

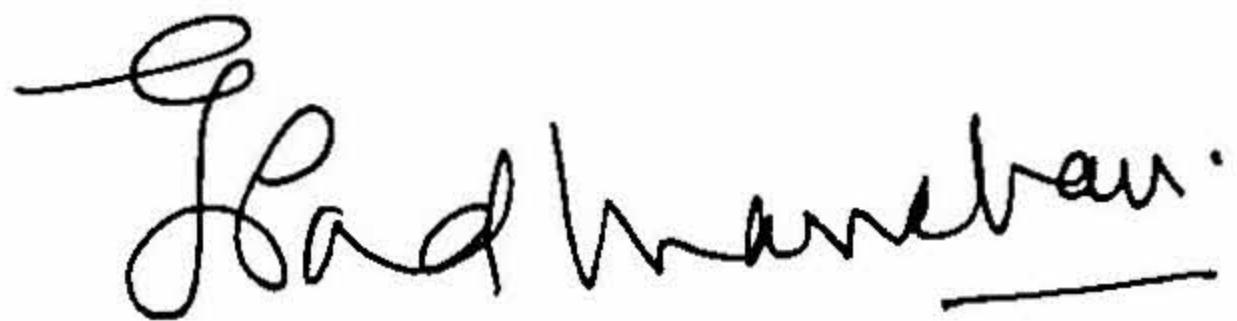
FOREWORD

In a span of 50 eventful years the Mechanical Engineering Department has contributed significantly in terms of post-graduate teaching, frontier research and design and development. Its faculty and alumni have interacted vigorously with major industries, national laboratories and other R&D institutions in the country. Indeed, it is not surprising that students and staff of this Department have emerged as leaders of institutions of higher learning, research laboratories and industries in India and abroad.

The Department is well equipped with state-of-the-art laboratories and infrastructural facilities. I understand that the current research activities of the Department are in the following four broad areas: a) Thermal science and fluid mechanics, b) Materials, manufacturing and design, c) Mechanical systems, and d) IC Engines, turbomachines and acoustics. Several research projects with total funding in excess of Rs 1 crore are supported through grants from UGC, MHRD, DST, ARDB and other Government bodies and industrial agencies. The faculty members render assistance to leading industries through technical advice and consultancy service. In fact, many of them are members of Board of Directors of firms, selection panels, editorial committees, ISI bodies and accreditation teams.

The Department has around 75 research scholars and graduates 30 Masters' degree students and about 8 Ph.D. research scholars every year. The students and staff author more than 75 research publications annually in leading journals of the world. After five decades of pioneering activities in the field of mechanical engineering education and research, the Department plans to diversify into newer areas of R&D and to maintain its leading role in mechanical engineering curriculum development in the country.

The Department can indeed be proud of its faculty and staff who have won international recognition and significantly contributed to teaching and research in the area of mechanical engineering. This special issue highlights the research trends in the Department and I am sure it will be well received.



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