

Foreword

The Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research is an autonomous institution established during 1989 by the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, to commemorate the birth centenary of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. The Centre has research programmes in chosen frontier areas of science and engineering, and has close links with the Indian Institute of Science.

The Centre has the following units in different areas of research: Chemistry and Physics of Materials, Chemical Biology (at IISc.), Condensed Matter Theory (at IISc.), Evolutionary and Organismal Biology, Fluid Dynamics, Geodynamics, Molecular Biology and Genetics and Theoretical Sciences. Seven organisations/institutions have instituted endowed chairs at the Centre. It conducts a variety of extension activities such as Visiting Fellowship Programme, Summer Research Fellowships, an International Fellowship Programme and publication of educational monographs. The Centre has grown in many directions and has attracted appreciable funds for sponsored research. In the coming years the Centre has plans for more infrastructural facilities in terms of land and buildings and research facilities.

During the annual faculty meeting held each year, lectures covering different areas of research are delivered by the faculty of the Centre. The lectures delivered during the 11th annual faculty meeting held in November 2000 are presented in this special issue of the *Journal of the Indian Institute of Science*.

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