

Invitation Call!

This is the first issue of the *Journal of Scientific Temper* to roll out after my having taken over as the Editor. Although I have been involved in the working of the journal in some manner or the other, a leadership role in a journal of this kind was not something I was really looking forward to.

For one, I would have to tread on the path of the illustrious peers who conceptualised and gave life to the *Journal of Scientific Temper*. It's a difficult act to follow.

Secondly, I have been more of a practitioner of science communication, editing a monthly popular science magazine (*Science Reporter*), a monthly institutional newsletter (*CSIR News*) and S&T books, reports, monographs, etc. from time to time apart from writing on various scientific topics. My exposure to research in the field of science communication, teaching and pedagogical aspects of science communication, history of science communication, scientific temper, public understanding of science, and allied areas has been minimal to say the least.

However, my stated position all through these years has been that without the communication of scientific & technological research and developments no real progress could have been achieved in nations round the world. Communication and dissemination of scientific information through the various media forms and formats informs a nation's citizenry, inculcates a scientific and rational attitude among the people, promotes debates and discussions in the society on contentious issues, aids administrators and policy makers in devising and conceptualising programmes and policies, and above all fuels an interest among the young for science and ignites an innovative fervour.

However, apart from the act of communication of scientific developments and scientific information, what is also essential is an insight into social structures and attitudes before programmes aimed at communicating scientific ideas can be conceptualised.

An insight into the methodology to be employed and processes to be implemented is also required. Feasibility and post-implementation studies and surveys too are essential to gauge the success or failure of programmes. A historical analysis of trends is sometimes called for.

It is for this reason that I extend an open invitation to all researchers, scholars & experts, teachers, students & educationists, administrators & policy makers, scientists & technologists, media professionals & science communicators to contribute to the *Journal of Scientific Temper* research articles, case studies, opinion pieces, documentation on teaching and pedagogical aspects, methodological innovations, reports on conferences and seminars, book reviews, news on funding opportunities, fellowships, job openings, new research projects, etc. pertaining to scientific temper, science communication, and public understanding of science. And, of course, any other aspect that defines scientific culture and governs the relationship of scientific & technological processes with human endeavours.

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