

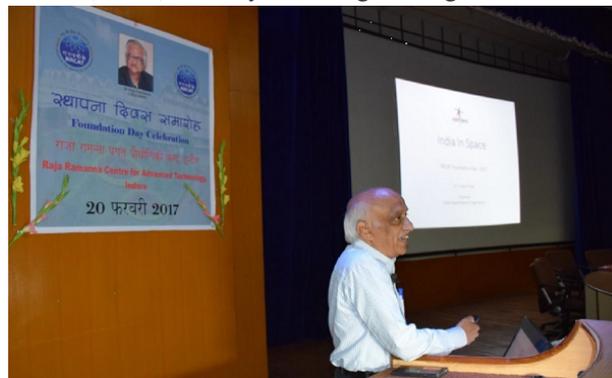
N.1: Celebration of RRCAT Foundation Day

Raja Ramanna Centre for Advanced Technology (RRCAT) celebrated its 34th Foundation Day on Monday, 20th February 2017. Shri A. S. Kiran Kumar, Secretary, Department of Space, Chairman, Space Commission and Chairman, Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) was the Chief Guest of the function. Dr. P. A. Naik, Director, RRCAT, presided over the function. Shri S.C. Joshi, Head, Proton Linac & Superconducting Cavities Division welcomed the gathering.

Dr. P. A. Naik in his presidential address presented an overview of the scientific activities of RRCAT and highlighted the important achievements accomplished during the last one year. He informed that both Indus-1 and Indus-2 Synchrotron Radiation Sources are functioning very well and in the calendar year 2016, total of 639 experiments were setup by researchers and students using the beam lines. Currently 19 beam lines are operating and another seven are under constructions. Using the protein crystallography beam line, 31 new protein structures have been added to the global Protein Data Bank (PDB). He also highlighted contributions made by RRCAT for various programmes of DAE, including those for nuclear power plants by carrying out laser cutting in hazardous conditions. Dr. Naik also talked about future projects of RRCAT, including Indian Spallation Neutron Source (ISNS) and various international collaborations. RRCAT is embarking on a new collaboration under the LIGO India framework for explorations in the field of gravitational waves. He also talked about various other major achievements and endeavours of RRCAT during the last one year, particularly about Laser Additive Manufacturing and Laser based Instruments. Dr. Naik also underlined the role of RRCAT in Indian Space Program and briefly mentioned about certain calibrations carried out for Chandrayan-1 and Mangalyaan (Mars Orbiter Mission).

Chief Guest of the function Shri A. S. Kiran Kumar addressed the capacity packed gathering of RRCAT staff members and invited dignitaries. In his captivating talk he gave glimpses of achievements and challenges of space program of India. He scanned the journey from the early years to the latest successful launch of PSLV C37, that marked a world record on 15th February 2017 by carrying Cartosat-2 along with 103 smaller satellites. He explained the accuracy required for space missions and how indigenous developments have helped Indian space program to achieve bigger and higher goals. He emphasised the importance of industry participation in the space program of India and also discussed various technologies developed by Department of Space. Shri A.S. Kiran Kumar also visited various laboratories in RRCAT and interacted with scientists and engineers. One special session of interaction with students and research fellows was also organised, which was attended by an enthusiastic gathering.

At the end of function, the vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. S. B. Roy, Head, Materials and Advanced Accelerator Sciences Division. The programme was conducted by Shri S. V. Nakhe, Head, Laser Systems Engineering Division.



Chief Guest of the Foundation Day Function, Shri A.S. Kiran Kumar, Secretary, Department of Space, Chairman, Space Commission and Chairman, Indian Space Research Organization delivering his talk



RRCAT staff members and other dignitaries in the auditorium during the lecture of Shri A.S. Kiran Kumar



Dr. P. A. Naik, Director RRCAT, presenting memento to the Chief Guest, Shri A.S. Kiran Kumar

Reported by:
S. V. Nakhe (nakhe@rrcat.gov.in)