

**Papers presented at the “National Conference on Frontiers in Materials Science and Technology”, Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, February 2002**

***FOREWORD***

The papers appearing in this issue of the Bulletin of Materials Science were presented at the “National Conference on Frontiers in Materials Science and Technology (FMST 02)” organized by the Materials Science Centre, IIT Kharagpur, during 22–23 February 2002, as part of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of IIT Kharagpur. The conference was attended by participants from different corners of the country as well as from abroad. The main scientific aspects of the conference were electronic materials, ceramics, polymers and composites. The papers presented were mostly based on the current development of materials including nano materials, nano structures, smart materials and MEMS. The invited papers presented critical reviews and experimental results of the strategic materials for use in defence, medical and consumer sectors. The oral and poster papers were mostly based on the experimental data on the novel research results.

The special feature of this conference was the participation of researchers from engineering disciplines showing the performance of the manufacturing tools and devices based on materials developed most recently. A panel discussion was organized to bring the renowned material scientists and engineers of the country on the same platform to discuss the present direction of research and development on materials and devices. The panel stressed the need for greater emphasis on synthesis and preparation of materials. It was concluded that more intensive research and development work should be undertaken by the scientists and engineers of the country on modern materials. The proceedings of the panel discussion were very much appreciated by a large number of young researchers who attended the conference.

We acknowledge wholeheartedly the support from CSIR, AICTE and DAE in organizing the conference successfully.

S Basu  
P Bhargava  
*Guest Editors*