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DIRECTOR'S FOREWORD

2014 is a very special year for the Journal of the Indian Institute of Science. A century has passed since the publication of the first issue. The journal has undergone a dramatic transformation in recent years, focusing on the publication of thematic issues which highlight currently important areas of research in science and engineering. 2014 has also been declared the International Year of Crystallography, commemorating a discipline that has had a major impact on diverse areas of science, most notably chemistry, biology and materials science. In celebrating both the journal's centenary and a century of crystallography, this issue brings together a collection of articles highlighting contemporary research, emanating from Indian laboratories.

Crystallography is a discipline that began to emerge as an important area of research at the Indian Institute of Science in the 1940s when two students, G.N. Ramachandran and S. Ramaseshan, working in the Department of Physics under C.V. Raman began to investigate the diffraction of X-rays by crystals. Ramachandran went on to become the founder of the field of structural biology in India. Ramaseshan built an outstanding centre of crystallography at the Institute from which emerged the future leaders of the field in India, M.A. Viswamitra, K. Venkatesan and H. Manohar. While Ramachandran did his seminal work on protein conformation in Madras (now Chennai), he returned in the early 1970s to the Institute to establish the Molecular Biophysics Unit, which provided the platform for the growth of macromolecular crystallography in India, spearheaded by M. Vijayan. The Indian Institute of Science has been at the forefront of crystallographic research over the last 70 years. It is therefore most appropriate that the first issue of the Journal in its Centenary Year celebrates the International Year of Crystallography.

P. Balaram

Director