

Hindi Day function

Hindi Day functions are always enjoyable. Every one is supposed to speak Hindi and, for some, it can be a bit of a struggle, especially if they attempt to speak very *shuddha* Hindi.

The chief guest at this year's function, held on 15 September 2003 in the afternoon, was Dr B Ramasanjeevaiah, Secretary, Mysore Hindi Prachar Parishad, Bangalore. He of course sailed through his speech very comfortably, saying the usual nice things: how Hindi unites India's *vividhataa*, proves to be the crucial *setu*, how freedom from the British also meant the freedom to speak the language of the land.



The day's surprise was this year's Hindi Day lecture: Dr Harish Barshilia spoke quite wonderfully on "Surface Engineering: An Overview". After the lecture when some of us complimented Harish on his performance ("*yaar, bahut achcha lecture diya*"), confessed that he had prepared hard and rehearsed his Hindi lines at least twice.



The function opened with a brief welcome speech by Mr S V Samuel, Sr COA. Mr P S R Murthy, Hindi Officer, then presented a brief report of the Hindi Cell's activities during 2002-03 that contained a lot of good news: CSIR *shabashi* NAL on achieving an 80% Hindi literacy level and the TOLIC third

prize for good *Raj bhasha* implementation during the year.

As always, the chief guest released the Hindi version of the NAL Report of the Director. In his presidential remarks, Dr B R Pai, Director, pledged to continue NAL's complete support to the Official Language Implementation directive and announced special awards to NAL colleagues who offer to contribute technical articles in Hindi.

Finally, it was prize distribution time. One notes, with satisfaction, the growing numbers and variety of the Hindi fortnight contests: every kind of skill in Hindi now receives recognition. Mr Murthy and his colleagues in the Hindi Cell have been very imaginative. The prize distribution function went on for almost 15 minutes and there were many happy faces at the end. But the happiest face was Mr P S R Murthy's. For well over a decade he's steered Hindi implementation at NAL and achieved remarkable success. He certainly deserves our *haardik badhaai*.