

MESSAGE

The *Indian Journal of History of Science* (IJHS) can be traced back to 1960 when a History of Science Board was constituted for writing an authoritative history of science in India. Subsequently, the work of the Board was taken over by a National Commission for compilation of history of science in India along the lines of the UNESCO Commission for the Scientific History of Mankind. In addition to the compilation of bibliographies and writing of monographs and source-based studies, it was also recognized that history of science should be a subject of study in Indian universities. The idea was to create a large pool of science historians for history of science departments which may started eventually Indian universities. To record systemic researches and studies, the Commission recommended publication of a journal entitled *Indian Journal of History of Science* (IJHS). This journal was first started in the year 1966 as a biannual and switched over to quarterly publication from 1984 onwards. A peer-reviewed journal, IJHS publishes original papers, review articles, historical notes, correspondences, book reviews, and news concerning development of the subject not only in India but in other parts of the world as well. It also publishes proceedings of national seminars, supplements containing important source materials with English translations & notes and obituaries of established scholars. With seven to eight articles annually in the initial years, the journal now publishes around forty research contributions annually. During its journey of last fifty years IJHS has published over two thousand

articles focusing on the growth and development of Indian science from antiquity to modern times. The thrust areas of the journal include Indian Astronomy & Mathematics, Alchemy & Medicine, Metals & Metallurgy, Ecology & Environment, Archaeology & Epigraphy, History & Philosophy of Indian Science, Science & Technology during the Colonial and post-colonial period. The Commission also recommended publication of thematic issues dealing with ancient, medieval and modern phases. Some of the publications dealing with ancient and medieval phases include Scientific and Technical Education in India: 1781-1900; History of Astronomy in India; History of Technology (3 vols. ancient, medieval & modern) and History and Characteristics of Wootz Steel in India (2 vols.). Manuscripts with their English translation and notes are regularly published in 'Supplement' section of IJHS. Thematic issues on the modern period include a bibliography on Physics, Astrophysics, History of Magnetism, Mathematics and Mathematical Researches and History of Chemistry and Chemical Researches in 20th century India etc.

It is matter of great pride that the *journal* has completed an uninterrupted journey of fifty years and is now celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. All this has been possible with the untiring efforts of its contributors, editors and a small but committed history of science community. I wish the *Journal* all success in the years to come.

Raghavendra Gadagkar
President, INSA

