

## N.2 : Foundation Day 2007 function

Foundation day function of Raja Ramanna Centre for Advanced Technology was celebrated on 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2007. It may be recalled that it was on 19<sup>th</sup> February, 1984 that the foundation stone for the “Centre for Advanced Technology” was laid by the late President of India, Gyani Zail Singh. This year’s celebration was marked by the visit of eminent scientist, Prof. P. Balaram, Director, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.



Fig.N.2: Prof. P. Balaram addressing the RRCAT staff

The main function was held in the Central Complex auditorium. Dr. P.D. Gupta, Outstanding Scientist & Head, Laser Plasma Division gave the welcome address, which was followed by Director’s address by Dr. V.C. Sahni. In his address, Dr. Sahni reviewed the progress made by the Centre during the last one year. The chief guest Prof. Balaram gave the Foundation Day address. His lecture entitled, “Science, Scientists and Scientometrics” held the audience spell-bound for more than one hour. Shri. S.Kotaiah, Project Manager (Indus-2) proposed the vote of thanks. The programme concluded with all the staff members of RRCAT gathering on the central lawns for a high tea with the visiting dignitary.

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## N.3 : National Science Day 2007 celebration

RRCAT kept up its tradition by celebrating the National Science Day on Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> February 2007. For more than a decade, RRCAT has been celebrating the National Science Day on the last Saturday of the month of February to commemorate the Nobel Prize winning

discovery of “Raman effect” by Dr. Chandrasekhar Venkat Raman.

Prior invitations had been sent to a large number of schools in Indore district, calling for students of classes XI and XII (science) to visit RRCAT. In response to the invitations, a total of 1460 students from 87 schools turned up. Initial registration of individual schools was done at the main gate. At the time of registration, each school was assigned an escorting employee of RRCAT to act as guide cum supervisor for their visit to the Centre. All the visiting school teams were first made to assemble in the main auditorium and lecture halls in the Central Complex, where a scientific talk was delivered by the officiating Director, Dr. P.D. Gupta. The students and their accompanying teachers listened with keen interest as Dr. Gupta lucidly described the discovery of Raman effect, and the subsequent growth of science in India. Dr. Gupta also told the students about the start of the atomic energy programme in India and gave an outline of the history of RRCAT and information on some of the scientific activities being pursued here.



Fig.N.3 : Students looking at the artificial cloud formed using liquid nitrogen over water.

After listening to the stimulating and informative talk by Dr. Gupta, the individual school teams started their guided tour of RRCAT. In view of the fact that many of these students had been on the move since early morning, light snacks were served at the start of their tour. There were more than thirty excellent educative exhibits distributed over ten different buildings. These included models, posters and video shows on the Indus-1 and Indus-2 synchrotron radiation sources, live demonstrations of cutting and marking with laser beams, demonstrations of gas laws with

liquid nitrogen, demonstration experiments on magnetism, computer control of dynamic systems, just to mention a few. The young students found the laboratory visits so interesting, that in-spite of the strong sun outside, they just kept moving from one building to the next.

After a long and tiring tour of all the exhibits, the visiting students and their teachers were served a sumptuous lunch. To help them remember what they had heard and seen on this day, informative pamphlets were given to the visitors describing RRCAT activities. It is certain that the day succeeded in winning at least a few young hearts and minds over to the pursuit of basic science.

The afternoon was kept for providing an opportunity to the family members of employees of RRCAT to visit the laboratories. A large number of employees brought their spouses and children. The staff members manning the exhibits were as enthusiastic in the afternoon as in the morning, in explaining their displayed setup in-spite of the fact that they had already explained their exhibits to 87 school teams in the morning.

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#### **N.4 : Women's Day 2007 celebration**

For last three years, RRCAT has been celebrating women's day every year. This year, Women's Day was celebrated at RRCAT on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2007 in two sessions. In the morning session lectures by two eminent ladies were scheduled, followed by a literature oriented programme in the post-lunch session.

The first lecture was delivered by Dr. (Mrs) Akalpita Paranjpe, a multi-faceted personality who recently took voluntary retirement from BARC, Mumbai. In her presentation entitled "The Mighty Will : A Driving Force for Success", she described her philosophy of life, which was evident in her inspirational and informative talk covering life of Ahilyabai Holkar. After narrating her interesting findings related to homeopathy, she emphasized on the need of the hour for the women to do their part in building up of the nation. During the lunch and post-lunch session, women staff of RRCAT had discussions with her getting to know more about homeopathy and her other activities like social work.



*N.4: Dr. (Mrs.) Akalpita Paranjpe addressing women staff of RRCAT*

The second lecture was by Mrs. Rekha Raikar Kumar, Joint Controller of Finance and Accounts, RRCAT. As an ICAS officer (1996 batch), she talked about her journey into civil service. Her narration was listened with rapt attention, as different aspects of the journey got unraveled. She also gave important information about how one can apply and prepare for civil service and requested all to encourage their children to look at civil service as one of the career options.

The post lunch session had a literature oriented programme, wherein RRCAT women staff enthusiastically took to stage for poem reciting, mono-acting, singing, etc. The programme was successfully concluded with a tea session in the evening.

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#### **N.5 : National Laser Symposium NLS- 06 held at RRCAT**

The Sixth DAE-BRNS National Laser Symposium (NLS-06) was held at the Raja Ramanna Centre for Advanced Technology, Indore, between 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2006. For last six years, this symposium is being sponsored by the Board of Research in Nuclear Sciences (BRNS). The earlier nine symposia (started in 1992) were sponsored by the National Laser Programme. The symposium is organized in collaboration with the Indian Laser Association (ILA). The Symposium, which is an established annual scientific event for last 15 years, gives the laser community all over the country an opportunity to meet