

National Seminar on Speciality Steels for the Strategic Sectors



Prof P Rama Rao lighting the inaugural lamp



Dignitaries on the dais

DMRL, under the aegis of Indian Institute of Metals, Hyderabad Chapter organized a two day National Seminar on 'Speciality Steels for the Strategic Sectors' during December 05-06, 2014. The seminar successfully brought together major stake holders connected with these special steels and a very fruitful exchange of information and views on scientific, technological and application related matters ensued during the event. About 200 delegates from academia, research and industry attended the event. The event was spread across six technical sessions along with the inaugural session. The highlights of the event were the highly informative 'invited talks', delivered by leaders in the area of speciality steels.

Dr R Balamuralikrishnan, Sc-G, DMRL, Convener, briefly introduced the event and outlined the relevance of the seminar during the inaugural session. Dr Amol A Gokhale, DS & Director, DMRL, Chairman, Organizing Committee delivered the welcome address. Dr Gokhale, while sharing DMRL's contributions to the area of strategic steels made a special mention of Dr G Malakondaiah, CC (R&D) HR, DRDO HQ (Previous Director, DMRL), who spearheaded the steels program during his tenure at the laboratory and praised his vision and contributions. Chief Guest Dr V Bhujanga Rao, DG (NS&M), DRDO HQ, during his address highlighted the importance of materials and materials science research. Guest of Honour, Shri H M Nerurkar, Former MD, Tata Steel & Chairman, TRL released a Souvenir commemorating the event and carrying abstracts of all technical talks along with advertisements.

Chief Guest Prof P Rama Rao, Former Secretary, DST & Chairman, Governing Council, ARCI gave a wonderful presentation focusing on 'Iron and Steel' and how they changed the world. Following this, Dr G Malakondaiah was felicitated by Dr Rama Rao and other dignitaries. A special memento in the form of a wooden model of *INS Vikrant* (in which DMRL naval steels have been used for construction) was presented to Dr Malakondaiah. Dr G Malakondaiah delivered the keynote lecture titled "Speciality Steels for the Strategic Sector: The Indian Scene". He highlighted DMRL's glorious contributions to materials research and steel's research in particular. He spoke in detail about the current status of speciality steels in defence, atomic energy and space.

The next six sessions spread over two days saw subject experts and industry leaders delivering very high quality talks and healthy interaction between the delegates and the speakers. A scintillating cultural program was also organized on the seminar's first day evening. In the valedictory session, Dr Amol A Gokhale, Chairman, Organizing Committee summed up the proceedings. He remarked that the event was held on a very niche topic, which ran the risk of being sparsely attended. But, as it turned out to be, the event had a great response from all quarters. The event concluded with Dr R Balamuralikrishnan, DMRL, Convener presenting the formal vote of thanks. While concluding Dr Balamuralikrishnan emphasized the fact that the event was very successful in the sense of a roadmap event and will help in evolving organizational strategies in the sector of strategic steels.