

ALL INDIA PEOPLE'S SCIENCE NETWORK

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Respected Principal

I am writing to you on behalf of the All India People's Science Network (AIPSN) which is a network of people's science organizations working in various states of India for the promotion of scientific temper, scientific humanism, and the public understanding of science.

As you are aware, "promotion of scientific temper, humanism, spirit of enquiry and reform" is one of the fundamental duties of Indian citizens, mandated by our Constitution.

Recently, in the biennial AIPSN Congress, which was held at NISER, Bhubaneswar, it was resolved to commence observance of a 'National Scientific Temper Day'(NSTD), all over the country. We strongly feel that building scientific temper will contribute towards strengthening our constitutional values of secularism, equality, plurality and democracy, which is much needed in our country today. The school is an important place to build these values.

The day chosen for observance of NSTD is August 20th, which is the anniversary of the martyrdom of Dr. Narendra Dabholkar. Dr. Dabholkar was one of the foremost proponents of scientific temper who gave excellent popular lectures on the subject. We enclose some excerpts from two lectures on 'Scientific Temper' translated from the original Marathi.

The NSTD can be observed by conducting simple 'Wow-Why-How' experiments for children to learn about the scientific method and scientific thinking, and by cultural activities including song and theatre. Dr. Dabholkar's lectures (dubbed in various languages) can be screened. There are many ways to observe the NSTD for all ages of participants.

We request the participation of your school in the observance of the NSTD.

With best wishes on behalf of AIPSN,

Dr. Sabyasachi Chatterjee
President,
AIPSN.