

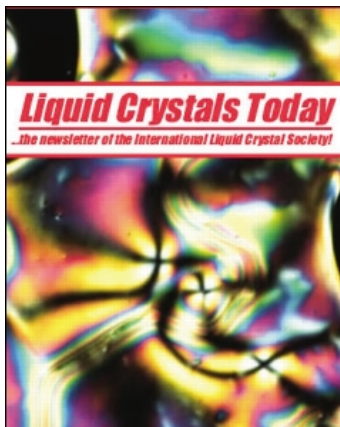
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# Centre For Liquid Crystal Research, Bangalore

**P**rofessor S. Chandrasekhar, Past President of the International Liquid Crystal Society, has founded a Centre for Liquid Crystal Research (CLCR), in Bangalore, thanks to the generous support received from Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), the largest electronics company in the country, and from the Department of Electronics, New Delhi. The Centre was formally opened by the Vice President of India Mr K. R. Narayanan on 3 March, 1995. The activities of the Centre will be focused mainly on basic research, but due attention will be paid to applications as well, in particular, a link will be established between CLCR and BEL in the design and development of different types of LCD devices. CLCR will also be the headquarters of the Indian Liquid Crystal Society.

Professor Pierre-Gilles de Gennes, Nobel Laureate in Physics, ESPCI, Paris, and Professor Françoise Brochard, Institut Pierre et Marie Curie, Paris, visited the Centre recently and inaugurated the new lecture hall on 1 February, 1996. de Gennes spoke on 'New schemes for artificial muscles', and Brochard on 'Viscous bursting of thin polymer films'. It may be mentioned that this was de Gennes' second visit to Bangalore. His previous visit was twenty two years earlier when he participated in the Winter School on Liquid Crystals (26–30 November, 1973) and the International Conference held in Bangalore (3–8 December, 1973). In fact, the first paper in the Proceedings of the Conference (Pramana Supp. I, 1, 1975, edited by S. Chandrasekhar) is by F. Brochard and P. G. de Gennes on 'The hydrodynamic properties of fluid lamellar phases of lipid/water'.

A three-day Symposium on **Liquid Crystals and Supramolecular Order** was organized by CLCR in Bangalore from 3–5 January, 1996. The symposium was sponsored jointly by the Office of Naval Research (USA) and the Department of Science and Technology, New Delhi. Thirty two papers were presented\*, mostly from the USA (13) and India (14), and a few from other countries (one each from Japan, Germany, Russia, Hungary and Ireland). The symposium was of high standard, the arrangements were excellent and altogether it was a great success. The proceedings of the symposium will be brought out as a special issue of *Molecular Crystals and Liquid Crystals*.

## \*The speakers and the titles of their talks:

**J.D. Litster** Marginal dimensional behaviour in entropically stabilized three component lyotropic lamellar liquid crystals; **B.R. Ratna** Bicontinuous cubic phase: A 3-d template; **R. Pandit** Sponge phase transitions from a lattice model; **R. Phadke** Self assembled organizations of thermotropic amphiphiles in molecular electronics; **N.A. Clark** New results on chiral and ferroelectric liquid crystals; **S. Krishna Prasad** Influence of bond orientational order on the switching dynamics of ferroelectric



smectics; **Satyendra Kumar** Longitudinal ferroelectricity: attempts and successes; **C.B. Rosenblatt** Antiferroelectric liquid crystals: solitary waves and the devil's staircase; **D. Walba** Ferroelectric liquid crystals: for second order non-linear optics; **A. Vajda** Phase diagrams and electro-optical properties of novel ferroelectric mixtures; **D.R. Nelson** Defects and braiding of polymer crystals; **Y. Hatwalne** Covariant elasticity and dislocations in the smectic C phase; **J. Selinger** Theory of chiral order in random copolymers; **T.C. Lubensky** Structure and fluctuations in chiral systems; **C.W. Garland** Chirality and phase transitions in smectic liquid crystals; **R. Shashidhar** Symmetry-breaking effects in chiral smectic-A liquid crystals; **P.K. Mukherjee** Critical exponents for the Landau–de Gennes model of the nematic–isotropic phase transition; **R.B. Meyer** Liquid crystal smart reflectors; **S.C. Jain** A new technique to align liquid crystals based on photo-polymerization; **O.D. Lavrentovich** Surface anchoring and divergence elasticity of nematic cells with tilted director; **Y. Singh** Density-functional theory of liquid crystal surfaces; **N.V. Madhusudana** Effect of a strong electric field on long and short range order in some liquid crystals; **K. Praefcke** Flat mesomorphic metal organyls; **N. Usol'tseva** Lyotropic behaviour of sheet-like chemical compounds; **Sandeep Kumar** Synthesis of new functionalized discotic liquid crystals for photoconducting applications; **S. Chandrasekhar** Schlieren textures in biaxial nematics; **S. Ramaswamy** Long-range forces between particles in a nematic liquid crystal; **V.A. Raghunathan** Studies on colloidal dispersions in a liquid crystalline medium; **Madan Rao** Phase ordering kinetics of two component membranes; **K. Usha Deniz** Drug–lipid interactions in a model membrane, DPPC–Water: DSC and  $^1\text{H}$  NMR Study; **B. Soni** Study of thermotropic liquid crystalline glucose derivatives with mesogenic side chain; **J.K. Vij** Dielectric spectroscopy of antiferroelectric liquid crystals.