

From the Editor's Desk

By **Dr. Neha Sharma**

This Vigyan Setu issue you read, refuses to be confined to a single idea. It spans across the full breadth of human experience: from the algorithms shaping our future to the ancient wisdom quietly sustaining our present; from the food on a child's plate to the noise that is threatening our hearts.

And yet, a single thread runs through all ten contributions. Every article in its own way, asks the same question: *are we paying attention?*

Technology on Trial

We open with a provocation. Is Artificial Intelligence really the villain we have made it out to be? Avneet Kaur Sooch argues, with striking clarity, that the panic surrounding AI is neither new nor unique. It is simply the latest chapter in a long history of societies fearing their own tools. AI, she reminds us, is a mirror. What it reflects is entirely up to us.

Staying with the theme of young minds and their futures, Dr. Dinesh Kumar offers a practical, grounded guide to study excellence. Not through shortcuts, but through the disciplined habits of curiosity, consistency, and self-awareness.

Roots and Recipes

Amol Sharma's exploration of indigenous knowledge and modern science is quite a timely piece in this collection. At a moment when technological solutions are sought for every crisis, he gently reminds us that many answers already exist in the stepwells our ancestors built, in the seeds our farmers saved, in the forests our communities protected. Progress, he writes, does not always mean reinvention. Sometimes it means remembering.

Anurita Koul takes us further into this territory through the lens of food. India's cuisines, she shows us, are not merely recipes. They are philosophy, identity, and consciousness made edible. To eat mindfully in India, is already to practise science.

Voices the World Must Hear

Poonam Rautela's article on noise pollution is the most urgent piece, and the most personal. She writes not as a distant observer but as someone who has watched communities suffer the consequences of sound levels that exceed our biological tolerance and refuses to wait for government action. The decibels are rising so the question is whether we will act before the silence becomes permanent.

The Science of Everyday Health

Three articles turn the lens toward the health challenges that live closest to home, the ones we brush past daily, sometimes literally.

Dr. Wahied Khawar Balwan's article on dental caries is a reminder that tooth decay is not merely a cosmetic inconvenience, but a microbial disease shaped by diet, hygiene, and the choices we make every day. In a nation where junk food is cheaper than fruit and oral health visits remain rare, his message is both clinical and urgent.

The article on dengue fever by Dr. Lankesh Yashwant Bhaizare, Dr. Desh Deepak Chaudhary, and Dr. Vinod Vishnuji Madavi is key to public health. The authors trace the journey from mosquito bite to disease control, reminding us that the battle against dengue is ultimately for cleaner, more attentive communities.

Mr. Kuldeep Gupta contributes a deeply compassionate piece. His article on child nutrition is eye-opening: 200 million children affected by malnutrition, not in a world of scarcity, but in a world of abundance misallocated. He reminds us that what we put on a child's plate in their first five years shapes not just their body but their brain, their mood, and their entire future.

Nature, Seen and Unseen

Dr. Divyendu Sen's article on the Green Desert is the kind of piece that changes how you see a city street. A tree is not automatically a contribution to biodiversity; a green city is not automatically an ecological one. The distinction between planting trees and nurturing life is subtle but profound and one that our urban planners urgently need to understand.

Closing with Celebration

We close with a possibility. Vigyan Parv 2026 invited young girls from across India to present science drawn from their own surroundings. The response - 144 participants, six national awardees, and countless ideas rooted in local observation. This is a reminder that scientific curiosity does not wait for laboratories. It begins in the backyard, the kitchen garden, and the schoolyard.

Science, this issue reminds us, happens when a child asks why, when a community protects a grove, when a teacher chooses understanding over memorisation, and when a foundation believes that bridging science and society is not just a mission; it is a practice, renewed with every page.

*Science is not something that happens elsewhere.
It happens here, now; whenever a child asks why.*

We hope this issue leaves you asking more questions than it answers. That, after all, is what science is for.

Note: The upcoming issue is a thematic edition focused on *Environment and Sustainability*.

The views expressed in this editorial are those of the editor. Content contributions are solely the responsibility of respective authors.