

Foreword

The First National Meeting on Trends in Theoretical Chemistry (1986) was the forerunner of a series of unusual scientific conferences in which creativity and spontaneity are sought to be stimulated amid nature's splendour, according to an Indian tradition. Sponsored by the Indian Academy of Sciences, Bangalore and the Chemistry Department, Panjab University, Chandigarh, the purpose of the Meeting was to bring together Indian theoretical chemists, especially those of the younger generation, in order to foster intense discussions on one another's area of study, eventually leading to a focussing of attention on emerging problems of importance vis-a-vis the world scene in theoretical chemistry. The format of the Meeting was as follows: pre-lunch formal presentations of research papers by the participants, post-lunch to pre-dinner informal outdoor discussions in natural surroundings and after-dinner talks; there was also a concluding panel discussion on theoretical chemistry in India. Apart from chemists, the total of about thirty five participants had also physicists, biophysicists, and mathematicians. On an average, the daily scientific programme consumed about twelve hours including the time devoted to cooperative interaction among the participants.

The papers published in these proceedings provides a glimpse into some of the interesting areas of theoretical chemistry being pursued in India. The list is not exhaustive and it is hoped that future proceedings of such Meetings would bring forth greater variety and sophistication.

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