

A Report on
Diamond Jubilee Meet and Panel Discussion
Aerospace Engineering
Held on Saturday 2nd February 2019

As part of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations of the institute, the Department of Aerospace Engineering conducted a meet of its alumni, ex faculty & staff, current faculty, staff and students along with a panel discussion on 2nd February 2019.

A special feature of this event was the participation, from all over the globe, of a dozen members of the pioneering UG batch of the department (i.e.1966-71), most of them with their spouses. A large number of retired faculty and staff members and other alumni of the department also attended the event, including Prof. S. K. Ojha, the first Head of the Department. The event was attended by around 200 persons in total.

After breakfast on 2nd February, the pioneering alumni and their spouses were accompanied by student volunteers for a detailed tour of the campus, during which they were shown all the new facilities and hostels. An Open Day was conducted from 1100 hrs. to 1530 hrs, in which students and staff members were present to showcase the facilities and equipment in all the teaching and research laboratories of the department. Several alumni and students visited the laboratories during the course of the day.

The Meet started with registration and informal interactions over a cup of tea at 1530 hrs in the foyer between LH 101 and LH 102 in the Lecture Hall Complex. The participants moved indoors to LH 102 at 1630 hrs, where they were formally welcomed by the Head, Aerospace Engineering Department. Prof. P. M. Mujumdar, DD (FEA) made a detailed presentation about the growth of IIT Bombay over the sixty years of its existence, and also briefed all present on the current and future plans. Prof. Suhas Joshi, Dean (ACR) screened a short film about IIT Bombay, and signed an MoU with Dr. Jay Lala, alumnus of the pioneering batch, who has generously donated Rs. 25 Lakhs for enhancement of the computational facilities of the department.

Each alumnus of the pioneering batch addressed the audience for around three minutes, in which they recalled their journey after passing out from the institute and shared memorable events during the period of their stay at IIT Bombay. Several other alumni, retired faculty and staff members also shared their experiences and feelings.

The next item on the agenda was the Panel Discussion on *Emerging Trends and Opportunities in Aerospace Engineering*, which was moderated by Prof. B. N. Raghunandan. The six panelists were:

1. Dr. J. H. Lala, Alumnus from pioneering UG batch and Sr. Principal Engg. Fellow, Raytheon, USA
2. Prof. Jitendra Shah, Senior alumnus, and retired Professor of Mechanical Engineering, VJTI, Mumbai
3. Dr. Harshad Khadilkar, Recent alumnus, Scientist and Team Lead: Planning &Control, TCS Mumbai
4. Mr. M. Sai Hemanth, Recent alumnus, co-founder of JanYu Technologies, Mumbai
5. Prof. C. S. Yeramalli, Current faculty member
6. Mr. Athul Vishwam, Current undergraduate student

The Panel Discussion enabled the participants and audience to mull over new trends that are emerging in the field of Aerospace Engineering. The panelists also elaborated and appraised the participants on the opportunities that are likely to emerge in this dynamically changing field.

The concluding item of the event was dinner in the foyer which also allowed participants to catch up some after many decades.

This event was conducted in association with the Alumni Association of IIT Bombay, who helped us in reaching out to the Alumni, coordinating with them about the accommodation, and working out the logistics of the event.

The entire event was recorded on video for posterity, and an edited version of the same will be released soon. Some photographs taken during the event are appended below.



Alumni Visiting Structure lab



Alumni Visiting Propulsion lab



Discussion between Alumnus and student



A time for Photo Session



An Interaction during Tea break



First Head of the Department Prof. S.K. Ojha in centre



Interaction between Faculty and Alumnus



An interactive session of Panel discussion



A Registration Desk



Ex-Staff members with current staff



MoU Exchange



Alumni and Retired Faculty



A welcome speech by HoD



Alumnus sharing Experiences



Students listening to the Panel members



The Panel members



A Panoramic view of Seminar Hall