

This is the last issue of *Journal of Scientific Temper* that I am responsible for. The next issue will be edited by Dr Surjit Singh and Hasan Jawaid Khan because I am superannuating from the National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources after serving CSIR for 34 years. I am sure that the journal will flourish under their able leadership. I must thank the Institute, which provided me the platform to launch JST. It needs to be mentioned that without the encouragement and approval of Dr Gangan Prathap, then the Director of NISCAIR, the journal could not have seen the light of the day. The Editorial Board members always stood by and inspired us to improve the quality of contributions. I am grateful to all the colleagues and friends and fellow travellers who have extended their support, consistently, during my tenure. Special thanks are due to Chinese Colleagues who enthusiastically contributed and helped us bring out a special issue on science communication in China.

Science communication today is an established area of research and presents a truly transdiscipline endeavor to understand the factors that determine public understanding of science. The past thirty years have witnessed many changes. The community of scholars who work on problems of science communication has enlarged. We have moved away from hard mechanical approach. The demise of 'deficit model' paved the way for fresh gaze at conceptual frameworks. Use of methodologies and insights developed in various other disciplines has contributed to a much deeper appreciation of the reality. In many countries structures for collecting empirical data on continuous basis have been established. Survey studies despite many shortcomings are seen as a legitimate method of probing the public understanding of science, today.

When about 30 years back I had taken a plunge to probe some of the issues related to science communication, it was impossible to guess that the journey will be a long one. The paucity of literature and a critical number of scholars with whom

the issues could be discussed, was the main stumbling block at that time. Today, there is plethora of literature available. Large number of brilliant minds are working on almost all aspects of PUS research, the number of books published has increased exponentially, there are many reputed journals specifically devoted to publishing scholarly papers on various facets of science communication. *Journal of Scientific Temper*, with its special focus on developing countries, has tried to correct the skewness in publication of Euro-centric research articles. The journey, for me, has been a great opportunity to develop insight into experiences from across the continents and varied cultures.

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