

About the Proceedings

A decade may be considered as a milestone in the life of an Astronomical Observatory - although it is but a wink in the life of an astronomical object. Probably with this philosophy in mind, Prof. G.S. Agarwal, Director of Physical Research Laboratory had suggested that we organise a symposium to commemorate the successful completion of a decade of astronomical observations with the 1.2 m infrared telescope at Gurushikhar, Mt. Abu which started functioning since November 1994. The two-day symposium on "Infrared and Optical Astronomy at Mt. Abu Observatory: the Past Decade and the Future" was held in PRL during 15-16 December 2004. Several scientists from PRL and other Institutions in the country had taken part in the symposium that mainly focussed on science done using the Mt. Abu telescope. There were 30 presentations covering several contemporary topics of interest in Astronomy and Astrophysics.

This special issue of the Bulletin of Astronomical Society of India contains the Proceedings of the Mt. Abu symposium. The articles in this issue are broadly divided into 4 categories, namely, (i) Stars and Interstellar Medium; (ii) Extragalactic Astronomy; (iii) Solar System Objects and (iv) Instrumentation and Facilities. We sincerely hope that the Proceedings will bring into focus the science that is being done at the Mt. Abu Observatory and the other astronomical institutions elsewhere in India.

A number of distinguished individuals and Institutions within and outside our country had contributed to the realisation of the Mt. Abu Observatory. The members of the Astronomy and Astrophysics Division of PRL are indebted to all of them for their stewardship and contributions for the setting up of the Observatory. Our sincere thanks are due to Prof. U.R. Rao, Chairman of the Council of Management of PRL for not only his keen interest in the Observatory but also for writing the Foreword to this Proceedings. We thank Prof. S. Krishnaswami, Acting Director of PRL, for his enthusiastic support for the Symposium and the Proceedings.

We thank Dr. G.C. Anupama, Editor of Bulletin of Astronomical Society of India and Ms. Sandra Rajiva of the editorial office for their help in bringing out the Proceedings. Special appreciation goes to Ms. Mira Karanjgaokar of our Division for her help in putting together the articles for the Proceedings. Finally we thank all the authors of the articles and the referees for doing a commendable job in a very short time.

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Guest Editors