Bid: 06-03-2026 at 4.30 PM. Further details can be had from the above office. Sd/- Executive Engineer (QA/QC) Zone-2, BNCC.

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