

A SPECIAL REPORT ON 125th YEAR CELEBRATIONS:

ACADEMIC PROGRAMME

On July 29, 2001 Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science completed 125 years of its glorious existence. To commemorate this great occasion a year-long celebration began on this date with a ceremony inaugurated by Shri Buddhadeb Bhattacharya, the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Govt. of West Bengal. Shri Satyasadhan Chakraborty, the Hon'ble Minister of Higher Education, Govt. of West Bengal; Dr. V. S. Ramamurthy, Secretary, DST, Govt. of India; Shri H. Ghosh, Secretary, Higher Education, Govt. of West Bengal graced this occasion.

Eminent professionals from all over India and abroad were invited throughout the year to deliver special lectures commemorating the celebration. Two such lectures were held on the day of the inaugural ceremony itself. Following eminent speakers delivered the various 125 years commemorative lectures: "The Changing Atmosphere and Global Change" by Dr A P Mitra, NPL, New Delhi; "Innovations in the Chemical Industry" by Dr M M Sharma, JNCASR, Bangalore; "Colossal Magnetoresistance in Manganites: Understanding their Strange Properties" by Professor T V Ramakrishnan, IISC, Bangalore; "Chemistry Beyond the Molecule" by Professor Gautam R Desiraju, UOH, Hyderabad; "Self-assembly as a Universal Phenomenon: The prominent role of weak interactions" by Professor C N R Rao, JNCASR, Bangalore; "Electronic Structure of Matter - Wave Functions and Density Functionals" by Professor Walter Kohn, University of California, USA and a lecture by Professor S Chandrasekaran, IISc, Bangalore.

The celebration was also marked by organizing various seminars and symposia :

Recent Trends of Research in Advanced Areas

of Science & Technology

A one-day symposium was held on 9th November, 2000. Reports on recent trends of research in various advanced areas of science and technology were presented by speakers like T. Ramasami (CLRI), S. Bhaduri (Reliance), A. Biswas (Asiatic Society), S. Bhattacharyya (IICB), P. Majumdar (ISI), S. Roy (Bose Institute), D. Chatterjee (CU), P. Mitra (SINP), S. Sengupta (S N Bose NCBS) and S. Dasgupta (JU).

Molecules to Materials

Speakers from different departments and units of IACS delivered lectures in this one-day in-house symposium on 26th November, 2000. The speakers were: D. Chakravorti (MLS Professor's Unit), B. P. Chatterjee (Biol. Chem.), S. Roy (ERU), T. Ganguly (Spect.), S. Ghosh (OC), J. Chakrabarti (Theo. Phys.), S. Giri (SSP), D. Basak (SSP), A. Bhaumick (MS) and T. Mandal (PSU).

Modern Trends in Inorganic Chemistry

The Symposium on 'Modern Trends in Inorganic Chemistry' (MTIC-IX) was organised during 12-14 December, 2001 as part of the 125 Years Celebrations of IACS as well as 50 Years of the Department of Inorganic Chemistry. The topics covered span a wide range of fields in keeping with the current trends of research in inorganic chemistry – transition metal and main group coordination chemistry, clusters, polynuclear and supramolecular chemistry, organometallics and metal mediated synthesis, catalysis and reaction mechanisms, bioinorganic chemistry, inorganic solids and molecular materials, photophysics, photochemistry and electrochemistry. Additionally, a session devoted to *Inorganic Chemistry in Industry* was introduced in MTIC-IX. The number of participants were nearly 230. There were 27 speakers from India

and abroad. The inaugural lecture was delivered by Professor C. N. R Rao. The other speakers included : S. S. Krishnamurthy, C. G. Pierpont, B. Krebs, A. Chakravorty, P. Mathur, S. Bhaduri, T. Ramasami, S. Vasudevan, B. R. Jagirdar, A. R. Chakravarty, T. K. Chandrasekar, B. G. Maiya, G. K. Lahiri, S. Bhattacharya, P. Paul, S. Goswami, S. Roy, A. K. Singh, A. G. Samuelson, K. C. Kumara Swamy, S. Pal, A. Das, A. Dutta, A. Bhaumik, K. Vidyasagar, A. Pramanik. A notable feature of the Symposium was the special importance given to the poster sessions. There were altogether 91 posters. Four cash prizes were awarded for the best posters.

Powder Diffraction

The second International School on Powder Diffraction (ISPD 2001) was held from 20-23 January, 2002 at IACS as part of the yearlong celebration for 125 years of IACS. This important meeting was first initiated in October 1998 under the sponsorship of International Union of Crystallography (IUCr) and its Commission for Powder Diffraction (CPD). About 150 scientists from India and abroad participated in the school. There were lectures, poster and computer sessions in this School. The most recent developments were presented in the school by eminent speakers like T. Unger (Hungary), G. Kruger (S. Africa), J. Bergmann and Kleeberg (Germany). D. Louer (France) and G. Nolze (Germany) sent their lectures for proceedings. Dr. K. Lal (NPL), Dr. S. K. Sikka (BARC), Dr. Siruguri (IUC), Dr. M. Sanyal (SINP) and Dr Stefanovic (Philips) were amongst the other speakers. Interactive computer tutorial sessions (co-ordinated by Dr. P. Chatterjee) of 3-4 hour duration on each day were participated with great enthusiasm by eighty participants. The School was a great success and achieved its purpose of educating a new generation of young scientists about the new developments in Powder Diffraction. The Proceedings have been published by Allied Publishers, New Delhi.

A symposium on 'Current Perspectives in Organic Chemistry' (CPOC 2002) was organized on 24-25 January, 2002 to celebrate 125 years of IACS. Current trends in the various aspects of Organic and Bio-organic Chemistry were covered by speakers like E. D. Jemmis (UOH), K. N. Ganesh (NCL, Pune), A. Ghosh (Chembiotek), F. A. Khan (IIT, Kanpur), Suresh Das (RRL, Trivandrum), D. Mukherjee (IACS), D. Basavaiah (UOH), S. Roy (IIT, Kharagpur), D. Loganathan (IIT, Chennai), A. K. Chakraborti (NIPER), M. Ray (IACS), S. K. Ghosh (BARC), S. Basu (Chembiotek) and S. B. Mandal (IICB). Professor P. C. Dutta Memorial Lecture was delivered by Prof. S. Narang (NRC, Canada). There was a session of poster presentation also in the symposium.

Stat-Phys IV Kolkata

An international symposium focussing on the recent development in statistical physics with its applications to various branches in science including economics was organized jointly with the S N Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences on 14-19 January, 2002. A full technical session was dedicated to honour Professor H Stanley, USA. A special issue of Physica A will be published as a part of the proceedings of the symposium.

Current Perspectives in Organic Chemistry

