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Robotics is his forte

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Aditya.K, fourth year mechanical engineering student from Rajahmundry, who was selected as research scientist by a South Korean institute. In the area of robotics, the gripper or the mechanical hand is vital as it is required to place the object at the desired location. The requirements of this tool in terms of dexterousness and load capacity similar to that of the human hand and flexibility to adapt to the object are necessary.

A Rajahmundry student has made this possible with his interest in the field of robotics, specialising in intelligent systems. Aditya K., a 4th year student of mechanical engineering student in Amrita University, Kerala, has been selected as junior research scientist in Cognitive Robotics Centre, Korean Institute of Science and Technology (KIST), Seoul.

Ganesh Udupa is the project guide and the student's mentor, along with Pramod Sreedharan. Aditya is now working under the supervision of Yong Kwun Lee, Director Bio-Robotics Lab, KIST. Mr. Udupa said, "Its biggest market will be in the medical field.

The humanoid multi-fingered gripper can be fitted in place of a surgically-removed hand. Those who have lost their hands in accidents or during wars will benefit. By attaching an arm to a chair or cot, the artificial hand can also be used like an attendant, to feed a patient."

Hailing from a middle-class family and the son of Ramananda Kumar, working in Panchayat Raj Department and Nagavalli, a school teacher, Mr. Aditya did his Intermediate from Narayana College, Hyderabad. The research team claims to be the first to develop single chamber asymmetric micro actuators that helped Aditya publish a paper at the international conference.

His research projects include robotic gripper, development of six-legged robot using flexible micro actuators, 'Chaskhayaan', an unmanned vertical takeoff and landing vehicle, prototype of a remote-controlled aircraft, an innovative micro, walking robot, cellphone-operated car and a remote-controlled boat. He presented papers on micro-nano mechatronics also.

Speaking to *The Hindu* from Seoul, Aditya said he wanted to undertake projects in different field of industry that were particularly suited to Indian conditions.

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