

## Foreword

It gives us great pleasure to bring out the proceedings of the 31<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Astronomical Society of India (ASI). The prime motivation of establishing ASI in 1972, was to promote Astronomy and related branches of science in India. The society organizes scientific meetings, publishes a quarterly bulletin and supports the popularization of Astronomy and other similar activities. The activities of the society have grown considerably in the last 30 years or so.

The ASI organizes its scientific meetings in different universities and institutes across the country. The 31<sup>st</sup> scientific meeting was jointly organized by the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) and the Indian Institute of Space-science and Technology (IIST), both at Thiruvananthapuram and the IUCAA Resource Centre, Kochi, from 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> of February, 2013. This was the second scientific meeting of the Society which was held in Kerala, the first one, in 2003, organized by University of Kerala and Space Sciences Laboratory, VSSC.

Due to logistic convenience, this meeting was held in the Hotel Residency Tower located at the center of the city. Unfortunately, the meeting happened to coincide with a two-day statewide bandh called by the trade unions across Kerala. However, thanks to the hard work put in by the faculty and students of both the institutes, in particular by Profs. S. Shankaranarayanan and Archana Pai of IISER and Anandmayee Tej of IIST, the meeting was a great success.

The format of the meeting was similar to what was followed for the first time in the last meeting with emphasis on oral presentations, in parallel sessions, by the participants. Considering the availability of time, a total of 65 participants could be given a chance to make oral presentations for 10 minutes each. In addition, another 79 abstracts were presented as posters.

Unfortunately, a few invited speakers did not submit their write up in spite of our repeated reminders. Therefore, these proceedings do not reflect the full range of topics covered in the meeting. We apologize for that but hope that these proceedings will be useful to the astronomy community in the country.

**Pushpa Khare**

C.S.I.R. Emeritus Scientist, IUCAA, Pune

**C. H. Ishwara-Chandra**

National Centre for Radio Astrophysics, TIFR, Pune