

CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

The tide of technology is irreversible. When the pandemic hit the world with its ferocity, it took less than a month to decode the genome sequence of the Covid-19 virus. The artificial intelligence helped to identify the proteins to which the genes decode and thence the likely drugs to deactivate the mechanism. Unlike 1918 flu, even after two waves have passed globally, the figure of mortality is a quarter million, spread through a year. Within a year, dozens of vaccines are vying to compete and eradicate any strain of the Covid-19 or its mutant variants. The mankind has been saved from an imminent disaster. It is the hard work of scientists, doctors, health policy practitioners that such a coordinated response has minimized the dangerous threat.

This year also saw three space missions to Mars. The rockets from the UAE, China and the USA have simultaneously arrived in the orbit of the Mars. NASA's Perseverance rovers has landed on the surface and has sent beautiful images as well as the first sound ever recorded by mankind on the surface of the Mars. NASA expedition will focus on presence of bioforms on the Martian surface. China's Tianwen-1 mission consists of an orbiter, lander and rover. The rovers will attempt to land on the surface of the southern region of *Utopia Planitia* area in May –June.

The year also saw the spread of 5G technology in telecom communication. The 3G and 4G technologies enabled the world to browse the internet, use data driven services, increased bandwidths for live-streaming; 5G services will bring a major perspectival shift. Augmented and Virtual reality (AV & VR) will become common place. The 3-D videos and their live-streaming will become a reality. Cloud based gaming services like Google Stadia, NVidia, GeForce Now will become another virtual space for leisure of the people. The smart grid control and smart retail customized to the consumer's needs will become a reality. By the end of the year 2021, thirty countries are expected to roll out 5 G services.

It is the power of technology that is making lives easier to live, prolonging the life span, augmenting the happiness and fulfilling the growing appetite for learning from the unknown terrains. Innovative technologies cannot thrive in a culture of risk-averse studies and the regimented university curricula. Flexibility to explore and integrate different disciplines ought to be introduced in Indian universities. Multidisciplinarity should be the basic framework for pursuit of higher studies.

Mewar University undertook this approach and the Journal of Indian Research is a step in the direction. We are facing constrains of resources and dwindling inflow of papers as pandemic might have squeezed out the zeal of researchers in many streams.

Without inflow of quality papers, it becomes difficult to sustain the regular periodic publication. I would complement the team of the Journal of Indian Research for their perseverance in such trying times.

I wish the scholars contribute their papers and we could together tend to the timely publication of the journal.



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