

# Editorial\*

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*N Sathyamurthy, Chief Editor*

While every issue of *Resonance* is special to the Editor and his team, the issue in hand is particularly special.

Professor M G K Menon lamented once: “We tend to talk only about the work of Raman, J C Bose, S N Bose, and M N Saha in physics and Ramanujan in mathematics as if nothing happened after them in the country. Lots of pioneering work has been done by Indians in India and elsewhere. We need to highlight their work so that the younger generation would get motivated. It is possible for us to do path-breaking work in this country.”

I am particularly pleased that the February issue of *Resonance* focuses on Professor E C G Sudarshan and his work, written by none other than Professor N Mukunda. The latter knew the former like his skin. In lieu of reproducing a Classic work of Professor Sudarshan, Mukunda has chosen to reproduce the TWAS Award acceptance lecture of Sudarshan under the section titled, ‘Reflections’.

Sudarshan came from a humble background and grew up like most of us, but rose to greater heights! As we were growing up, we were enamoured by the stories about Sudarshan, without knowing the details of the physics he had published. The possibility of the existence of tachyons, particles that could travel faster than light, proposed by him was so romantic and appealing that we believed in it. I was excited to see him in flesh and blood for the first time when I was a student at Oklahoma State University. I didn’t understand most of what he spoke on, but I was impressed. I had hoped that he would win a Nobel Prize. It is much later that I learned that his work was overlooked more than

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Email:

nsathyamurthy@gmail.com

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once. Since Mukunda gives a graphic description of the man and his work, I will not go into them here. I urge the readers, particularly the younger ones, to delve deep into the article and learn for themselves.

His TWAS Award acceptance lecture, printed perhaps for the first time, is equally revealing. Particularly significant are the comments made by Abdus Salam on the occasion.

While Professor Shu went into the existing energy and environmental issues in the first part of his article in the last issue, he presents the possible solutions in the second and concluding part featured in this issue.

There are other equally interesting articles in this issue. One of them goes into the idea of brachistochrone – the path of quickest descent and another into the fundamental theorem of algebra. The discovery by a blind scientist and how frugivores help in seed dispersal are two other revealing articles covered in this issue.

We hope you enjoy reading *Resonance*. We would like to hear from you what you expect from *Resonance*. Please do write to us at the address: [resonanc@ias.ac.in](mailto:resonanc@ias.ac.in) with a subject heading: Our Readers Write. Selected correspondence will be published in the forthcoming issues of *Resonance*.

