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EDITORIAL

Reaching out to Industry

The wide and alert readership of *Current Science* and the support of a few government departments and agencies, have contributed in making *Current Science* an active and speedy medium of communication among scientists in India. *Current Science* is also shaping to be an important forum for information and debate on policy matters relating to science and technology (S&T). In the first three decades of its existence, this journal published 5 to 6 pages of news, containing accounts of new processes developed by industries, patents, articles on technology, engineering development and applied science. It is now all the more necessary to recapture that vision with greater vigour. There is a general belief in the Nehruvian statement that the future belongs to those who make friends with science. It is also being increasingly realized that the future of science in India will be healthier and brighter if the S&T community interacts more closely with users and industries.

We need not repeat here the successes of industry-science interactions, which have made many Western countries (and companies) great economic powers. Closer to home Japan and several newly industrializing countries have demonstrated the role of this nexus. In India too, we are not

without several such examples although missed opportunities far outnumber our success stories. Clearly, the time is ripe to jettison our inhibitions and approach the issue of industry-academia interactions with fresh vigour. *Current Science* can provide a valuable forum for developing a new synergism between academic science and technological innovation. This journal would like to invite participation from a wide cross-section of R&D laboratories in promoting both basic and applied science. We look forward to interactions with scientists and technologists in private laboratories, as readers, authors, referees and critics.

Although the columns of this journal have largely catered to academic researchers in India, over the past few years the scope and reach of the journal has been considerably enhanced. In keeping with the times this seems an appropriate moment to reach out to industry. Science in India has rarely been driven by technological compulsions, with research often remaining an esoteric activity. However, with imagination and drive there is every likelihood that a new and effective partnership can be forged between industry and academia, which will eventually enrich the Indian scientific scene.

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