

N.1 : Foundation Day celebration at RRCAT

RRCAT celebrated its 24th 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 CO₂ 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,

“Remembering Raman: Cheers to Indian Science” in which he described the ingenious experiments of Sir C.V. Raman which led to the Nobel prize winning discovery of Raman Effect. Dr. Gupta also described the growth of Indian science in the decades which followed. He listed various scientific institutions which came up in the country, especially the Department of Atomic Energy, of which RRCAT is a part. He gave an account of the scientific activities of the Centre. Dr. Gupta's address was delivered in a simple and easy to understand style and had a stimulating effect on the students.

The Director's address was followed by guided visits of the students to some of the laboratories of RRCAT. There were a total of ten laboratories which were opened to the young visitors. Some of the activities of RRCAT and some items of general scientific interest were displayed in the form of interesting exhibits which enthused the students. Morning snacks and afternoon lunch was served to the visitors from the schools. In the afternoon, the laboratories were open to families of RRCAT employees, who visited the laboratories in a large number and saw the exhibits.

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N.3 : Women's Day 2008 celebration

Women's day was celebrated at RRCAT on March 18, 2008. At the start of the programme, Dr. Alka Ingale, Chairperson, Women Cell, RRCAT gave a brief overview of the Women Cell activities from the time of its constitution.



Dr. Swati Jain addressing the RRCAT women staff members.

She said that as a trust building measure for creating a better work atmosphere for women, it was found necessary to

increase the interaction among women co-workers. She explained that one such step taken by Women Cell in this regard has been to start the Women's Day celebration (this being the 4th year).

The Chief Guest of the function was Dr. Swati Jain, an eminent educationist and a multi faceted personality. She has doctorate degree in “Education Leadership and Innovations” from U.S.A. At present, she is involved with a project on social justice with UNESCO and is working on a new mission called 'Inclusive Education'. Dr. Jain talked about the best methodology to follow in order to become a successful woman. She emphasized the need for women to give time to themselves and discussed how it can be done effectively in daily routine by efficient time management.

The theme of the Women's Day function was “Togetherness” and it was proposed to have mainly group activities and presentations. The first in the series was a presentation by Mrs. Anagha Mokhariwale and Mrs. M. Seema on the theme of the day, “Togetherness”. The importance of people of diversified skills working as a team to achieve a common goal was presented beautifully using anecdotes and many real and fictional examples. The post-lunch session started with a presentation by Dr. Alka Ingale and Dr. Aparna Chakrabarti. The presentation was about a survey they have conducted along with Dr. Rama Chari and Dr. Suparna Pal related to Women in Science. It was noted that there is a higher level of acceptance of working women. However, it is left to the women to carefully balance home and work fronts in order to be successful.

A humorous skit, “Guldasta”, depicting how well the dual responsibilities are managed by women in office and at home, written and directed by Ms. Sushama Sinha was presented by AECS (Indore) teachers. In an attempt to portray the emotional intricacies of the prominent woman characters from the Indian mythology, another drama entitled “NARI SHAKTI” written and directed by Mrs. Rekha Raikar Kumar was enacted with six mythological characters along with a contemporary sutradhar woman. In the other group performances, chorus songs, a Garba and two classical dance styles, Kathak and Bharatnatyam, were performed. Game show by Mrs. Usha Chakravarty further increased the interaction among participants. Mrs. Susan Koshi shared her feelings and thoughts, at the retirement stage of her career. The programme concluded with very enthusiastic discussions over evening tea.

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