

CSIR is 63



The CSIR Foundation Day function was held at the S R Valluri Auditorium on 26 September 2005. The function, as always, was extremely well-attended.

Dr M R Nayak, Adv (M&A), opened the day's proceedings (rather curiously, he described the CSIR Foundation Day as NAL's Parent's Day). He then invited Dr A R Upadhyya, Director, to formally welcome the gathering.

Dr Upadhyya started by paying a warm tribute to CSIR's leaders ("from S S Bhatnagar in 1942 to R A Mashelkar in 2005") and talked of the "honour, pride and happiness" to belong to CSIR. He mentioned, in particular, CSIR's leadership in the IPR movement in India, and expressed his satisfaction at the growing lab reserve in CSIR labs. Dr Upadhyya then read out statistics of the impact factor of CSIR's journal papers (the chief guest, Dr P Balaram, was later to question the undue importance given by CSIR and other Third World nations to the impact factor). Dr Upadhyya ended his welcome speech by introducing the morning's speakers: Prof P Balaram and Mr M S Ramachandra.



We've already written about Prof Balaram's marvellous lecture last week. Although very different in style and content, Mr Ramachandra's NAL Business Lecture on Current Business Strategies of NAL, was a remarkable narrative about how a successful Indian R&D lab can do business. In a lecture that covered wide ground, Mr Ramachandra talked of the need for (and types of) business alliances, about the special strategies that must be adopted for critical



technologies such as aerospace, about how doing business within the government sector is different from business with the private sector and about the growing importance of human resource management. Mr Ramachandra also explained the intricate planning involved in ensuring that NAL remains CSIR's top lab in external cash flow (ECF) and the reasons behind his team winning the coveted CSIR Business Prize in 2002.

In the last leg of the function, Prof P Balaram distributed prizes and cash awards to the children of NAL employees who have excelled in academics, sports or extra-curricular activities. There was also a resounding applause when it Dr Nayak announced that NAL had won the CSIR Technology Prize in Engineering for the work done by the team at the Advanced Composites Division.

The function ended with the vote of thanks proposed by Dr M R Nayak.

Srinivas Bhogle