EDITORIAL

Research can be of two categories, viz., experimental and theoretical. It can be roughly stated that most of the mathematical and theoretical physics research are theoretical in nature. Researches in the field of life sciences, experimental physics, technology and chemistry are mainly experimental. While experiments naturally takes care of everything that is there in the world, theories ties to understand a phenomenon by considering a few of the important factors that may have significant effects on that.

It is needless to say that one complements the other. Many a times experimental result precedes theoretical research which tries to explain the experimental findings later. On other occasions, theoretical conclusions pave the way for experimental verifications; in fact, the Nobel Prize is only awarded to theorists whose predictions are eventually experimentally verified. Consequently, it is impossible to say which one of these is more significant or fundamental.

Unfortunately, there is a recent trend for giving more importance to experimental research intentionally or unintentionally. Huge amount of research funds are mostly available for experimental research which is certainly very justified, as the cost of equipment is taken care of there; theoretical research on the contrary, can be carried out without much financial assistance. However, the process of assessing individuals and institutions based on the amount of research funds they have received in a particular period of time is indirectly discouraging theoretical research. This recent trend is unfortunate and may cause a permanent damage to theoretical research. Efforts should be taken so that academicians interested in theoretical research can continue their endeavour without any discouragement.

Samrat Dey