

## Preface

The 50th annual DAE–BRNS Solid State Physics Symposium was organized during December 5–9, 2005 in Mumbai. The main venue for this symposium was the Central Complex Auditorium of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Mumbai. However, all the sessions on December 7 were conducted at Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), Mumbai.

The symposium was inaugurated by Dr P K Iyengar, Former Chairman, AEC, who also gave the inaugural address. Dr S Banerjee, Director, BARC, presided over the inaugural function and Dr V C Sahni, President, Indian Physics Association, Director, RRCAT, Indore and Director, Physics Group, BARC gave the keynote address. Several senior scientists, who had given their best to the growth of condensed matter research in the country were invited to attend the symposium as special invitees. In all, about 800 delegates and participants attended.

Over 750 contributed papers were received from various research institutes and universities across the country. Out of these, 540 papers were accepted, after rigorous refereeing, as poster presentations in different sessions. A volume of the Proceedings of the Symposium (the accepted contributed papers) was published and copies were given to the participants at the time of the inauguration of the symposium.

The symposium comprised of 30 invited talks covering different areas of condensed matter physics out of which 20 are being published as a special issue of *Pramana – Journal of Physics*. We are indeed grateful to the invited speakers for their articles. We are also very thankful to the editorial staff of *Pramana* for providing wholehearted support to bring out this special issue.

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