Editorial

S Mahadevan, Chief Editor

The beginning of a new year is a good time to take stock of our strengths and weaknesses. The past year was reasonably successful for *Resonance* in terms of bringing out several issues that received appreciation from our readers. Success also brings with it high expectations and one has to constantly strive hard to maintain high production standards and to improve the readability of articles. I would like to assure our readers that no efforts will be spared in this connection and they can expect exciting issues in the coming year also.

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The year 2010 is observed worldwide as the International Year of Chemistry. One individual, who more than anyone else was responsible for laying the theoretical foundations of chemistry, is John Dalton. Though Dalton contributed to different disciplines, he is best remembered for formulating the atomic theory of matter over two hundred years ago. The atomic theory forms the bedrock on which much of the edifices of chemistry and physics stand. He deduced the concept of the atom as the fundamental unit of matter from his studies on the properties of gases using simple and elegant logic. The discovery of subatomic particles in the twentieth century has in no way diminished the significance of the atomic theory as the atom remains the fundamental chemical unit of all elements, be it the light hydrogen or the heavy uranium. The twentieth century provided us with the technologies to probe matter at the atomic as well as the subatomic levels, opening up exciting areas of research by extending our sensory capabilities. The ability to determine the structure of bio-molecules such as DNA and proteins has made substantial impact on our understanding of the living world. This issue of *Resonance* honours Dalton with articles that bring out the details of Dalton as a person as well as his ideas. Dalton's elegant logic is reflected in his brief article, written two hundred years ago, reproduced in the Classics section.

Resonance
wishes the readers a
Happy New Year, 2010.