

BARC celebrates National Technology day

“If India has to be in the forefront of science and technology in the 21st century, it has to judiciously harness the large pool of scientists and engineers”, observed Prof. CNR Rao, Chairman, Science Advisory Committee to Prime Minister. He expressed the hope that being patrons of science in the Country, the DAE institutions like BARC which is the largest multi-disciplinary research institutions not only in the country but in the world, should also be the best institution in terms of its scientific prowess. The Bharat Ratna Awardee was speaking at a function organised by Bhabha Atomic Research Centre to celebrate National Technology Day on May 12 to commemorate India's peaceful nuclear explosions in 1998. He pointed out that despite having blessed with humongous talent in all the science and engineering disciplines, the Country has not been recognised internationally for its technologies. This is in stark contrast to other Countries. To envision an India of sustained development, the focus of science should now be shifted towards a sustainable energy, environment and water management. There are several areas such as fuel cells, hydrogen production and storage, emission control which calls for concerted efforts. He called upon the young scientists and engineers to take up this challenge with hard work, honesty, integrity discipline, selflessness and the value of time. Dr. Shekar Basu, Director, BARC welcomed the chief Guest

Dr. RK Sinha, Chairman, AEC and Secretary, DAE, in his presidential address emphasized the importance of self-reliance in the field of nuclear science and technology, in view of the technology denial regime. This has been demonstrated umpteen times, the latest being INS-Arihant nuclear reactor and an innovative special wound dressing material developed by BARC, that slowly releases nitric oxide to enable faster recovery. This wound dressing is found to be effective for diabetic ulcer also. He also referred a SQUID based sensor for medical applications developed in IGCAR, Kalpakkam. Several recent examples of corporate responsibility of DAE were also mentioned by him. He advocated the need to communicate these contributions of the DAE scientists to public.

Earlier upon his arrival Prof. Rao inaugurated the collage of achievements and technologies developed by the scientists and engineers of BARC in Chemical Sciences. The research and development activities displayed encompass different disciplines from fundamental chemistry, material science, functional materials, technologies for energy, hydrogen generation and storage, environment, societal applications such as health care, agriculture, management of water resources etc. In terms of scientific publications in international journals, BARC was recognised by Royal Society of Chemistry, UK as the single institute with largest number of publications for 2012-13. A study of bibliometrics analysis of chemistry publications from India during 2013-14 was also presented to Prof. Rao. He interacted with the young

scientists and extolled them to aim high in their scientific pursuits. Some of the technologies developed have already been transferred to Private entrepreneurs for commercialisation and mass production. This thematic exhibition will last for one month and the academics will have a chance to get to know the research potential in chemical sciences. The exhibition will also be shown in Nehru Science Centre, Worli on May 16. Prof. Rao also complimented the nine Homi Bhabha Science and Technology Awardees on that occasion.