The editorial of December issue of SR “Extraordinary Times, Extraordinary Measures” shows how much developed countries are serious about preserving the best conditions of the climate. The national capital alone does not have polluted air, the whole of India does. Of course there are several variations in intensity from city to city.

According to the Central Pollution Control Board, since 2011, at least 94 Indian cities have not met national air quality standards. Similarly, 10 Indian cities have been listed in the twenty most polluted cities of the world category by WHO.

In order to improve the quality of air in any city the single and most important thing that is required is a change in people’s behaviour and mindset. The pollution and the cause of pollution are interlinked to each other. While people think of their customs, comforts, and other activities related to their livelihoods and sustenance as their own problems and rights, the pollution that is generated from the above causes is always seen as the governments’ problem. People blame the government for its ineffectiveness in checking poor air quality forgetting that they themselves are part of this problem.

If we take examples from highly polluted cities in other countries, we see that both government and people undertook joint efforts to control pollution. The present scenario calls for more sustainable initiatives with short- and long-term perspectives. The Indian government should frame policies that require the active participation of citizens in controlling pollution.

Santosh Kumar Mishra
Cuttack (Odisha)

SCIENCE UPDATE
2016

The article What Happened in 2016 published in the December 2016 issue was of much interest and served as a refresher of scientific knowledge generated during this year. We have also got a chance to know about some of the accomplishments in the field of science which we had missed due to one reason or the other. Some of the discoveries and accomplishments like the Discovery of Ninth Planet, Predicting Solar Flares and Transforming Carbon Dioxide into Rock were truly amazing.

But I wonder, one of the greatest discoveries of the century i.e. the Discovery of Gravitational Waves announced in February last year by the LIGO at USA was left untouched by the authors in this article. The discovery was the confirmation of the prediction made by Einstein a century ago.

I hope you will continue publishing such Science Updates at the end of every year.

D.R. Bhagat
Jammu

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YEAR-END UPDATE
What Happened in 2016 was a brilliant effort by Science Reporter to bring to its readers an account of the scientific and technological discoveries during the year. Such an account will be a great boon for people like me who are preparing for their competitive exams. I do hope this practice will be continued every year.

Farzan Khalid
Bangalore

REINVENTING KANGRA TEA

The feature Reinventing Kangra Tea was an eye-opener. It was heartening to know how a CSIR laboratory motivated and innovated to rejuvenate a dying industry. I also belong to Himachal but was unaware of the efforts of the CSIR-Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology based in Palampur in reviving Kangra tea to its earlier glory. Hats off to CSIR for this stupendous effort for a national cause.

Pardeep Sheoran
Pune

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