

Foreword

This special issue of *Pramana – J. Phys.* has emerged out of the papers presented at the conference on Perspectives in Nonlinear Dynamics (PNLD 2004), jointly organised by the Department of Physics, Indian Institute of Technology Madras and The Institute of Mathematical Sciences, which was held in Chennai from 12 to 15 July 2004. This conference, a satellite to Statphys 22, the international conference on Statistical Physics which took place in the preceding week in Bangalore, attracted over 120 participants, 35 of these from outside India. A detailed report of the meeting can be found in *Current Science* [87, 1167 (2004)], and a list of the funding agencies as well as the members of the organising committee can be found in this issue.

PNLD 2004 brought together leading researchers from across the world and the energetic and active nonlinear dynamics community of India. The success of this conference was due to the enthusiastic participation and support of this collective, which has organised itself into a research community in the past twenty years. The meeting served a dual purpose: to showcase the volume and level of work done in this subject in India to the international community, and to expose the community to the cutting edge of forefront research done by leaders in the field from as many as 14 different countries who attended the meeting. These proceedings which are being brought out in two consecutive issues of *Pramana* are intended to be a record of this conference, and to serve as a reference for the research which the conference hopes to have nucleated.

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