

N.3 : Young Scientist Research Programme (YSRP-07) at RRCAT

Young Scientists Research Programme (YSRP-07) was organized at RRCAT this year during the period May 21 – July 13. RRCAT has been organizing this programme for last several years during the summer in order to motivate young M.Sc. and B.Tech. / B.E. students to pursue a career in research. This year, one hundred and twenty five applications were received and sixteen students from various parts of the country were selected. These included ten students from physics discipline and two each from electrical/electronics, metallurgy, and mechanical engineering disciplines. During their eight-week stay at RRCAT, each of these students was assigned a project under the guidance of a scientist / engineer at RRCAT. The topics of these projects were related to ongoing research and development activities at the Centre and the students soon got very much involved with their project work. A meeting of all these students was organized every Monday morning, where all student discussed their weekly progress. This gave an opportunity to all the students to know what others are working on. Perspective lectures were organized on Friday afternoons, where scientists/engineers from RRCAT conveyed the excitement of research and development work to these students. Visits to various accelerator and laser labs were also organized for these students, where they could see some of the frontline work going on at the Centre. During the seventh week of their stay, the students presented their work in open seminars, spread over two days. It is worth mentioning that the quality of the seminars by these students was remarkably good. Finally, every student submitted a report on his/her project work. Overall, students had very good experience working at RRCAT for eight weeks and they were very much excited about it. Some of the students have even expressed the desire to continue the work that they started, in collaboration with their guides at RRCAT.

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N.4 : Graduation Function of 7th batch of RRCAT Training School

The graduation function of the 7th batch of RRCAT Training School (RTS) was held on 28th August 2007. Prof. Yash Pal, former Chairman, UGC, and former Secretary, DST, was the chief guest for the occasion.

The function was held in the main auditorium of the Central Complex. Dr. S.V. Deshmukh, Member-Secretary of RRCAT Training School Committee (RTSC) conducted the function, which was presided over by Dr. V.C. Sahni, Director, RRCAT.



Fig. N.4 : Graduating TSOs with Prof. Yash Pal

Welcome address was given by Dr. P.D. Gupta (Chairman, RTSC). In his address, Dr. Gupta gave an outline of the distinguished profile of Prof. Yash Pal and briefly described the activities of the RRCAT Training School during the academic year 2006-07.

In his presidential remarks, Dr. V.C. Sahni congratulated the graduating trainee scientific officers (TSOs). He also described how the concept of training schools in DAE has grown, starting from the first training school of Atomic Energy Establishment at Trombay and leading to the setting up of similar training schools in several other units of the Department.

The presidential address was followed by distribution of graduation certificates to all the 17 TSOs who successfully completed the one-year orientation course (2006-2007). Ms. Rinki Upadhyay was awarded the prestigious Homi Bhabha Medal and Homi Bhabha Prize for standing first in the batch.

The highlight of the function was the address by the chief guest Prof. Yash Pal, which was full of wisdom acquired in the fields of science, technology, and education. He advised the bright young TSOs to take a comprehensive view of nature instead of viewing narrow compartments of knowledge as different disciplines. He emphasized that if the world is viewed from a correct perspective, then its vast diversity can be seen as a manifestation of its richness rather than a basis for conflict and division. He stressed the importance of being able to enjoy what one is doing. Prof. Yash Pal managed to convey such profound thoughts in his characteristic humorous style, adding a number of interesting anecdotes from his own experience. His talk held the audience spell-bound for more than one hour.

At the end of the function, Dr. S.C. Mehendale, Convener, RTS Committee, proposed the vote of thanks.

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