

Editorial

Rajaram Nityananda, Chief Editor

A disproportionately large fraction of the faculty and students of many academic institutions have passed through the Calcutta University. While the whole university system faces difficulties from many directions, Indian science still looks east for much of its talent, a fair (or unfair?) proportion shaped by CU. This issue celebrates one of the architects of this great university – Asutosh Mukherjee (or Mukhopadhyay, if you prefer). While the name is well-known, Satyabachi Sar's account of his personality, multiple talents, firm principles, and outstanding achievements will be a revelation. The very title brings out his mathematical work, carried out far away from the main centres but of a high quality appreciated by his peers. His decision to set aside his love for research to serve his university and nation must have been a very hard one.



Email:

rajaram.nityananda@gmail.com

The tradition of covering Nobel Prize winning work continues with Kota Murali's account of a revolution that we see all round us – Gallium nitride based sources of visible, especially blue light. When awards like those for the Higgs particle (*Resonance*, October 2012, March 2013) are made, one tends to forget that Nobel's legacy mentioned direct benefit to mankind, as well – the 1912 award to Gustaf Dalen was for improvements to light-houses and buoys guiding shipping! The 2014 physics award is in the same tradition.

The standard list (e.g., Saha, Bose, Raman) of important scientific advances on Indian soil – fertile eastern soil – rarely includes the synthesis of phenanthrene and its derivatives named after Bardhan and Sengupta. While serious students of organic chemistry are well aware of this, Chandan Saha's article brings the achievement and the achievers to a wider audience. And no, we have not forgotten mathematics and biology. The articles on venom and on the equation of the second degree give us new insight into things that familiarity makes us take for granted.

