

Newsletter

CENTRE FOR ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY

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Centre for Advanced Technology —from concept to percept

The Centre for Advanced Technology (CAT) set up by the Department of Atomic Energy at Indore in Madhya Pradesh is a natural outgrowth of the scientific expertise and manpower resources generated at the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Bombay over the last two decades in many areas of science and technology. As is widely known, BARC has active research programs covering a wide range of scientific disciplines including frontier areas such as particle accelerators, lasers and fusion research. Because of the importance of these areas, there was a need to

diversify and expand these programmes substantially. However, the facilities at BARC were reaching a point of saturation. The Atomic Energy Commission, therefore took a decision to establish a new research centre which was approved by the Government of India in the year 1981. The areas identified for research and development at the new centre were Lasers, Particle accelerators and fusion research.

A site selection committee was formed in January 1982 under the Chairmanship of Dr. Raja Ramanna to select a suitable site for the Centre. The Committee visited

many possible sites in the country including a few in M.P. on 22nd & 23rd April, 1982. Finally the Committee selected Indore for setting up the Centre. Initially, a site between the Phooti Kothi and Hawa Mahal was selected for this purpose but later on, when a team including Dr. D. D. Bhawalkar, Dr. S. R. Gowarikar and others visited Indore, they suggested to the Site Selection Committee that the picturesque Sukhniwas lake and surrounding area would be more appropriate. This proposal was accepted by the Committee. The MP Government and the Indore Municipal Corpor-



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M E S S A G E

I am happy to learn that the Centre for Advanced Technology is bringing out a quarterly Newsletter and that its first issue will be released sometime during this month. Publication of the Newsletter will enable the activities of CAT to be publicised. I am sure the Newsletter will be a useful addition to the technical literature available to our scientists and technologists. I wish this endeavour all success.

M.R. Srinivasan
5.6.88
(M.R.Srinivasan)

ation were also very enthusiastic, helpful and co-operative in extending all the necessary help required.

The recommendation of the Site Selection Committee regarding Sukhniwas, Indore as the site for the new centre, was approved by the Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi on 7-2-1983 and was announced publicly by the Chief Minister Shri Arjun Singh at a press gathering in Indore. An area of about 650 hectares near the Sukhniwas Palace was then acquired for CAT. Of this about 8 hectares around the Sukhniwas Palace was given on lease by the Municipal Corporation, about 292 hectares was acquired from private land holders and the rest from MP Government.

The inauguration of the commencement of CAT project work was done by President Shri Zail Singh on 19-2-1984 and the

construction of the first laboratory was taken up in May 1984. Besides the laboratories, construction of residential accommodation for staff was also taken up in order to attract skilled and experienced scientific and technical staff required for the work in the Laser and Accelerator Programmes. A Planning & Implementation Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri C. Ambasankaran to guide the activities of the project. Work progressed at a fast pace under the dynamic leadership of Shri Ambasankaran. Ninety quarters of various categories, services including an oxidation pond, water tower etc. were completed. The horticulture and landscaping work was also taken up on a large scale in order to beautify the areas in the complex. The old Sukhniwas Palace of Maharaja Holkar and the out-houses were also completely renovated. A major tree planting

programme was also taken up. Scientists and engineers started shifting to CAT around June 1986.

Subsequent to the retirement of Shri C. Ambasankaran, Dr. P. K. Iyengar, Director BARC was guiding the activities of the Centre as the Chairman of the Planning & Implementation Committee. Scientific activities at CAT then gathered a momentum. In March 1987, Dr. D. D. Bhawalkar, the then Head, Laser Division, BARC was appointed as Director, CAT by DAE. The Centre also received sanction from the Government for the financial and man-power requirement for the projects to be implemented in the Seventh Plan. It is expected that the research and development activities will expand rapidly in the next two to three years and will make CAT one of the most advanced scientific research institutions in the country.

—S. N. Vyas

EDITORIAL

It is our pleasure to introduce the first issue of CAT NEWSLETTER to you. The Centre for Advanced Technology was set up with a view to expand research and development work in the fields of laser and accelerators. Scientific activities started in CAT in June 1986. During the last two years, many new developments have taken place at CAT, about which other units of DAE in particular and scientific and academic institutions in India in general are unaware. It is the objective of this Newsletter to inform the scientific community and general public of the achievements, new developments and social and cultural activities of the Centre at regular intervals.

Any venture of this nature can only be sustained with the active co-operation of the staff working at CAT. We take this opportunity to request the staff members to come forward with ideas and information regarding their activities.

—Dr. R. Bhatnagar