

SCIENCE AND CULTURE

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EDITORIAL

SCIENCE AND CULTURE: CONTINUING 92nd YEARS



The call that brings *Science and Culture* into existence is truly the call of the times. For, it is obvious to every thinking man that India is now passing through a critical stage in her history, when over the cultural foundations of her ancient and variegated civilisation, structures of a modern design are being built. It is necessary that at such a juncture the possible effects of the increasing application of discoveries in science to our national and social life, should receive very careful attention; for if the present is the child of the past, it may with equal emphasis be asserted that the future will be the child of the present. The present generation by its policy and action will shape the course of the future (Saha, 1935).

Some educated Indians challenged English claims of superiority of science and felt the need for an association where scientists and other educated Indians could interact and exchange ideas in order to promote science and instill a scientific temper among the masses to reap the benefits of science. In order to give it a proper shape the Indian Science News Association (ISNA) was established in 1935 in Calcutta during British India period by Acharya P.C. Ray, being the founder President, Prof. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee, Sir U.N. Bramachari and Dr. S.C. Law (founder Vice-Presidents), Prof. Meghnad Saha and Prof. Bidhubhusan Ray (founder Secretaries) and Prof. N.R. Sen (founder Treasurer) along with twelve other distinguished thinkers and personalities as members of the Council with the prime objective of “dissemination of scientific knowledge amongst the public and advocacy of its

application to all walks of life as far as practicable”. Interestingly, the first issue of the *Journal Science and Culture* was published on 24th June 1935, while the ISNA was founded on 9th July 1935. This is the 92nd year of publishing continuously the *Journal Science and Culture*. Prof. Saha (being the first Editor of *Journal*) made an appeal to eminent persons requesting them to contribute “articles, research notes and other things which may be considered worthy of public attention”. Saha had the pattern of the British *Journal ‘Nature’* as a model for *Science and Culture* (1942).

Science and Culture is not just a journal of natural science, but also a journal of cultural science. Its holistic founders believed that one discipline could not be completely divorced from the other, preferring to focus on research and development of science, society and culture, making it a unique and truly multidisciplinary science journal. Many of the editorials of *Science and Culture* made notable impacts on formulating plans on matters of national interest. River Valley Schemes and Calendar Reform, advocated earlier by *Science and Culture*, received recognition from

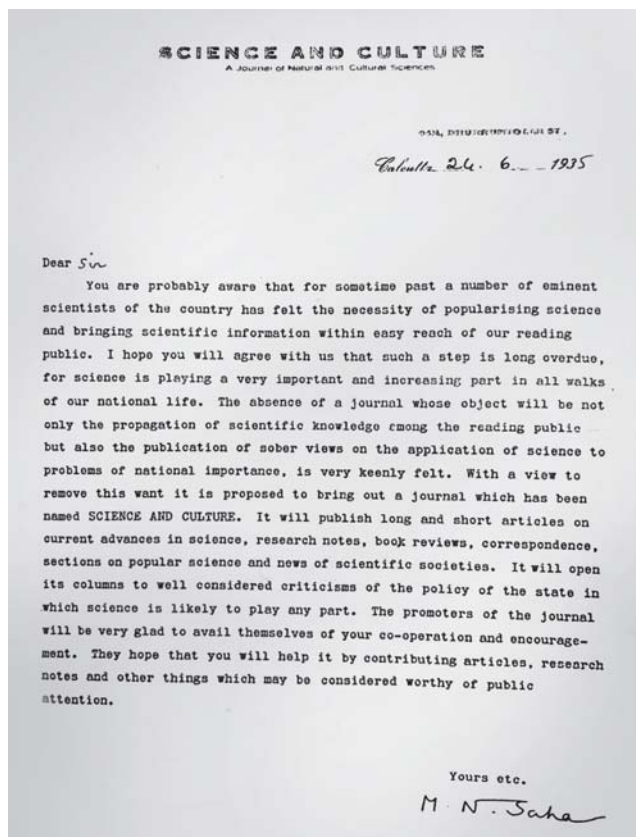


Science and Culture
first issue 1935



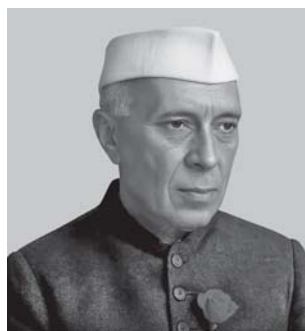
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both the state and Central Governments and finally materialized by the Governments. The Journal is being enriched by thoughtful article from luminaries of India and also having articles from eminent foreign scientists including Nobel Prize winners.



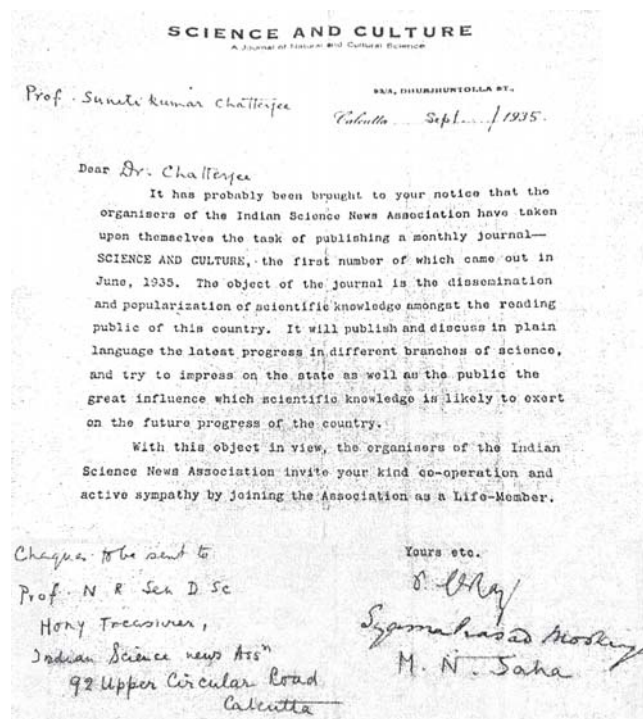
The need of such a journal has long been felt, for, though India can now boast of a large number of workers in different branches of science some of whom have, by their contributions won international positions, their labours are mostly confined to their technical subjects. It is true that they are neither wanting in capacity, nor are lacking in will to instruct the people by means of well written articles about the progress of science and the advantages of their application to the economic and cultural life of the country. But the absence of a medium of publication solely devoted to this purpose has long been felt. *Science and Culture* has been assured of the cooperation of a large number of eminent scientists in its efforts. It will publish articles written in popular language by experts about the recent contributions to knowledge in various branches of science. It will publish articles discussing Government policy in technical matters like rural reconstruction, transport, power development, industrial policy and such others which have their basis on science.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India and the architect of modern India in his message



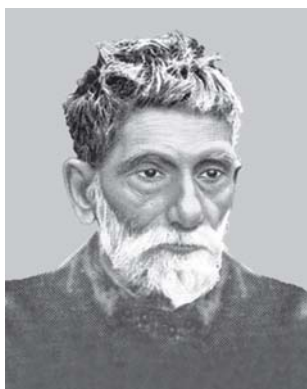
Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru

stated: "*Science and Culture are of the essence of life today, in war and peace, and any periodical which serves the cause of science and culture performs a service to India and humanity*". I wish that "*SCIENCE AND CULTURE*" will continue its useful career and will widen its sphere of influence, so that its message may reach even the laymen in India and might not be confined to the experts and the scientists. It is comforting to know that in spite of the war and the difficulties that inevitably result from the war, this journal has continued to come out. Indeed it is in these times of war and crisis that the rational message of science is all the more necessary. So more power to "*SCIENCE AND CULTURE*".

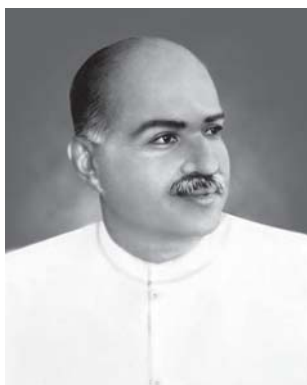


Courtesy Dr. Amit Krishna De, Honorary Secretary, ISNA and Sri Debapriyo Goswami collected from family member of Prof. Suniti Kumar Chatterjee.

A transcription of an invitation to Prof. Suniti Kumar Chatterjee signed by Acharya P.C. Ray (President), Prof. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee (Vice-President) and Prof. M.N. Saha (Secretary) informing him about the publication of Journal *Science and Culture*, the first number of which came out in June 1935, for his kind co-operation and active sympathy by joining the ISNA as a Life-Member and requested to sent the cheque to Prof. N.R. Sen, Hony.



Acharya P.C. Ray



Prof. Shyama Prasad
Mookerjee

of Indian science, who also occupied the presidential chair gave a token amount of Rs. 500.00, but his purse was always open to the Association whenever there was need. Another gentleman, who wanted to stay anonymous, donated Rs. 6000.00 for the publication of *Science and Culture*. Shri Hari Keshava Ghosh and his brothers, the owners of "The Indian Press Ltd." had agreed to print the journal for two years, free of cost, if so needed.



Prof. M.N. Saha

of the Journal *Science and Culture* and the Council

Treasurer of ISNA. This showed the nature of Membership drive from the very beginning for the sustainable development of an organisation by the eminent personalities.

The funds were collected from voluntary contributions of the members of the Council and their personal influence. In his inaugural speech, Prof. S.P. Mookerjee revealed that ISNA was started with the help of Sir Upendra Nath Brahmachari, the undisputed leader of the medical scientists of the time of India, gave a magnificent donation of Rs.1,000.00 to start with. He hoped that such support will be received from him in future. Acharya P.C. Ray, the doyen

This is how ISNA completed ninety second years of its existence being nurtured and nourished in the hands of the cream of intelligentsia of Bengal and a number of quality scientists and academicians from the rest of India. The 92 years were a long journey with struggle to balance the budget and to publish *Science and Culture* regularly. The Editorial Board

Members of ISNA gratefully acknowledges the publication of 45 special issues through the initiatives of the Editor-in-Chiefs (Prof. S. C. Ray and Prof. Sudhendu Mandal) on selected modern scientific topics sponsored by the central and state universities/institutes funded by UGC, DAE, DST, CSIR, ICAR and ICMR since 2005. Presently, the Journal is listed in Thomson Reuters Master List, UGC-Care List criteria and also indexed in UK-Based CAB Abstracts, Web of Science, Science citation index Expanded Category and DOI indexed. *Science and Culture* has passed through occasional changes in its course as well as its looks.

21st century deals with the latest development in Science and Technology i.e. Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning. I am very happy to mention that we have already published three special issues in 2026 i.e. January-February having the theme on *Ideal Planet to Live in: AI-Driven Pathways for Social Equity*. March-April on *Computational and AI Solution for Society* and May-June on *Integrating AI for Efficient Healthcare Management*. These issues have been sponsored by the Brainware University, Barasat, Kolkata. We are also hopeful to publish two more special issues in 2026 i.e. September-October on *Intelligent Systems and Data-Driven Innovations* and November-December on *AI for Business Excellence and Culture Enrichment* respectively.

The Sailee Press Pvt. Ltd. deserve special credit for their devoted service in printing Journal *Science and Culture* for last five decades. It's our proud achievement of the ISNA that *Science and Culture* have an unbroken continuity in all these years. □



Bidhu Bhushan Ray



Prof. N.R. Sen

Sudhendu Mandal

Editor-in-Chief, *Science and Culture*
Indian Science News Association

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