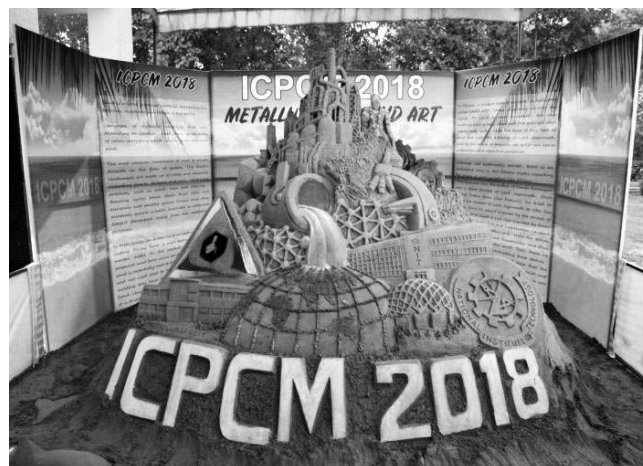




The current issue includes a selection of papers from presentations made at the 1st International conference on Processing and Characterization of Materials (ICPCM) 2018 which was held in the National Institute of Technology Rourkela (NITR), Odisha, India from 6th–8th December 2018. The conference was the first instalment of the international version of the national conferences on processing and characterization of materials (NCPCM) which was organized by the institute for the first time on 2nd–3rd December 2011. NITR, formerly Regional Engineering College Rourkela (REC Rourkela), established in 1961, is one of the premier national level institutions for technical education in the country and is funded by the Government of India. The conference was an attempt to provide a platform for the accomplished scientists, renowned scientists, young researchers and industrialists to interact and disseminate their knowledge in the ever-expanding research avenues on processing and characterization of conventional as well as advanced materials. The three-day conference witnessed many eminent researchers who gave the plenary, keynote and contributory talks. The conference also had two poster sessions where young researchers were given the platform to showcase their work. The conference was indeed a suc-

cessful one, as we could continue the legacy by celebrating it annually. Around 300 research investigations were presented at the conference relevant to its themes based on topics including materials processing, advanced materials processing, metal extraction, microstructural characterization, materials for energy applications, materials for nuclear, aviation and defense applications, composites, surface engineering, thin films and coatings, corrosion etc. The issue presents a selection of high-quality papers from the submitted works after a thorough peer review process. The review was done by the technical committee of the conference as well as other reviewers of international repute. Finally, I would like to thank every individual who contributed wholeheartedly to making the three-day conference, ICPCM 2018, a successful one.

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