

The chemistry in two dimensions, i.e. intercalation chemistry, which is a possible route to generate new materials with enhanced properties was discussed by S. Vasudevan (IISc). He also gave an account of his success in obtaining layered compounds of metal chalcogenophosphates. Explaining the recent advancements in the area of organic solids, P. Batail (University of Nantes, France) through his two lectures illustrated the many faces of organic-inorganic interface in hybrid materials. The interest in such materials is that with the large number of chemical and structural modifications available, it is possible to design specific properties and produce novel materials with both inorganic and organic characteristics.

While M. S. Hegde (IISc) reviewed the recent progress in the area of solid state chemistry of nitrides, M. A. S. Subramanian (DuPont, USA) presented his data on ferromagnetic copper and manganese oxides with perovskite and pyrochlore-related structures, aimed at understanding the spin arrangement in perovskite type of magnetic materials. Delivering his second lecture, Subramanian talked about oxyfluorination reactions using inorganic fluorides in solid state. The lecture dealt with the preparation of a novel inorganic compound $\text{Ag}_{10}\text{F}_8\text{C}_2$ which is being used for the production of various alternatives of chlorofluorocarbons at DuPont.

What we can pick out from the nature and apply in our labs was the main point of discussion by R. Seshadri (IISc); he was dealing with the biognostic approaches to inorganic materials inspired by mineralization process in nature. His second talk was related to the potential of

electronic structure calculation for predicting electronic properties of inorganic solids.

A. M. Umarji (IISc) reviewed recent trends in the chemistry of low thermal expansion ceramics while A. R. Raju (JNCASR) discussed the formation of thin films of metals and metal oxides using nebulized spray pyrolysis and in a subsequent talk illustrated the floating zone melting crystal growth of novel metal oxides.

S. Ramasesha (IISc) described several models to understand the properties of organic-electronic materials that are likely to become one of the promising materials in the 21st century. In another talk, he discussed the trends in the field of organic materials and discussed electronic and magnetic instabilities in them using solid state theories. S. Balasubramanian (JNCASR) described several methods and problems in the field of molecular dynamics for macromolecules.

While the heteroepitaxy of polar GaAs on non-polar Ge for space photovoltaics was the subject of talk by S. B. Krupanidhi (IISc), P. V. Kamath (Bangalore University) reviewed the progress in the synthesis and characterization of anionic clays and compared its properties with cationic clays.

S. Natarajan (JNCASR) discussed various methods of synthesis and characterization of solid state inorganic materials. He presented an overview of ion-exchange, electrochemical and sol-gel techniques and discussed the strategies used to get materials with desired properties. In his second lecture he explained the chemistry of various inorganic open-framework materials and dealt with the hydrothermal synthesis of open-frame

work metal phosphates in the presence of structure directing amines.

What kind of materials can form the glass was the subject matter of the talk by K. J. Rao (IISc). The topic of his second lecture was on chemistry in the kitchen (oven) and he described the principles of microwave technique for the preparation of solids. This provides a novel route for synthesizing materials and is fast, clean and economically viable. Presenting his work in two lectures, J. Spalek (Jagiellonian University, Poland) proposed a simple theory to understand the effect of temperature and disorder on the metal-insulator transition. He also explained the mechanism of triplet pairing in Sr_2RuO_4 using Hund's rule.

While K. S. Narayan (JNCASR) highlighted the novel concepts in the designing of polymer-based photodetectors, V. R. Pedireddi (JNCASR) presented a promising approach for the designing of organic materials using the concepts of supramolecular chemistry. K. B. R. Varma (IISc) discussed the nature of transparent ferroelectric glasses and their potential use as ceramic materials. S. Sastry (JNCASR) illustrated the process of slow dynamics and the glass transition in supercooled liquids.

The meeting emphasized that solid state and materials chemistry is flourishing and will do so for a long time. The future of this borderless discipline of materials science in the 21st century seems to be bright, according to the concluding message given by C. N. R. Rao.

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Incentives to scientists, universities and R&D institutions—Extract from Finance Minister's Budget Speech

The Finance Minister in his Budget Speech for the year 2000–2001 has announced an important measure to encourage our scientists and the various S&T institutions to maximize their patenting efforts. Reproduced below is

the relevant extract from the budget speech:

'To fully benefit from the new intellectual property rights regime, we need to encourage our scientists and R&D institutions to maximize their patenting ef-

forts. The Government has decided to allow Universities and Research Institutions to retain the revenue generated from intellectual property rights through publicly funded research and also share a part of the revenue with the inventor.'