

## Guest Editorial

This thematic issue of the *Indian Journal of History of Science* embodies fifteen articles originally presented in a National Seminar organised under the auspices of the decennial of the Centre for Contemporary Studies during January 2015 at Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. The theme of the seminar was 'Knowledge Production in Pre-colonial India: Methodological Aspects.' It aimed at responding to the entrenched general belief that knowledge production in traditional India lacked any methodology in the Western sense, for the scholars associated with it were often sages of deep introspection and extra-sensory perception. Since the belief has been so entrenched, nobody felt like questioning it despite its being provocative even to the reticent. Highlighting the nature of the past consciousness in early northern India, Romila Thapar's opening lecture at the inaugural function of the seminar set the background for the specialised presentations that followed. The scholarly presentations that go into the making of this Issue of the Journal lay bear the fact that knowledge production in traditional India had followed universally valid epistemological properties that Europe ordained only since Scientific Revolution.

The articles address the question of methodology from the knowledge base of various domains like ancient metallurgy, healthcare, mathematics, logic, philosophy, grammar, architecture, intellectual history, histrionics and musicology. It is explicit from the articles that pre-modern knowledge texts in early India were

invariably structured on the basis of scientific attributes of authenticity and intellectual depth although they seldom speak distinctly about methodology. This distinct feature of intellectual history of India, which deserves world-wide scholarly attention, has not been brought out as yet. Although the Indian National Science Academy's Journal has published many seminal and fundamental studies of ancient and early Indian sciences, this is the first time that INSA is launching an Issue specifically on Indian Methodology.

We are extremely grateful to Indian Council of Historical Research, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and Indian Institute of Science besides Indian National Science Academy for the support for organising the seminar. Our thanks are due to the resource persons whose contributions make this Issue of the *IJHS*. We should like to acknowledge our indebtedness to Raghavendra Gadagkar, President of INSA for kindly agreeing to set apart an Issue of *IJHS* for carrying the articles of the seminar. We are thankful to the referees who extended their expert remarks on the articles included in the Issue. I am grateful to Naresh Keerthi (NIAS) for editorial help and Bitasta Das for secretarial assistance. Last but not the least we are immensely thankful to Madhavendra (INSA) who was a participant too in the seminar, and his editorial colleagues of *IJHS* for the marvellous production of this Issue.

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