

FOREWORD

This special issue of the Bulletin of Materials Science offering glimpses of materials research in India carries the Proceedings of the fourth annual general meeting of the Materials Research Society of India, held at the Regional Research Laboratory, Thiruvananthapuram from 9 to 11 February 1993. In his MRSI Honour Lecture, Prof. C N R Rao surveys four decades of his research in solid state chemistry. His motivations for research as well as his outstanding contributions to understanding the chemistry of oxides, high temperature superconductors and fullerenes are brought out in a vivid fashion in this fascinating article. The fourteen MRSI medal lectures cover a diversity of topics such as materials development (titanium alloys, advanced cements, cutting tools, liquid sodium, cubic Laves phases), materials processing (biotechnology of gold processing, sol-gel process, combustion synthesis, solidification modelling), materials behaviour (high temperature deformation and fracture, textures in low carbon steels) and materials characterization (neutron diffraction of magnetic phases, high resolution X-ray diffraction of nearly perfect crystals). They give the flavour of the high quality of contemporary materials research in India and testify to its vigour and range. Two lectures by overseas visitors – Dr Kiyotaka Wasa from Japan on sputter deposition technology and Dr M A Subramanian from the US on design of zeolites – enhanced the technical content of the meeting. It is hoped that this special issue will be the forerunner for an annual number offering glimpses of materials research in India to practitioners of materials research the world over.

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