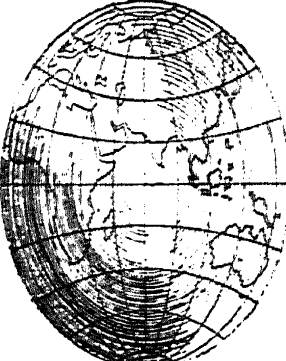


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QUALITY IN SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

IN the course of his inspiring address to the Students and Staff of the Indian Institute of Science, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of the Dominion of India, emphasised the need for maintaining a high standard of *quality* in the output of scientific research in this country. He deplored that the quality and output of scientific work was commensurate neither with the substantial amounts of money which were being invested on research nor with the potential talent which could be mobilised in the service of science. Except for a few brilliant examples, India's contributions to the world's scientific knowledge and technological advancement, have so far been admittedly meagre, considering the wealth of research material and human talent which are available in the country.

The first class quality of the available talent has been convincingly demonstrated by the exceptionally brilliant work which successive batches of our young men have achieved under the benign stimulus of a congenial and inspiring atmosphere which distinguishes most of the foreign centres of research. Many of these young scientists on their return to this country find themselves faced with a very discouraging "research climate" which stifles their enthusiasm and initiative, and most of them, in a couple of years, languish into scientific inactivity and are forced to adopt an uneventful and sterile career of administrative routine. Talent which should have been nurtured to its full glory and fruitfulness is thus lost to the country. Instances are not wanting to show that such