

EDITORIAL

The exponential progress in science and technology today is an amazing phenomenon. The quantity and quality of wealth of information and knowledge in science is so awesome that it makes one wonder at the whole universe and marvel at the human mind. The progress in science, while it offers a tremendous amount of challenge to the young Scientists, Teaching fraternity and students, also demands a collective response and commitment to the cause of science and be architects of a greater world order.

September 2003, witnessed a great event in the history of Christ College, as researchers, teachers, scientists and students from all over India had gathered for a three day National Seminar on "THE EMERGING TRENDS IN BIODIVERSITY AND BIOTECHNOLOGY IN THE INDIAN CONTEXT". The campus had truly witnessed vibrant waves of intellectual radiation, throbbing the annals of Christ College, as the participants gathered had an open mind to understand and appreciate the works and discoveries of co-participants and resource persons in the field of Biodiversity and Biotechnology.

Indeed, it was a wonderful rich experience for me to be the Co-ordinator of the Seminar and be in the company of great scientists of our country. This issue of Mapana bears witness to that great event as it unfolds the hard work and inspiration of many of the participants, in the form of research articles, project reports and review articles.

The readers, we are sure, will find this issue quite interesting and informative as it touches a wide spectrum of works, issues and interests, like biodiversity of rice to biodiversity of bats, biodiversity of various plants to our very own neem. The study on cancer related cells and problem by Mungalavathy and the doctors from St. John's Medical College, Bangalore, expose our mind to different perspectives on a problem that creates havoc into the health of human kind.

We wish all our readers an intellectual feast on a topic which has captured the minds of scientists and industrialists with equal interests. Do find time to communicate to us your critical analysis, deep reflections, reviews and valuable suggestions, which we consider very important, to make "Mapana" truly a Journal of Sciences.

E. Jerome Xavier
Executive Editor