

FOREWORD

We have great pleasure in writing this Foreword for this issue of Bulletin of Materials Science to mark the 75th birthday of Prof. C N R Rao. Prof. Rao is undoubtedly the most eminent chemist this country has ever produced and is one of the world's leading materials scientists. His contributions to science, in general, and solid state chemistry & materials science, in particular, are outstanding both in terms of originality and diversity not to speak of extraordinary productivity.

It is important to remember his monumental contributions to science and society from a wider perspective, including his work as President of the two National Science Academies, the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry, and especially his most effective and purposeful Presidency of the Third World Academy of Sciences.

We should also not forget the fact that Prof. Rao is a great institution builder. The development of the Materials Research Centre and the Solid State and Structural Chemistry Unit at the Indian Institute of Science as laboratories of international stature, establishment of the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research as a world class deemed university, and most recently the International Centre of Materials Science are only a few examples to mention.

He has served the Indian Academy of Sciences in various capacities for several years, particularly, as the founder editor of this very journal (Bulletin of Materials Science) in 1979 and as President of the Academy. He had worked tirelessly to strengthen and promote this journal and if at the moment, this journal enjoys a respectable status, the credit goes to Prof. Rao. In this issue, 19 articles written by several scientists who have been associated with Prof. Rao in one way or the other are featured. These articles deal with various aspects of materials science while emphasizing the latest trends.

We, the scientific community of materials science, wish him a very happy 75th birthday and happier future years with his family.

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