



DIRECTOR'S DESK...

For this issue we are departing from the earlier format of CAT Newsletter since several important events took place in the Centre over the last six months. These included the visit of Hon'ble Minister of State in Prime Minister's Office, Shri Prithviraj Chavan on August 21, 2005, the first successful circulation of electrons in Indus-2 which was demonstrated to the members of the Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister who visited our Centre on August 28, 2005. Then, over the next few months, various sub-systems of Indus-2, including kicker magnets and RF system were improved for their integrated performance and eventually the electron beam was stored for several hundred milliseconds. The first synchrotron light out of Indus-2 with 450 MeV electrons was recorded on December 2, 2005, which marked the culmination of an intensive effort of nearly 300 scientists and engineers of our Centre over several years. In mid-December 2005, the Honourable Prime Minister of India Dr. Manmohan Singh visited our Centre and dedicated the Synchrotron Radiation Source Indus-2 to the Nation as well as renamed our Centre as Raja-Ramanna Centre for Advanced Technology.

This issue of RRCAT Newsletter has been put together by the Editorial Board to mark all these events. The Board has also added a number of pictures of Dr. Raja Ramanna to serve as a "collector's item" besides bringing together a number of pictures pertaining to the above events. In addition, a bio-memoir of Dr. Ramanna written by Prof. M.G.K. Menon has been included in this issue, apart from messages from our visitors/distinguished science leaders in the country, which the Editors felt were relevant for this issue. Pictures of a number of other components and systems developed over the years at the Centre are also included. As Indus-2, the country's biggest Particle Accelerator, now poised to provide synchrotron light to prospective users, continues to make steady progress, all of us in this Centre will rededicate ourselves to the tasks ahead and also promise that we will strive our best to fulfill the expectations of the scientific community in the country and vision of personalities like Dr. Raja Ramanna who created this Centre.

V.C. Sahni

EDITORIAL DESK...

In the early 80's Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) decided to relocate some of the activities of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre in advanced technology areas, such as, lasers, accelerators, plasma physics, ultra high vacuum technology through creation of a separate institution. The activities of the new Centre were spelt out in an Office Order issued on June 27, 1983 by Dr Raja Ramanna, the then Secretary, DAE. His Excellency, Shri Gyani Zail Singh, the then President of India, laid the foundation stone of the Centre on February 19, 1984. Thereafter, in the first two years, the basic infrastructure was put in place and the first scientific activity of the Centre started in 1986/87. Over the last two decades, various advanced R&D facilities of high standard have been created. In this issue, we have collected together pictures of these developments and are presenting them to accompany the landmark events that we witnessed in our Centre during the second half of the year 2005. These events are already mentioned in the Director's desk. Among these, the most prominent is the renaming of our Centre by Dr. Manmohan Singh, Honourable Prime Minister of India as "Raja Ramanna Centre for Advanced Technology" in the memory of Dr. Raja Ramanna. This issue of the Newsletter is being brought out in a different style, by substantially departing from the earlier format. Instead of detailed textual reports, we have chosen the pictorial format to highlight the important scientific and technological achievements of the Centre since its inception. We hope these pictures, along with some other material on Dr. Ramanna in the form of a photo album and a bio-memoir by Prof. M.G.K. Menon, will give the readers a glimpse into the personality of the person who was responsible for starting our Centre and also an insight into what we have achieved.

Editorial Board