

N.1: Graduation Function of 10th Batch of BARC Training School, RRCAT



Graduating TSOs of the 10th batch of RTS posing for a photograph with the chief guest and other dignitaries

Twenty three Trainee Scientific Officers (TSOs) of the 10th batch of BARC Training School RRCAT successfully completed the one year orientation course (2009-2010). Dr. Srikumar Banerjee, Chairman Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) and Secretary Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), was the chief guest for the graduation function that held in the Central Complex auditorium of RRCAT on 28th August 2010. Dr. P. K. Gupta, Chairman Training School Committee RRCAT, welcomed the chief guest and other dignitaries with the welcome speech. The chief guest gave away the graduation certificates to all the TSOs. Shri Deepak Daiya bagged the prestigious Homi Bhabha medal and a cash prize of Rs. 5000, as the topper of the batch.

In his address as the chief guest, Dr. Srikumar Banerjee congratulated all the young officers for successfully completing the orientation course and choosing research and development in the field of science and technology as their career. He informed that the goal of DAE is to increase nuclear power generation to 35,000 MW by the year 2020 from its present capacity of 4,500 MW delivered by 19 functional nuclear reactors and five costal projects, each of 10,000 MW capacity, had already been approved for that. He deliberated on the plan of increasing use of indigenous thorium reactor technology for fulfilling this energy requirement. He also discussed about the challenges of radioactive waste management and the combined role of fast reactor and accelerator technology to solve this problem. Among other things Dr. Banerjee talked about the importance of nuclear liability Bill and also emphasized the necessity of promoting departmental research in healthcare and agriculture.

The function was presided over by Dr. P.D. Gupta, Director RRCAT. In his address, he told that India could rise through innovations in science & technology by skilled

human resource. He further informed that the University Grants Commission had identified Homi Bhabha National Institute (HBNI), as a unique university and ten students had enrolled for PhD programme of HBNI this year. Dr. S.B. Roy, Dean (Academic) HBNI at RRCAT was also present on the Dias. Shri S.C. Bapna, Head BARC Training School at RRCAT proposed a vote of thanks concluding the function.

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N.2: National Laser Symposium (NLS-19) at RRCAT

The National Laser Symposium is an established annual event, with Raja Ramanna Centre for Advanced Technology (RRCAT), hosting the 19th in this series from the 1st to the 4th December 2010. There was a special session celebrating "50 years of the invention of laser". This symposium was sponsored by the Board of Research in Nuclear Sciences (BRNS) of Department of Atomic Energy.

The inaugural function was held at the Central Complex Auditorium at RRCAT on 1st December morning, which was presided over by Dr. P. D. Gupta, Director RRCAT. The chief guest of the function was Dr. R. Chidambaram, Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India. The other dignitaries present at the dais were: Prof. A. K. Sood, (Professor, IISc Bangalore), Dr. P K Gupta (President, Indian Laser Association), Dr. P A Naik, (Convener, NLS-19) and Dr. Arup Banerjee (Secretary, NLS-19).

In his inaugural address, Dr. P. D. Gupta welcomed the Chief Guest Dr. R. Chidambaram and all the participants of the symposium coming from the various parts of the country. This was followed by an address by Dr. R. Chidambaram titled: "Laser, Photonics, Development and Society". In his presentation, Dr. Chidambaram highlighted the various milestones achieved by some of the premier institutes of the country in the sphere of laser developments and their applications. The key note speaker, Prof. A. K. Sood, in his talk titled: "Laser as a lifeline for a condensed matter physicist", highlighted the significant role that laser plays in the carrying out various spectroscopies, including Raman spectroscopy. The inaugural session concluded with a short review of the Indian Laser Association (ILA) activities by Dr. P. K. Gupta and a vote of thanks by Dr. P. A. Naik, convener of the symposium. This was followed by inauguration of Laser Exhibition (organized by ILA) by Dr. R. Chidambaram.

To mark the completion of 50 years of the invention of laser, a special session was organized on the first day afternoon. In this session, five posters depicting the development of lasers and their applications to various aspects of human life were unveiled. A booklet detailing the works of nearly 40 pioneers of lasers was released. In