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Email cannot die in the near future, says inventor VA Shiva Ayyadurai

AJAY KUMAR | Gurgaon, July 30, 2015 | 03:26



VA Shiva Ayyadurai was only 14-years old when he invented the revolutionary mechanism of file transfer from one place to another in a hassle-free manner.

Despite the fact that 70 to 80 per cent people across the globe depend on emails, very few know that its inventor is an Indian who says that it is here to stay.

Meet VA Shiva Ayyadurai who had invented the revolutionary mechanism of file transfer from one place to another in a hassle-free manner when he was just 14-years old.

Sharing his thoughts with Mail Today, Ayyadurai said that requirements of daily life are responsible for any kind of invention and email came into being in a similar fashion.

"Prior to 1980, people used to dictate to a secretary for preparing written documents and that person would then punch keys on a typewriter. I was inspired to invent a medium for doing this work by engaging just one person," he said.

Ayyadurai was born in a TAMILIAN family in Mumbai and his parents settled down in New Jersey in 1970. In 1979, he was given an assignment to develop electronic version of file transfer system and he used computer to achieve the milestone. He took copyright of email in 1982.

"I am very proud of myself for achieving such revolutionary electronic method and it was possible because of good and cooperative mentors. I was lucky that my parents had supported and guided me with a positive framework," he said.

Earlier, physical transportation of letters in written form was the only medium to send information from one place to another. Ayyadurai kept this in mind while programming the electronic version of file transfer.

"Email cannot die in the near future because of its universal acceptance. SMSes, WhatsApp or Twitter may not be accepted during legal procedures but email is. We can improve the utility of email by manoeuvring its use in a constructive manner. Currently, we are working as typist and we have to introduce voice software to improve it further," the inventor said.

He said that this achievement is more important for those Indians who follow western countries. The foreigners cannot teach Indians who have tradition, culture and history dating back 5,000 years.

"The western citizens pride in their inventors like Albert Einstein, etc. We are no way behind because Aryabhatt found the elliptical orbit, JC Bose invented the radio while Indians are credited with giving yoga, ayurveda and many other things to the world. We just have to look back at our rich traditional culture," Ayyadurai said.

He also believes that the Narendra Modi-led government has the vision to develop the country that the earlier Manmohan Singh government lacked.

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