

Editorial

Batons have changed in the editorial team of Propagation but unfortunately, the tradition of delay in bringing out this publication has continued. However, on a serious note, at the outset, I would like to express my deep regrets and profound apologies for the delay in bringing out this publication. No amount of excuse can condone this delay. Notwithstanding the same, I earnestly appeal to the readers to pardon the new editorial team and look at the brighter side of this issue, which brings out a bouquet of articles from a wide cross section of authors, which we hope will be of interest to our readers.

Science communication in India, especially in the electronic media, has always taken a back seat to the other so-called “appealing” news. Fortunately, the Mars Mission of the ISRO has been one exception. The successful placing of the Mars orbiter on its course had sufficient star quotient to warrant wide coverage. The Article 'Mars and Beyond: A Unique Exercise to Communicate Science on Indian TV' has highlighted the efforts of Vigyan Prasar and Rajya Sabha TV in taking this message of science to a wide spectrum of audience. The article also critically analyses the coverage of science content in Indian Televisions. The article highlights how Television as a media has helped in highlighting the Indian achievements in space by providing a platform to leading scientists, science communicators, and experts in the field, to carry this message to their audience over a span of more than one month, during which the entire events were telecast.

The article 'A World in Darkness – Development of an Exhibition for the Visually Challenged People' addresses the challenges that science centre curators and designers face in developing hands on exhibits for the differently abled. The author has provided new insights into ways and means of addressing such challenges, which has resulted in the making of this wonderfully curated exhibition that has the same hands on approach, but which is more inclusive in the sense that the visually challenged can also feel, interact and appreciate it. Museums across the world, Science Museums in particular, may definitely find this article a good reference for them to curate exhibitions for other sections of the differently abled society and attempt to make their exhibitions socially inclusive.

The , 'The Science Olympiads', contributed by Prof Vijay A. Singh, the pioneer in organizing the Science Olympiads in India, provides an in depth view into the International Olympiads and the process for selection of the students both at the National and International levels, and the training thereof. The article provides interesting statistics on the achievements of Indian students in various Olympiads, which are not merely competitions but are a celebration of the very best in pre-university level Science and Mathematics, in which India has always excelled.

The article on 'Topography Simulation – using depth scaling over an approximate area of 1350mm x 850mm' brings out a novel usage of a new technological tool, the Kinect. It can provide some stunning immersive experience for the visitors. The authors have provided extensive information on use of this technology in developing a proto type exhibit to present real time simulated topography of a land in 3 dimensions. The authors have been gracious in sharing the source code that they have used for developing this exhibit, which may be of interest to other Science Museums professionals.

India with its more than 5000 year long history, has several archaeological sites belonging to the Harappan period. The article 'The Coastal Sites – Possible Port Towns of Harappan time in Gujarat' extensively deals with archaeological coastal sites of the Port Towns of the Harappan time in Gujarat. The article written by an eminent, hands-on archeologist re-emphasizes with findings from the sites the prominence of the Harappan period and its relationship with maritime activities as evidenced from the coastal sites across the state of Gujarat.