

CURRENT SCIENCE

Assuming Charge as Editor

Professor P. Balam passed on to me the responsibility of Editorship of *Current Science* effective July 2013. He served as the Editor of *Current Science* for nearly two decades. His was a selfless, dedicated, impeccable service to the scientific community. It was a pleasure working with him as Associate Editor. It is not easy to step into the shoes of an editor, who ran so efficiently the publication of this very popular Indian science journal for such a long time. I have accepted this responsibility with all humility, aware of my limitations.

I am a geologist. A geologist requires appreciation of physical, chemical and biological processes to understand the Earth's crust, its interior, its hydrospheric, biospheric and atmospheric envelop, and interaction between them both at present and through geological time of nearly 4500 million years. He also learns about the earth from the results of space exploration. While he may be engaged in developing mineral and energy resources, he has to be responsible custodian of the environment for future of the humankind. Therefore, he has to have appreciation of the various branches of science. Practising geology in this manner for nearly five decades, makes me feel, that I can appreciate the contributions from various fields of science that seek publication in *Current Science*. With the help and advice of Associate Editors, Members of the Editorial Board and expert reviewers in the country and abroad, I will strive to maintain and improve the quality and content of *Current Science* in the times to follow.

Current Science has served the scientific community of India in particular for over eight decades now. Articles published in the journal have made good impact on science in India, although the impact factor of the journal on the usually adopted scales may not be high. Improving the quality of the journal and achieving a higher impact factor, require that the research contributions must be on relevant questions in science, have general significance and must be of interest worldwide. Many papers that are

submitted to *Current Science* do not pay attention to this aspect. Authors need to go that extra mile while writing their papers to state, how their contribution meets the above requirement. Having worked in the university and national scientific laboratory environment, I have known that there is always peer pressure on scientists of the country to publish their work in scientific journals abroad which have higher impact factor and visibility. I also appreciate that every scientific worker wants the results of his/her research known far and wide. In spite of the above, it is my opinion, that if we have to grow our journals to international level in terms of visibility and impact factor, we must take pride in publishing some of our good papers in our journals also. It is my appeal to the leading scientists in the country that while they continue to publish overseas, they must consider publishing one of their good papers every year in an Indian journal like *Current Science*. It is the collective responsibility of the scientific community of the country to improve the standard, visibility and impact factor of the Indian journals.

Prof. Balam was particularly well known for his editorials which he wrote on a variety of topics so regularly. This capability of his is indeed difficult to match. As editorials in *Current Science* are important part of the journal, I propose to continue the tradition of publishing the editorial page, but, with contributions drawn from experts in various branches of science, technology, medicine, science policy and administration. I consider that Members of the Working Committee of *Current Science* Association, Associate Editors, Members of the Editorial Board and invited experts can all contribute to make the Editorial column interesting, educative and relevant through their contributions. I look forward to co-operation from them all, to help me continue the publication of the editorial column.

R. Srinivasan