

Department of Aerospace Engineering

26 - 27th February 2010

The Aerospace Engineering Department was the first to celebrate its Department Day. Several lectures, seminars, workshops and competitions were organised. The Chief Guest for the event was Air Marshal B. N. Gokhale who saw active service during the 1971 Indo-Pak hostilities. Currently, he is a consultant to the Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) and is also the Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India. He is also a member of the National Security Council.

The event was held in the Outreach Auditorium and began with the traditional ceremony of lighting the lamp by Prof. Sanjay G. Dhande, Director, IITK, Prof. Sudhir Kamle, HOD, Aerospace Department, and Air Marshal B. N. Gokhale. This was followed by the Chief Guest's lecture titled '**Combat Aerospace Power - Challenges and Opportunities**'. The Director was later presented with a scale model of an Air Force fighter aircraft.

The lecture was followed by an Aeromodel R/C Airshow where a hobbyist from Lucknow, Mr. Ravi Gupta, showcased his flying skills for an hour with different models such as a J3 Piper Cub, a Sailplane, a Helicopter, etc. In another lecture in the evening Mr. Prasiddha Nath Dwivedi, a recipient of the DRDO Young Scientist Award (2009) and an alumnus of the Department, spoke about '**Ballistic Missile Defense Programme and Future Challenges**'.

Dinner was a big affair held in the SAC grounds for all the participants, students, faculty members, staff and their families. The ex-faculty members, Prof. N. L. Arora, Prof. N. G. R. Iyengar, Prof. C. V. R. Murthy, Prof. V. K. Gupta, Prof. Vijay Gupta and Prof. Krishna Kumar were invited on stage to share some of their memories with the audience.

The next day's activities included a Boomerang Making workshop conducted by the Students Gymkhana Aeromodelling Club, and Model and Poster Presentation Competitions where 50 students from colleges across India participated. Twelve teams put up their posters in the Outreach Hall of Fame and 16 teams participated in the Model Competition in the Outreach Grounds. The judges included faculty members of the Department and invited guests, Mr. Jamil Parmeswaran and Mr. S. N. Mukherjee.

Students from the Department conducted a rolling presentation in the Outreach lobby on all the research activities conducted here.

Another interesting day-long workshop was organized by Mr. Pratham Ambla, India's only participant and a jury member in International Competitions for Model Rockets. It focused on making a single stage model rocket. In the afternoon, a Boomerang competition was held where the participants competed to achieve the best possible trajectory of their boomerang made during the morning workshop. Later, the main stadium was the launching pad for more than 30 rocket launches where Mr. Pratham Ambla helped the participants to achieve up to 150m altitude with their rockets. Apart from students, Prof. Kamle and Mr. S. N. Mukherjee also took part in the show. During the celebrations, free joy rides on the Motor Glider and the Saratoga 4-seater aircraft were provided to all the participants.

The final lecture was delivered by Mr. Jamil Parmeswaran, an inventor, who spoke on the theme '**Flight Power simplified - A common man's dream**'. He recounted his experiences in designing and building an aircraft completely from his own workshop. He is the only person in India to have achieved the feat and his designs are radically different from any others in the world. His craft is capable of carrying two persons.