

From the Editor's Desk

After the release of the special issue "IISc: The first fifty years" which I am sure all of you have enjoyed reading, we have arrived at a happy situation of bringing the next issue on time. I must inform you that the special issue was formally released on March 06, 2009 at the Court Meeting of the Institute by Mr. Ratan Tata, Chairman of the court. I take this opportunity to once gain thank all the editorial board members, the Archives cell members and the IISc press members and all the senior professors who helped in this effort. The current issue spanning Jan–Mar 2009 is guest edited by my distinguished colleague Professor Vikram Jayaram from the Department of materials engineering, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore and entitled "Nanostructured Materials" contains invited review articles by specialists in the area. It is our endeavor that we shall work towards bringing the forthcoming issues always on time.

A forthcoming issue of our Journal devoted to the theme "Liquid Crystals" will be guest-edited by another distinguished colleague of mine, Prof. N. Jayaraman from the Department of organic chemistry. The articles have started to arrive at the editor's desk and we shall be able to bring this issue well in time.

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Editorial

An important requirement in the field of nanotechnology is the production and understanding of properties of materials with some length scale in the nanometric range. Such materials are in use or are candidates for use in all four dimensional classes as powders, fibres (e.g., nanotubes) coatings and bulk materials. This special issue describes examples of such materials in all the above classes, including bulk nanocrystalline alloys, self assembled monolayers and ultrafine particles. Methods of synthesis, unusual thermo-physical, electrical, mechanical and catalytic properties and first principles modeling methods are described, highlighting on-going research in various institutions in India.

Vikram Jayaram

Guest Editor

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