

addition, a special first day cover issued by the Department of Posts was released. Prof. A. K. Sood, Dr. D. D. Bhawalkar (former director, RRCAT), Prof. K. C. Rustagi (IIT, Mumbai), Dr. P. D. Gupta, and Shri. V. C Rai, (Director, Postal Services, GPO Indore), were present on this occasion. The postal department also organized a sale of the first day cover on this occasion. This was followed by a special technical session with the first talk by Dr. D. D. Bhawalkar, who traced the history of laser development and some of their recent applications in his talk titled: "50 glorious years of laser". Prof. K. C. Rustagi gave the next talk titled: "Lasers at 50, their impact on basic sciences", where he highlighted some of the significant work on non-linear optics, laser atom cooling etc. which were only possible due to the development of lasers.

Besides the above, there were seven technical sessions with a total of eighteen presentations by several luminaries in

the sphere of lasers and laser applications from all over India and three scientists from abroad. These sessions covered the following topics: Societal Applications of Lasers, Novel Lasers and Applications, Fibre & Adaptive Optics, Laser Spectroscopy, Non-linear Optics, Material Processing with Lasers, and Nano-science with Lasers. There were three poster sessions, where students and young researchers presented their research works. There were two sessions for these presentations also, where seven Ph.D. theses on topics related to lasers and their applications were presented. The total number of posters presented in this symposium was 312, and the number of participants was 550. Both these numbers are the highest ever for any of the National Laser Symposiums held so far. The Ph.D. students' participation was also all time high at 150. The NLS-19 website used for information exchange among the organizers and participants in an on-line fashion was highly appreciated by the participants.

ILA plays a key role in the organization of this symposium. Like other years, this year too, ILA organized an exhibition of lasers and other related products, where several industries and business establishments participated. The ILA Annual General Body Meeting was also held on the first day (evening) of the symposium. ILA also organized the assessment of all theses and posters. Two best thesis awards consisting of cash prize of Rs 5,000 each and six best poster awards consisting of cash prize of Rs. 1,500 each, were given by ILA. The best thesis presentation awards were given by Dr. P. D. Gupta and the best poster awards were presented by Dr. P. K. Gupta in the concluding session.

At the end of this session, Dr. P. A. Naik thanked all the participants of the symposium and the members of various committees for the successful organization of the symposium. Finally, Dr P. D. Gupta made his observations on the conference, and thanked all persons for their support in making the symposium a grand success, and declared the symposium closed.

*Reported by:
Dr. Tapas Ganguli (tapas@rrcat.gov.in),
Dr. Arup Banerjee and Dr. P.A.Naik*



N.3: I-IIFC Interaction Meeting at RRCAT

Under the aegis of Internal Committee for Indian Institutions' Fermilab Collaboration (I-IIFC), a Three day Interaction Meeting between Fermilab and Indian scientists was organized at RRCAT during October 26-28, 2010 to further enhance the collaboration in the areas of superconducting radiofrequency (SCRf) technology, accelerator physics design and related infrastructure. A group of 12 senior scientists from Fermilab, USA, were at RRCAT to attend the meeting which included Dr. Stephen Dockler Holmes, Dr. Robert Kephart, Dr. Stuart Douglas Henderson

