

## Graduation function RRCAT training school

The Graduation Function of the 6th batch of RRCAT Training School was held on August 30, 2006. Distinguished Scientist Prof M.G.K. Menon, Former Minister of State for Science & Technology, was the Chief Guest and Dr. Anil Kakodkar, Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission and Secretary, Dept. of Atomic Energy, Govt. of India,

presided over the function. Dr P.D. Gupta, Chairman, RRCAT Training School Committee, presented the welcome address and Shri S. Kotaiah, Project Manager, Indus-2, proposed vote of thanks. Kum. Sonal Jain, topped this batch and received the Homi Bhabha Prize.

Dr. V. C. Sahni, Director RRCAT could not be present at this function. He sent the following message:

First, my apologies for not being here to rejoice with you on this Graduation Day. I may not be physically present, but I will be with you in thoughts and praying to Almighty that all my young friends, who would be joining the Department of Atomic Energy to start their professional careers in the midst of the Ganesh festival, will reach pinnacle of glory in their careers. I am optimistic that you will all have a bright future, and that you will bring laurels to the Department, glories to your families and pride to yourself. Of course, I must compliment you for having successfully completed your Orientation Course and for the hard work you have put in the year before.



Now as you embark on your careers, could think of no better way than to get you the guidance and advice from two Stalwarts of Indian Science & Technology, namely, Prof. M.G.K. Menon and Dr. Anil Kakodkar. Prof. Menon has seen the rise of the DAE, from its fledgling start, with a small number of persons associated with the TIFR, to

the full grown tree that it is today. Therefore, getting his perspective is like getting the essence of years of our collective scientific effort. Dr. Kakodkar, entered the Department, when DAE was still trying to navigate its ways through a diverse range of tasks, from fundamental research in basic sciences to industrial activities connected with nuclear energy programme. He has watched and contributed in numerous different ways to the growth of the full range of these activities, from its infancy to its present robust state. Today he is steering the even bigger multifarious activities of the DAE, including those that we are pursuing at this Centre, with consummate skill and outstanding leadership. So my young friends, getting the words of inspiration from these two stalwarts is the best stimulus I could think of providing you as you embark on your scientific voyage in the different units of the Department. I am sure that all of you together, will carry forward the programmes of the Department and that you will rise to the challenges that you will face. Let me once again compliment you on your Graduation Day and wish each one of you a very bright future. God bless you all. Thank you.

## Doctor of Science (honoris causa) to Dr. V.C. Sahni



Dr. V.C. Sahni received Doctor of Science (honoris causa) degree from His Excellency Dr. Balam Jharkar, Governor, Madhya Pradesh at the 21<sup>st</sup> convocation of Rani Durgavati Vishwavidyalaya, Jabalpur.

The citation reads “Dr. Vinod Chandra Sahni, Director, Raja Ramanna Centre for Advanced Technology, Indore and Director, Physics Group, BARC, Mumbai is a versatile physicist, who has made stellar contributions to several programmes of the Department of Atomic Energy through his rare insights and outstanding leadership. He recently led the team that set up and commissioned countries biggest particle accelerator, the 2.5 GeV Synchrotron Radiation Source, Indus-2 at RRCAT, Indore and also delivered all systems committed by DAE for world's biggest accelerator, the Large Hadron Collider coming up at CERN, Geneva, thus putting the State of

Madhya Pradesh on global scientific map. On the occasion of its 21<sup>st</sup> convocation, Rani Durgawati University considers it a proud privilege to confer the degree of Doctor of Science (Honoris causa) on Dr. Vinod Chandra Sahni”.