

PREFACE

It is a great privilege to assemble this festschrift honoring Professor C. N. R. Rao, FRS (Ram, as he is known to his friends), on the occasion of his sixtieth birthday. The breadth of topics present here attests to the enormous diversity of interests and to the many distinct contributions, which have made Ram one of the foremost practitioners of solid state chemistry and materials science. Beyond that, he has legendary organizational talents for directing large groups of scientists in a host of different research areas. Equally impressive are his accomplishments in many other fields: the operation of the Indian Institute of Science, of which he is the Director, his many official functions in the highest echelons of learned societies as well as government circles in India, and his participation in all types of cultural activities. All these talents have been recognized through many honors, awards, and memberships in National Academies and through a plethora of honorary degrees. Lastly, he has to his credit a listing of over 800 articles and 30 books—a truly astonishing accomplishment.

It is therefore quite fitting to assemble this tribute from his closest friends and colleagues, with the hope that he may continue to provide guidance, inspiration, and leadership to the community of scientists in solid state chemistry and materials science. Let the past be but prologue to the future.

J. M. HONIG
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