

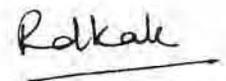
Editorial

The three technologies, Information technology, Biotechnology and the most recently Nano-technology have made profound influence on many facets of life in almost every country of the world and are considered the defining technologies of 21st century. The inevitable consequences of continued development in these technologies will open a new era of self-replicating consumer goods, super health, and inventions impossible to fabricate with first wave of industrialization. Of the three technologies, the biotechnology is going to affect most as never in the history of development of scientific horizons has a subject been so close to application in society as the domain of Biotechnology. In order to meet the challenges of human survival with growing population to meet the increasing demand of food with less per capita land availability, the world is largely dependent today on the role of biotechnological developments in all sectors of life. The 21st century is expected to be the century of Biotechnology. The effect and extent of its impressions on human race are far reaching, much more than any other scientific field. The discovery of pluripotent stem cells may be the single important scientific and medical breakthrough and could impact the lives of millions across the globe, suffering from many of humanities most devastating illnesses, including Alzheimer's disease, heart diseases, cancer, spinal cord injury and diabetes. There is hope that pluripotent stem cell research will result in new treatments and cures for many of the diseases and disabilities.

Realizing the importance of Biotechnology, it was way back in 1986, when the Government of India had created the Department of Biotechnology under its Ministry of Science and Technology. There have been lots of developments since then in biotechnological Research and Development. From time to time, regulations have been made and policies have been modified to meet the new challenges. Recently the Prime Minister of India, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee released a "Biotechnology Vision Document", which provides 10-year perspective plan with special focus on agriculture, health-care and environment. To reap the benefits of research in this field, dissemination of scientific and technological information to every conceivable section of readership is very essential. Since Biotechnology is a multidisciplinary science, it needs specialized journals to accommodate the vast amount of information generated in various fields of this domain. Although there are several biotechnological journals being published from foreign countries, there are only a few Indian journals that publish articles in biotechnology, but among these none is solely devoted to biotechnology. Against this backdrop, the National Institute of Science Communication, a premier Institute of Science Communication in the country with its long established expertise in science editing and publishing a family of 14 peer-reviewed journals of International repute, felt the need to launch a new quarterly journal, the **Indian Journal of Biotechnology** to disseminate information in the area of biotechnology and provide a exclusive platform for Indian scientists as well international researchers to publish their research findings.

This peer-reviewed, quarterly journal welcomes research articles from biotechnologists in the areas related to agriculture, animal husbandry, environment, industry, advanced microbiology, medicine, bio-informatics, as well as on social, legal and ethical issues. It is hoped that this journal will act as an interface between researchers and biotechnology business community and may facilitate the path in making BT as “Bharat’s Tomorrow”. The inaugural issue of the journal in your hands carries the invited articles mostly from the editorial board members of the journal. We earnestly hope that the readers would find it useful.

With best wishes for the New Year,



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