

Preface

This is a collection of invited articles by some very active researchers in the interface of the theory of finite groups and their representations, Coxeter and Artin groups, incidence geometries and the theory of buildings. This includes articles by some of the invited speakers at the International Conference on “Groups and Geometries” organized at the Indian Statistical Institute, Bangalore Centre, during December 10–21, 2012. The request to the authors was to discuss the latest developments in the above topics with an emphasis on the basic questions of current interest. This was also the objective of the conference.

I would like to thank all the authors for kindly writing the articles and many colleagues who carefully refereed the articles in time. I also wish to thank the speakers and the participants at the conference.

This conference was a follow-up of the ICM Satellite Conference on “Buildings, Finite geometries and Groups” held at the Indian Statistical Institute, Bangalore Centre, during August 29–31, 2010. Springer has kindly published a volume comprising of articles by the participants in that conference and other authors who could not attend the conference (*Buildings, Finite Geometries and Groups*, Springer Proceedings in Mathematics Series, Vol. 10).

The year 2012 marked the 125th birth anniversary of the legendary mathematician of Indian origin, Srinivasa Ramanujan. There had been year-long celebrations throughout India, starting from December 22, 2011. This conference was organized as part of these celebrations.

During 2012, the Indian mathematical community lost Prof. Somesh C. Bagchi, who worked at the Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, India, and Prof. D. N. Verma, who worked at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai, India. Both of them contributed very substantially during the last 3–4 decades to the growth of mathematics in India in terms of teaching and training, organization, and research. This programme was dedicated to the memory of these two colleagues.

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