

reference in the Vedas, his friend failed to provide any.

In our own country during 15th century, Guru Nanak, the prophet of Sikh religion, rejected the Vedic astrology by his scientific argument⁴: 'Units of Indian time, viz. *ghari*, *pahar*, *thiti*, *var*, *mah* (month), and change of seasons are related with the motion of one Sun. By God's grace, all days and months are beneficial for human kind'.

We are proud of our rich heritage but that does not mean we put the clock of Indian education in the reverse gear.

1. Ganeshaiah, K. N., *Curr. Sci.*, 2001, **80**, 719–720.
2. Narlikar, J. V., *The Tribune*, Chandigarh, 10 April 2001.
3. Yash Pal, *The Science Tribune*, Chandigarh, 12 April 2001.

4. Guru Nanak, in *Ad Guru Granth*, SGPC, Amritsar, pp. 12 and 136.

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This is with reference to the correspondence of Rajesh Kochhar (*Curr. Sci.*, 2001, **80**, 721–722). In the last paragraph he writes, 'Curiously, of the Society fellows since elected, B. P. Pal is the only one who was not a fellow of INSA'. However, in the list of past Presidents as shown in the *Year Book* of INSA, Pal was the President from 1975 to 1976 and he handed over the position to me in the following year.

The name of M. S. Narasimhan is also missing from the list of fellows.

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I have read with interest the article by Rajesh Kochhar (*Curr. Sci.*, 2001, **80**, 721–722). Table 1, prepared with the help of Govind Swarup and Nicholas Boross-Toby (Royal Society) (as indicated in the acknowledgement) lists the names of 39 fellows, their profession and year of election. Not many would know that Ardaseer Cursetjee (Wadia) was the first Indian Fellow to be elected in 1841. However, I would like to point out that, within the short space of 1

page, the article contains an omission, factual errors and several spelling mistakes, all of which could easily have been avoided with a little care on the part of the author.

1. The name of the mathematician Narasimhan, Mudumbai Seshachalu, elected in 1996 (presently in Trieste, Italy) is missing from the table.
2. The full name of Sir J. C. Bose according to INSA records is Jagadish Chandra Bose. The name as given by the author appears in the *Royal Society Memoirs*.
3. The year of birth of S. S. Bhatnagar is given as 1895. In the *Biographical Memoirs of INSA*, 1970, vol. 2, T. R. Seshadri has mentioned his date of birth as 21 February 1894. However, the *Biographical Notes of Fellows of the INSA* (Golden Jubilee Compendium 1984 and the Diamond Jubilee Compendium 1994) give the year of his birth as 1884.
4. Mahalanobis, Prasanta Chander should read Mahalanobis, Prasanta Chandra.
5. M. S. Swaminathan's full name as given in the *Year Book* of the Royal Society 2000 is Swaminathan, Monkombu Sambasivan.
6. Obaid Siddiqui should be spelt Obaid Siddiqi.

7. C. Gopalan's name should read Gopalan, Coluthur.
8. C. Seshadri's name should read Seshadri, Conjeeveram Srirangachari.
9. The author says that 21 Indian Fellows of the Royal Society are alive, 3 of whom are in USA. My latest information is that G. S. Khush (Khush, Gurudev Singh) does not live in USA, but is the Principal Plant Breeder and Head of the Division of Plant Breeding, Genetics and Biochemistry at the International Rice Research Institute, Philippines.
10. On what basis has the author made the statement, 'Curiously, of the Society fellows since elected, B. P. Pal is the only one who was not a fellow of INSA'? Pal, an outstanding agricultural scientist, was very closely associated with INSA. He was elected Fellow in 1946 and has held almost every important office in the Academy (Treasurer, Secretary, Vice-President) and President (1975–76).

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