

## N.1 : Foundation Day celebration at RRCAT

RRCAT celebrated its 24<sup>th</sup> foundation day on Feb. 19, 2008. It was on this day in 1984 that the foundation stone for the new centre was laid by the then President of India, Giani Zail Singh. Dr. K. Kasturirangan, Hon'ble Member of Parliament and Director, National Institute of Advanced Studies, graced the occasion.

The main event of the day was a gathering in the Central Complex auditorium in which the chief guest addressed the staff of RRCAT. At the start of the programme, Dr. P.D.Gupta, Head Laser Plasma Division, RRCAT introduced the chief guest, giving an outline of the profile of Dr. Kasturirangan. This was followed by a review of the year's progress and achievements of RRCAT by Dr. V.C.Sahni, Director, RRCAT. Dr. Sahni gave a concise yet all-inclusive account of the progress made by RRCAT on all fronts ranging from improvements in Indus accelerators to lasers being used for various applications. He also described the noteworthy role of RRCAT in the various international collaborations of DAE with some of the leading world laboratories



Dr. Kasturirangan addressing RRCAT staff members.

Next, it was the turn of Dr. Kasturirangan to address the audience. The topics covered by him in his talk were quite different from the fields of activities pursued in RRCAT. The audience listened to him with rapt attention. Dr. Kasturirangan's talk was entitled, "ASTROSAT and CHANDRAYAAN-1" He traced the growth of India's space programme starting from the early days of cosmic ray experiments carried out by Dr. Homi Bhabha and Dr. Vikram Sarabhai, leading to the present stage in which the country is able to carry out sophisticated scientific research through its satellites. He described various applications of these space vehicles especially in scientific research in areas ranging from oceanography to astronomy. The latest projects of Indian

space programme : ASTROSAT, and CHANDRAYAAN-1, were described in some detail. CHANDRAYAAN-1 will be India's first space vehicle to be sent for lunar studies.

At the end of the programme, Shri. C.K. Pithawa, In-Charge, Indus Accelerator Complex, proposed a vote of thanks. Dr. Kasturirangan also visited several laboratories of RRCAT.

Dr. Kasturirangan wrote in RRCAT Visitor Book : "A memorable experience, visiting, seeing and interacting with the scientific community of the Raja Ramanna Centre for Advanced Technology. A centre of excellence where Physics, Engineering and Technology are stretched to limits, products that represent best of innovation, creativity and originality as well as where the most difficult and complex system engineering jobs are undertaken with highest degree of professionalism. No wonder, the world scientific community is eager to collaborate and cooperate with this institution. The future vision is very impressive. I congratulate the team of the Centre and wish the very best in the years to come".

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## N.2 : Science Day celebrated at RRCAT



Students looking at a log of wood being burnt using an invisible CO<sub>2</sub> laser beam.

In keeping with the tradition, RRCAT observed Science Day on March 1, 2008. Std XI students from 67 schools from Indore and adjoining areas visited RRCAT. The total number of visitors from these schools including students and accompanying teachers was 1103. The day's programme started with the visitors assembling in the main auditorium of the Central Complex for the Director's address. Dr. P.D. Gupta, Officiating Director gave a talk entitled,