



DRDO

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DRDO Celebrates National Science Day

“We need to improve our education system and foster an environment conducive to fostering lateral thinking and intellectual respect” said Dr Avinash Chander, Distinguished Scientist and Chief Controller (Missiles & Strategic Systems), while delivering the National Science Day Address. Dr Avinash Chander, in his thought-provoking speech, brought out the need for inculcating the spirit of enquiry and the dire need to develop the scientist base in the country. He mentioned lack of job opportunities for science – ‘post graduates’ and ‘doctorates’, as main reason why most students prefer to pursue subjects other than science. Starting from the fundamentals, he said science is the ability to observe, analyse, reason, and evolve theories to explain the laws of nature that grows into organised knowledge. The more we learn, more is the awareness about what we do not know, he said. Though science has given mankind lots of benefits and the knowledge base is increasing exponentially at a faster pace, problems in several areas such as genetics, nuclear physics, universal force theory are still being addressed.

Dr Baldev Raj, President, Research, PSG Institutions, Coimbatore and former Director, Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research, informed that **India today is the world leader in Fast Breeder Reactor technology**. He was delivering the National Science Day Oration on **“Frontiers in Non-Destructive Evaluation Science & Technology”**. In his lively and wide-ranging talk, he brought out the importance of measurements and analyses in problem solving. He gave several examples from his work to demonstrate the range and versatility of NDE techniques in diverse fields from aerospace to healthcare. He outlined some of the latest work in the field such as development of wireless sensor network that has many applications including in micro UAVs; optical fibre based Raman Distribution sensor; SQUID based MCG, for functional imaging of human heart, etc.

DRDO celebrated National Science Day on Thursday, 28 February at Bhagawantam Auditorium, Metcalfe House. Dr Avinash Chander gave away prizes to the winners of the Quiz, Poster Making, Essay Writing, Ideas for DSF Competitions organized by Defence Science Forum(DSF), DRDO in connection with National Science Day.

Dr Malakondiah, DS&CC R&D (HR), Guest of Honour, introduced the speaker as a multifaceted and iconic personality and recalled their collaborations in the recent past while he was Director, Defence Materials Research Laboratory, Hyderabad. He also presented Silicon medal and certificates to 14 scientists of Delhi based DRDO laboratories/establishments.

DRDO Science Spectrum, a compilation of National Science Day Orations, was released on the occasion.

Earlier, Dr AK Maini, Director, Laser Science & Technology Centre, DRDO delivered the welcome address. Dr Rajiv Vij, Convener, DSF, delivered Vote of Thanks.

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