

## **Editorial note**

Lasers have made a significant impact on materials science during the past decade and at the present time, their role in materials processing is expanding both in scope and depth at a considerable pace. Yet, activity in this field in India is limited only to a few laboratories and research groups. With a view to promote the growth of research in this exciting field and to expose young research workers to newer trends in laser processing of materials, a Winter School was organized by the Indian Physics Association and the Department of Science and Technology at Poona University from 16–21 November 1987.

The programme was planned in such a way that the participants could find enough time to converse with the instructors, to see the laser processing work in progress in the Submicron Physics Laboratory of the Physics Department or to see the recent references in the library specially set up for the School. Tutorial sessions had been arranged on the last 2 days to allow the participants to speak about their interests and activities. In this special issue we have brought out the Proceedings of the School for the use of a wider audience.

We express our gratitude to Dr D D Bhawalkar, Prof. V G Bhide and Prof. A S Nigavekar for their support.

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