

## Preface

A number of research groups in India and abroad are actively engaged in understanding the phenomenon of luminescence in different materials and development of luminescent materials for various applications. The “**International Conference on Luminescence and its Applications — ICLA-2008**”, was organized jointly by National Physical Laboratory, New Delhi and the Luminescence Society of India (LSI) during February 13-16, 2008 at New Delhi, to bring together researchers in this field and share their achievements. This conference was the third in its series and it received an enthusiastic response. Total 275 abstracts were received and 250 delegates including 60 from countries like US, Canada, Japan, UK, Korea, Belgium, Taiwan and Switzerland have attended the conference. A large spectrum of topics related to luminescence physics and its applications were covered. As luminescence involves a number of interdisciplinary fields like physics, chemistry, material science, geology etc., such an international meeting provided a forum for fusion of interdisciplinary ideas. The scientific sessions covered topics ranging from diamonds and gemstones to geochronology and from biological applications to industrial phosphors and radiation dosimetry.

The inaugural address was delivered by Prof. V S Ramamurthy, Chairman, Board of Governors, IIT Delhi, Delhi, who emphasized that luminescence has become a sought after field in present times due to its multifarious applications. Of many important uses, he highlighted the applications of luminescence for displays, lighting and sensors. The contributions to the conference were of high quality and all the oral presentations by Indian and foreign scientists were invited by the organizers. Contributed papers were presented as posters. For the Indian community, it was an excellent occasion to show their research work and interact with international experts. This special issue of the journal is based on the papers presented at the international conference and is being brought out for the benefit of researchers in the field of luminescence. Total nineteen papers based on physics of luminescence and its applications have been selected for this special issue after a stringent process of peer review by technical committee of the conference. Many of the manuscripts were revised and resubmitted based on comments of reviewers. Editors took decision about the acceptance of papers after careful consideration. The special issue will give boost to researchers in the field of luminescence to further contribute with their quality research work. The organizers of the conference and Guest Editors extend their sincere thanks to Mrs Poonam Bhatt and Mrs Prabha Gupta for their genuine efforts and full cooperation in bringing out this special issue on ‘Luminescence and its Applications’.

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