

Hindi Day celebrations

The valedictory function of the Official Language Golden Jubilee Celebrations (and this year's Hindi Day function) was held at the S R Valluri Auditorium on 14 September 2000.

The function began on a sombre note following the announcement that our colleague Mr H Girigoswamy of Propulsion Division had passed away that morning, after a brief illness. After a minute's silence to pray for the departed soul, the proceedings formally began with a melodious invocation rendered by Shyamala and Nirmala Bai.



In his welcome address, Mr K R Sarma, Sr. COA, introduced the Chief Guest Dr H S Rana, Sr Manager (Personnel), N T C, Bangalore. He said that Dr Rana obtained his Ph.D. in Hindi from Agra University and briefly outlined Dr Rana's contributions to Hindi literature.

NAL Hindi Day functions now have a unique feature: a technical lecture delivered by an NAL scientist in Hindi. This [lecture series](#) was started by Dr Srinivas Bhogle in 1997 and continued with lectures by Dr R N Singh (now Director, NEERI) and Prof B

K Parida. This year's lecture was delivered by Dr P Goswami, Scientist, CMMACS, on *Ocean and the atmosphere: An eternal coupling*. He said that during the early formative stage of the earth there was no oxygen in the atmosphere. There were primitive life forms in the ocean, which could survive without oxygen. Subsequently, new life forms were evolved which produced oxygen using sunlight and the process of photosynthesis. He said the process of vaporisation from the ocean, cloud formation and rain is a continuous and delicate process. This process has prompted the evolution of the biosphere. He said the relationship between the ocean and the atmosphere is not static, it is dynamic. He pointed out that the excessive use of CFC is depleting the ozone and causing holes in the ozone layer.



He said now we can hope to get the answers for complex questions in science for which answers were not available a few decades ago. We can get the answers because of the development of new technologies like satellites and computers.

He concluded his speech by cautioning "we have not inherited this wonderful but delicate atmosphere, but we have only borrowed it from our previous generation. We have to give back this life sustaining atmosphere to our future generations."

Dr H S Rana, Chief Guest, distributed prizes to the winners of various competitions held during the Hindi fortnight and to associates securing high marks in Hindi examinations. He also released the Hindi version of the 1999-2000 Report of the Director. In his opening remarks, he reminded that the Hindi as official language was accepted unanimously by Parliament. He said two forms of Hindi are in vogue, one with the influence of Sanskrit, which is prevalent in South and the other with the influence of Urdu, which is prevalent in North. Now a modern form of Hindi is evolving. An example of this is the Hindi spoken by Amitabh Bachchan in the *Kaun Banega Crorepati* programme. This form of Hindi is simple but powerful.

He blamed a section of the media for the degeneration of Hindi. He said without properly understanding the delicate nuances of the Hindi language, they directly translate the English version to Hindi. This sometimes gives absurd and embarrassing meanings. He gave a few humorous but real examples. He proudly pointed out that our Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee delivered his speech in the UN General Assembly in Hindi.

Dr B R Pai, Acting Director, NAL congratulated the winners and participants of various competitions. He said that participating is more important than winning. He complimented Dr

Goswami for delivering the keynote address in Hindi on such a complex subject.

Mr P S R Murthy, Hindi Officer, the moving spirit behind NAL's Official Language implementation programmes, expertly compered the programme in his chaste Hindi and proposed the vote of thanks.

K Anantha Rao