

# Science Reporter



## INVEST IN SCIENCE COMMUNICATION

Your editorial **Scientists Need to Communicate Science** (July 2014) is timely. Scientific research begets new technologies, longer and healthier lives, knowledge of the planet and the universe itself. Science popularization at all levels, indispensable for creation of scientific attitude and temper, is yet to catch up in the country.

Breakthroughs in science made within and outside the country find little place in national and regional newspapers, while our national TV channels air hardly anything worthwhile related to modern science. Only one national daily devotes one full page to science once a week. There are very few popular magazines devoted exclusively or substantially to science with respectable circulation. While glossy and fashionable magazines focussing on health, fitness and well being keep appearing, these have more fashion than science in them with most article contributors having never done any serious science. But for international channels like Discovery, exposure of the young generation to nature and breakthroughs in science would have been extremely limited.

We pay dearly for the lack of scientific attitude among the citizens. In a country of over six billion people with strong religious beliefs, Luddite leaders continue to garner public support towards their selfish ends invoking religion or faith. TV channels churn out soaps that

promote obscurantism making unsuspecting audiences look up to miracles to address their problems. People like Dahbolkar who defy the obscurantists and fraudulent godmen pay a very heavy price in this country.

Clearly, nations that have invested in science have progressed while those that have not, in spite of all wealth at their disposal, remain at the receiving end. India with its entire quest for development invests less than one percent of GDP for science – far behind China, most European countries and the US.

We need more people who can appreciate science and persuade the governments to do so. This is only possible with effective science communication and popularization. Eminent scientists need to be urged to write on and popularize national/international pathbreaking works and young researchers encouraged to take science to children. Of course, it is also essential to make science popularization rewarding. Agencies like DST and DBT have some programmes to encourage dissemination of scientific information at school levels and these can easily be expanded. M. Saleemuddin, Professor & UGC-BSR- Fellow, Aligarh Muslim University

## LESSONS FOR TODAY'S GENERATION

Max Quiz Club, a research oriented general knowledge organisation, has been active since the past 15 years with school students to inspire them with knowledge.

We would like to appreciate cover story **Are You A Tech Addict** (August 2014), which is a very practical lesson for all. Max Quiz Club would like to promote this as a duty for our coming generations. We expect more such articles in *Science Reporter*. Sankar Dey, Max Quiz Club, Kolkata

**REGULATE ANTIBIOTICS**  
The article **Growth Promoting Antibiotics** by M.K. Chattopadhyay is a thought provoking article. Antibiotics,



nowadays, are essential for survival because all living beings whether humans, animals, or plants are surrounded by harmful microorganisms. So antibiotics are widely used for prevention and curing of diseases. The use of antibiotics in promoting growth of living beings particularly animals is questionable as it leads to the development of drug resistance and supra infection. Therefore the use of antibiotics as growth promoter should be banned till mechanisms of action for antibiotics are explored.

Joychandra  
JNIMS, Imphal

## CYBER CAUTION

The article **Cyberlaw – Global Trends in 2014** is very significant. All of us need to be extremely aware on the net, especially on social networking sites. Children using it from a tender age lack control. On these sites people are judged by how they look and not what

they are. This causes low self-esteem. One should be cautious when talking to a stranger through this medium and never disclose private information. As pointed by the author, privacy is highly compromised due to illegal snooping by agencies like NSA, CIA, etc.

Rahul Bhowmick, Siliguri

## UNIQUE BONDING

The article **Nature's Lessons on Living Together!** by Mayanglambam Ojit Kumar Singh was very interesting and informative as well. It was enlightening to know about the wonderful bonding between



the Nature and living organisms. It just touched my soul. For instance, the Plover bird which cleans out the crocodile's teeth, the insects that act as pollinators, distributors, germinators and breeders, the Plant-Fungi interaction, Plant-Herbivore relationship, free hitchhikers sticking with the animals. All these examples were just fabulous. We need to learn from these examples that unity and cooperation are needed for surviving and for a happy life.

I would like to thank *Science Reporter* for acting as a source of great inspiration for many young scientific minds and helping us greatly in facing science competitions. Shraboni Dey, Kanchrapara, Kolkata

**HAVE YOUR SAY**

Email us : [sr@niscair.res.in](mailto:sr@niscair.res.in)