

Editors' note

It is hard to believe that it is now twenty-five years since the first issue of this journal appeared. It may be recalled that the journal was at that time Part C of the Proceedings of the Indian Academy of Sciences (Parts A and B being Physical and Biological Sciences respectively). In the year 1984 the name of the journal was changed to *Sādhanā* (a Sanskrit word that means, among other things 'accomplishment . . . proof . . . instrument or tool' – all conveying, as an editorial on the occasion declared, 'that sense of physical achievement that is central to successful engineering'). And it has appeared under that name since then.

When the journal was established the first Editorial Board saw it as a historic decision by the Academy, signaling the 'recognition of the importance of science and engineering to each other, and of the interest that developments in engineering hold not only to technologists but to scientists in general as well'. The Editorial in the first issue refused to make an apologetic defence for a new journal as had been customary at that time, but called for celebration. It enunciated an editorial policy which was to encourage papers likely to be of interest to more than one professional group either because the work was fundamental or because it reflected the best in current technology; in general therefore it invited papers of broad interest, whether they reported theory or experiment, research or development, original work or review, and declared that the journal hoped to publish work on special projects of interest to engineering scientists.

In the years following the journal has striven to be faithful to its declared aims. It has had a long series of special volumes covering a wide variety of subjects. The first of that series was on the *Aryabhata* project, describing the work done on the first Indian satellite. Other volumes have been concerned with subjects in fluid mechanics, computer science and technology, opto-electronics, nonlinear dynamical systems, heat transfer and mechanical engineering, structural analysis and dynamics, materials sciences and technology, mathematical modelling, and many other related subjects. The themes of *Sādhanā* special issues have ranged from *Wood Heat in Cooking* to *Chance as Necessity*.

We believe that over these twenty-five years the journal has acquired a unique character of its own, combining detailed reports on interesting engineering projects at one end of the spectrum to accounts of the use of sophisticated mathematics in a wide variety of advanced technologies at the other end. We believe that this breadth of view of engineering science reflects the very soul of our discipline; and we hope our readers share with all of us on the Editorial Board the pleasure that we have had in designing and publishing this vast variety of special volumes.

This effort of course would not have been possible without the very active support we have received from distinguished engineering scientists in India and abroad who have served on our Editorial Boards, acted as Guest Editors, and written interesting papers for the journal. And we thank the staff of the Academy for helping us to bring out a journal that we have always wanted to be among the best edited in the engineering discipline.

GANGAN PRATHAP
Editor

RODDAM NARASIMHA
Consulting Editor