

FOREWORD

Much of the excitement in modern Solar Physics has come from the realisation that the Sun is a plasma and that this plasma is interacting with the magnetic field in a wide variety of subtle ways. As well as being of great interest in their own right the observed plasma phenomena on the Sun are of much wider importance, since they reveal to us details of basic phenomena that are expected to be occurring throughout the universe. It was with this in mind that 173 solar physicists from 17 countries gathered together in Bangalore with an air of anticipation.

We were not disappointed as we received the warmest of welcomes from our graceful and charming host, Vinod Krishan. She and her colleagues worked tirelessly to make our stay a most memorable one and to ensure that the meeting ran with calm and efficiency. In addition to being stimulated by an excellent series of talks on the up-to-the-minute advances in our subject, it was a pleasure to make new friendships from so many countries and to learn, in particular, of the Solar Physics being done in India which has a great tradition and is of a high standard. Furthermore, we enjoyed hearing about Indian culture and appreciating its beauty, especially on our day's tour into the countryside to visit some Hindu and Jain temples.

The meeting began with a "Good Morning" welcome from Vinod Krishan and an interesting address by Professor Bhattacharyya describing Bangalore and its scientific heritage, both of which have been reprinted here. Each session included review talks and contributed talks with plenty of time for lively discussion periods. All these talks have been refereed and I am most grateful to authors and referees for enabling me to send the camera-ready manuscripts off to the publisher only four months after the meeting in order to ensure a speedy publication. Many of the poster papers too have been included here.

The Scientific Organising Committee consisted of V Krishan (chair), S M Chitre, M Kuperus, A Mangeney, E R Priest, R Rosner, Ch V Sastry, L Vlahos, V V Zheleznyakov, and the members of the Local Organising Committee were J C Bhattacharyya (chair), M H Gokhale, R C Kapoor, P K Kaw, V Krishan, G Krishna, R Nityananda, A R Choudhuri, Ch V Sastry, K R Sivaraman, R K Varma and were well served by the secretaries, S Rajasekaran and M Ramani. We are most grateful to our sponsors, namely IAU Commissions 10, 12, 40, 49, Indian National Science Academy (New Delhi), Department of Science and Technology (New Delhi), Indian Institute of Astrophysics (Bangalore), Raman Research Institute (Bangalore), Physical Research Laboratory (Ahmedabad), Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (Pune), Indian Space Research Organisation (Bangalore), National Aeronautical Laboratory (Bangalore) and the Institute for Plasma Research (Gandhinagar), Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (New Delhi) and Department of Atomic Energy (Bombay). Also I am extremely thankful to Shiela Wilson and Pat Dunne for secretarial help undertaken with their usual patience and efficiency.

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Eric Priest