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# The 150th Anniversary of the Birthday of the Great Russian Scientist Dmitrii Ivanovich Mendeleev

"The union of exact science and industry with due respect to labour, both material and spiritual, has become a peaceful force which alone can be used by an enquiring mind in building the foundations for the future".

*D.I.Mendeleev*

A hundred years ago in his famous "Fundamentals of Chemistry", the creator of the Periodic Law, Dmitrii Ivanovich Mendeleev, formulated the following definition of his science: "The immediate subject of chemistry is the study of homogeneous substances from the combination of which all the bodies of the world are made up, their interconversions, and the phenomena accompanying such interconversions". This definition has still not lost its force, because the transformations of organic and inorganic substances of various compositions and structures constitute the basis of all the phenomena occurring in the living and non-living nature.

Fundamental science has always had as its aim the achievement of practical results; in their turn, specific practical problems always stimulate progress in the corresponding branches of science. This applies fully to chemistry and this is probably why Mendeleev wrote: "While there can be no modern industry without science, without the former there can be no modern science either". This is the best statement which we could make nowadays about the interrelation of science and practice.

We can now see with our own eyes the gigantic advances achieved by natural science in the XXth century. We can but share wholeheartedly the wise idea of our famous compatriot Dmitrii Ivanovich Mendeleev, namely that "to recognise, understand, and embrace the harmony of scientific knowledge together with its incomplete components is to experience the delight which is provided only by beauty and truth".

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The reviews published in this issue discuss the work of Academician N.S.Enikolopyan. For much of his career he was known by the Russianised form of this name—N.S.Enikolopov. The forms of his name used in these reviews correspond to those in the original Russian text.