

From the Editor's Desk

We have just completed the centenary year and it is time to match ahead and keep our promises. One of them was to regularize the production of the journal and even with very focused attempts by the editorial staff and the guest editors this particular issue got delayed and my sincere apologies on this lapse. I quickly assure you that the next issue will be well in time (in fact it is ready for production) and it will be our endeavor to keep the publication date in mind.

This issue brings out a broad overview of research in liquid crystals with invited articles from the speakers of the 15th annual liquid crystal conference held at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, during October 13–15, 2008 as a part of the centenary celebrations. I would like to thank the guest editors Professor N. Jayaraman and Professor K.A. Suresh for their efforts in getting this issue to represent almost all features of liquid crystalline materials. The next issue is devoted to “Quantum Computation” to be guest edited by two of my colleagues from our Physics department Professor. Vasant Natarajan and Prof. Anil Kumar.

T. N. Guru Row

Editor

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Editorial

The Indian Liquid Crystal Society has been conducting the annual conferences on Liquid Crystals since 1994, and the 15th annual conference was held at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, during October 13–15, 2008. This conference was special, in that it coincided with the centenary year of IISc. Realizing new types of liquid crystal materials, analyzing the physical phenomena that underlie the visco-elastic behaviour of liquid crystals, exploring their potential applications and so on are central to the advancement in the science and technology of liquid crystals. The three day annual conference was represented by a large number of scientists, from within and outside the country, deliberating the recent advancements on various facets of the liquid crystals. The theme included; (i) design and synthesis of new materials, (ii) soft matter physics, (iii) thermotropic/lyotropic liquid crystals, (iv) polymeric liquid crystals, (v) biological liquid crystals, (vi) surfaces, interfaces and constrained systems and (vii) photonics and display applications.

To mark the event of the Annual Conference and the Centenary Year of the Institute, it was proposed to bring out a special issue of the Journal of the Indian Institute of Science (JIISc) on Liquid Crystals. Being a review journal, we wished to provide a broad overview of the liquid crystal research in general. The issue covers review articles from 14 research groups, working on many aspects of the liquid crystals. It is a pleasure to thank Professor Guru Row, Editor, Mrs. Kavitha Harish and the publication staff of the Journal for their excellent co-operation and help to bring up this special issue.

N. Jayaraman and Kattera A. Suresh

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