Materials Science is a vast field and a fast growing one with rapid advances by the day. To keep track of the advances and update the knowledge base, the Indian Science Congress Association which organizes the Indian Science Congress annually, has an exclusive Materials Science Section. I had the good fortune of being elected President of the Materials Science Section at the 82nd Science Congress which was held at Calcutta during January 2–6, 1995. I had the onerous task of organizing the entire session and the choice of speakers were made to ensure representation from the industry, research and academic institutions with a wide coverage of topics including history of dislocations, developments in the steel and non-ferrous industry, advances in strategic and modern materials, synthesis of nanocrystalline materials, and a perspective on NDE for material characterization.

I am thankful to the Editorial Board of BMS for having kindly consented to include the papers presented at the Materials Science Section of the 82nd Indian Science Congress as a special section in the Bulletin of Materials Science. I am thankful to all the authors for their contributions which I am sure will be read with interest by all the materials scientists.

Baldev Raj
Guest Editor