

## PREFACE

Rare earths occur in the beach sands of Kerala and Orissa. Indian Rare Earths Ltd. mines, beneficiates and extracts rare earth compounds. India is one of the countries with rich rare earth resources in the world and represents the third largest producer of rare earth compounds. Nearly all of it is exported.

There have been considerable research and development activities on various aspects of rare earth materials in several academic and research organisations in the country. In order to review the progress in this important field of materials research, an Indo-US conference on the Science and Technology of Rare Earth Materials was held at Cochin from March 3 to 8, 1980. Some of the papers presented at this conference are included in this special issue of the Bulletin of Materials Science to make them more widely available to the materials community here and abroad.

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