

## Department of Chemical Engineering

27 - 28<sup>th</sup> September 2010

The Chemical Engineering Department Day program was stretched over 1½ days. There were six sessions: the Inaugural session, the poster session, laboratory visits and a cultural program on the first day; and a panel discussion and reminiscences on the second day.

The inaugural session on 27th September started by observing a minute's silence in memory of departed colleagues. The inaugural address was given by Prof. Sanjay G. Dhande, the Director, who spoke about the role played by the Department in its early years as well as its evolution over the years. Prof. Goutam Deo, the Head of the Department gave a power-point presentation detailing the history of the department and its achievements in research and teaching.

The poster session was a major attraction. Twenty posters showcasing the current research of the Department were displayed in the Outreach Building and were manned by students from each group. During the laboratory visits, the guests were taken to see the several laboratories in the Department, spread over three buildings, namely, Northern Lab-II (NL-II), Core Labs and Southern Labs. It was good to see the students taking full advantage of the opportunity to interact with the visitors.

There was a two-hour cultural program in the evening which was organized by the students. Mr. B. K. Shukla, an ex-staff colleague, sang a Ganesh Stuti which was followed by instrumental music, songs and dance performances by ChE students and faculty.

There was a panel discussion the next day on the '**Changing Face of ChE@IITK**' where Profs. K.S. Gandhi and Raj Ganesh Pala spoke on ChE education and research; Profs. D.N. Saraf and Deepak Kunzru initiated the discussion on sponsored research while Prof. Siddhartha Panda dwelt on industrial experience. The emergence of *highly* science-based research in Chemical Engineering all over the world was a topic of discussion. There were views for and against this recent development.

The closing session was the proverbial icing on the cake. It was the session on Reminiscences which was attended by 15 ex-faculty members and 28 ex-staff members, along with their families. They narrated their experiences, particularly during the early

years of the Institute. This was a delight for the younger faculty members, who got a glimpse of the fledgling days of the department, and how it evolved from being primarily a teaching department to a top-class research department. The pleasures and challenges of living with meager infrastructure were highlighted.