

EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

Dedication of the Special Issue Honoring Professor C. N. R. Rao on the Occasion of His 65th Birthday

It is a great honor and it has given me enormous personal pleasure to edit this Special Issue dedicated to Professor C. N. Ramachandra Rao, FRS, on the occasion of his 65th birthday.

Professor Rao, or Ram, as he is known to all his friends and colleagues, must be ranked among the foremost practitioners of solid state chemistry and materials in the world; so, it is fitting to cite some of the many achievements of this remarkable individual.

In the course of his professional career the number of his publications in the refereed literature has just surpassed the millenium mark; this is in addition to 34 books and monographs that Ram has written or edited—a truly stragging record.

In recognition of his many achievements Ram has been accorded 23 honorary doctorates at various universities all over the world, beginning with his Alma Mater, Purdue University, in 1982. His other honors are too numerous to cite here; those particularly important to him include the Marlow Medal of the Faraday Society, the Royal Society of Chemistry (London) Medal, the American Chemical Society Centenary Medal, the Einstein Gold Medal from UNESCO, and the National Honor “PADMA VIBHUSHAN” from the President of India. In recognition of his work Ram has become a member of a very large number of academies and learned societies all over the world; these include the Royal Society (London), the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, the Russian Academy of Sciences, the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, the Japan Academy, and the American Philosophical Society.

It should be noted that Ram's many contributions to the area of solid state chemistry and materials were amassed while he was also busy with extremely demanding administrative duties. He was Head of the Department of Chemistry at the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, and subsequently became Director of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore—a post that he occupied until recently. During this period he was responsible for setting up, staffing, and equipping several centers and laboratories at the Indian Institute of Science, including the now world-famous Solid State and Structural Chemistry Unit. He further served as Chairman of the Science Advisory Council to the Prime Minister of India, 1985–1989, and Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Committee to the Union Cabinet, 1997–1999. His civic contributions to his country have been recognized by his native Bangalore through the naming after him of the traffic circle in front of the Indian Institute of Science.

Ram has somehow also found time to be a founding member of the Third World Academy of Sciences of which he is now President-Elect. He is the Founding President of the Materials Research Society of India, as well as Founding Member and President of the Asia Pacific Academy of Materials.

Ram is currently Albert Einstein Research Professor at the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research at Jakkur, close to Bangalore, where he founded an entirely new, well-equipped research facility devoted to research in certain chosen areas of his specializations. He is also the occupant of a newly endowed chair, the Linus Pauling Research Professorship, that will provide him with lifetime

scientific support. It is his wish to remain active in research up to the very end of his life—a decision that will be greeted with enthusiasm by the entire solid state chemistry and materials community. Last, but not least, Ram has been a real supporter of this area not just through his many successes and achievements, but also by his participation in important activities, such as the organization of innumerable schools and conferences, and through membership on Editorial Boards of many scientific journals, including the *Journal of Solid State Chemistry*.

Obviously, a listing of Ram's tremendous intellectual and scholastic contributions and achievements does not properly cover all aspects of his personality. He continues to excel in other areas, as an avid reader who is familiar with the world's great literature, as a person concerned with matters philosophical and eschatological, and as a lover of the arts and music. He is concerned about the aesthetics of the milieu in which he lives, witness the planting of hundreds of trees in the Institute of Science, and in the design of the buildings and grounds of the Nehru Centre, in which he actively participated. He is truly blessed with extraordinary gifts in so many different facets of his life.

Throughout his scientific career Ramachandra has been happily married to Indumati, his wife of 39 years. They have two children and two grandchildren.

It remains to wish Ram continued success in all his endeavors for many more years to come and to express the hope that the past may be but prologue for the future.

J. M. Honig
Editor