

# Editorial

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*K L Sebastian, Chief Editor*

This month's *Resonance* has several interesting articles. The most interesting, in my opinion is the one by Mansuripur, whose recent paper in *Physical Review Letters* (Vol. 108, 193901, 2012) has caused quite a bit of interest and controversy. The subject matter of the paper is controversial and several people have refused to believe it. It concerns elementary and well-accepted concepts in classical electrodynamics, a subject that is considered to be very well understood. The author presents his ideas at a level that a post graduate student in India can understand. I invite all the readers to read and analyze critically his viewpoints.



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The November 2012 issue of *Resonance* had an article by Vasant Natarajan on the possible harmful effects of microwave radiation. Natarajan, a physicist, argued that the radiation from mobile phones and microwave towers at the present level is not at all harmful to human health. Several people have found his arguments conclusive and have written to *Resonance* praising the article. However, a sizeable number of biologists did not find the arguments convincing enough. They point out that there is reason to believe that the present level of radiation is harmful. As the matter is of great importance, we hope to publish the biologists' point of view in one of the forthcoming issues.

This issue of *Resonance* covers the life and work of D K Banerjee, the famous organic chemist who was the Head of the Department of Organic Chemistry at the Indian Institute of Science. He worked at the Institute for about twenty years, retiring finally as its Director. He was an excellent synthetic organic chemist, who made significant contributions, in spite of the meagre facilities that were available (in India) at that time. In the Classics Section, we reproduce one of his papers, on the synthesis of oestrone, an important female steroid hormone.

In a very interesting article, that should be of interest to mathematicians and physicists, Chanchal Kumar shows how Legendre polynomials can be obtained by the Gram-Schmidt orthogonalization process. The article on the freshwater weed *Hydrilla verticillata* points out that its scientific management can be very beneficial to the ecosystem. V V Raman continues his *Darsana Jolts*, and discusses the nature of time.

