

Guest Editorial

High energy materials (HEMs) have played a pivotal role in the progress and prosperity of humanity. With incredible progress in chemistry and chemical technology, the variety and number of HEMs for various applications have become innumerable and therefore, today HEMs constitute one of the pillars in the edifice of any modern nation. The industrial progress, the defence preparedness and the success of space programmes greatly depend on the level of technological competence, strength of production base and sophistication of R&D infrastructure in the fields of HEMs. The quantum jump in fire power, range and lethality has been realised through the availability of better explosives, superior production technologies and above all, through design innovations.

The High Energy Materials Society of India (HEMSI) organised a two-day National Seminar on High Energy Materials at the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, Thiruvananthapuram, in close collaboration

with DRDO, DGOF, DST, the Science Technology and Environment Department of the Government of Kerala, Indian Space Research Organisation, academic institutions (IISc, Bangalore; IIT, Madras and universities of Poona and Gorakhpur) and other establishments. Out of 77 papers received, 75 papers were presented during the Seminar. Eight selected papers broadly covering the areas of rocket propellants, pyrotechnics and high explosives are included in this special issue. I am grateful to all the authors who have contributed articles/research papers and to the Editorial Board of *Defence Science Journal* for publishing a Special Issue on High Energy Materials.

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