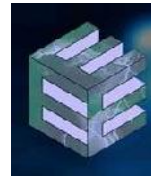


POLARIS



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**A NEWSLETTER OF ELETRICAL & ELECTRONICS
DEPARTMENT**

EDITOR'S VOICE:

Driverless Train



A train that doesn't run on physical tracks and that has no driver could soon carry commuters in China, according to news reports.

The new Autonomous Rail Transit (ART) combines bus and train transportation systems, [reported Xinhua News](#). Like a subway train but on the street, the ART uses sensors to detect road dimensions and is guided by [autonomous driving technology](#) developed by Chinese rail-maker CRRC Zhuzhou Locomotive. This technology enables the vehicle to follow routes without needing rails Feng Jianghua, chief engineer for the project, told Xinhua.

- Mrs. A. Jyothirmaye

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SCIENTIST OF THE MONTH:

Benjamin Franklin



Benjamin Franklin was born on January 17, 1706, in Boston, Massachusetts. His accomplishments as a scientist, publisher and statesman are particularly remarkable when considered in the context of colonial North America, which lacked the cultural and commercial institutions to nourish original ideas. He dedicated himself to the improvement of everyday life for the widest number of people and, in so doing, made an indelible mark on the emerging nation.

Franklin's inventions include bifocal glasses and the iron furnace stove, a small contraption with a sliding door which burns wood on a grate, thus allowing people to cook food and heat their homes at the same time.

Mid-eighteenth century scientists and inventors considered electricity to be Franklin's most remarkable area of investigation and discovery.

In his famous experiment using a key and a kite during a thunderstorm, Franklin (working with his son) tested his hypothesis that lightning bolts are actually powerful electrical currents. This work led to the invention of the lightning rod which had the dramatic effect of preventing structures from igniting and burning as the result of being struck by lightning.