



## NEWS

### Vision Meeting

Dr. Anil Kakodkar, Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission and Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy, vide his open letter on 'Development of our collective vision for the future' dated February 16, 2004, addressed to all employees of the DAE family, sought inputs for 'defining in a more focused manner some of the important directions in which we must push our Programme of research and development as well as their applications. To be able to carry out this exercise in an organized manner, five major topics were suggested with each major topic further subdivided in to subtopics. For each subtopic, several coordinating mentors, amongst senior scientists/engineers, were suggested to guide the process. Dr. Kakodkar sought a one-page write up, especially from Scientists/Engineers who have about 15-20 years, to see the Programme through.

At CAT, the response to Chairman's request was spontaneous and overwhelming. There were in all 74 proposals spanning the entire spectrum from Environment & Health, Food & Agriculture, Nano Technologies, Light Sources and Particle Beams, Accelerators Superconductivity and Cryogenics, Directions for Basic Research in Physical Sciences, Biological Sciences, Engineering Sciences and Surface Engineering and Human Resource Development, Societal Vision etc.

Open oral presentations of all proposals took place on March 21-23, 2004 in the Central Complex Auditorium. Each proposer was given 15 minutes for presentation followed by 5 minutes for discussion. Five presenters from as many subtopics were chosen as spoke persons of that subtopic to summarize Vision outlines of all the proposers in the subtopic at the Final Plenary Vision Meeting held on May 17-19, 2004 at Central Complex Auditorium, BARC.

### National Science Day

National Science Day – 2004 was celebrated at the Centre on Saturday, February 28, 2004. Enthusiastic response was received from all schools and request for participation were received from 12 schools in addition to those contacted. Schools were requested to send 20 students from Class 10<sup>th</sup> to Class 12<sup>th</sup> and 2 science teachers. The total number of students and teachers was around 1680. CAT personnel to facilitate ease of movement within the campus accompanied batch of 20 students.

Large number of live experiments on the areas of Lasers, Accelerators, Cryo technology etc. were put up and a team of more than 200 Scientists/Engineers explained the various experiment/exhibits and answered questions in the labs. A brief introduction of lasers and accelerators was given by Dr. K.C. Rustagi, Head, Laser Physics Division. Dr. Rustagi shared the excitement of doing research and asked the students to take up career in research.

Students were amazed at what light can do! Application of lasers in R&D, bioscience, medical, industrial and metrology were highly appreciated. Use of accelerators in food preservation, medical science and R&D also drew a big response.

Several schools shared their experience after the visit through letters. They all had one thing in common, "Sincere gratitude for making 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2004 one of the most informative day of our life. The kind co-operation and clear explanation by the researchers enabled us to comprehend even the most complex phenomena with utmost ease".

### Young Scientist Research Program-2004

For last five years Centre for Advanced Technology (CAT) has been organizing Young Scientists Research Programme (YSRP) to motivate and encourage young M.Sc. and B. Tech/B.E. students from universities/engineering institutes to pursue research careers. With this aim, YSRP-2004 was organized from 24<sup>th</sup> May to 4<sup>th</sup> July 2004 at CAT. For this purpose fifteen students were selected out of over hundred applications received from students of various universities, IIT's and other engineering institutes. During the six weeks stay at CAT these students worked on projects of their choices in different laboratories to gain first hand experience on frontier area of research. Experts of respective fields also exposed the participants to frontier areas of Laser and its application in spectroscopy and biology, nano-materials, superconductivity and material science through series of lectures.

All the participants successfully completed their projects and orally presented their work in seminars held on the concluding day of YSRP-2004. The participants also submitted project reports describing their experiments and works performed during YSRP-2004.