Science should have the last word

India continues to be hidebound with tradition and rituals, the need for 'scientific temper' is essential as never before

Water equity

States, Centre should accept the finality of the Supreme Court's decision on the Cauvery Water dispute. By upholding the approach of the Cauvery Water dispute, the Supreme Court has been able to make a decision that is in the best interest of the people of India. While the Centre may have reservations about the decision, it is important to remember that the Supreme Court is the ultimate arbiter of justice in India. The Centre should accept the finality of the Supreme Court's decision and work towards implementing it to ensure that all States have access to the water they need.

JAYANT V. NAIDU

A few years ago, I was at an international conference in London. The topic was 'The Science of Science'. The audience was made up of scientists, philosophers, and public intellectuals. The discussion was lively and engaging. But, as the moderator pointed out, the audience was predominantly male and white. This was a reflection of the gender and racial biases that exist in the scientific community. It is important to ensure that the scientific community is diverse and representative of all people.

The moderator then introduced a panel of speakers, including a female scientist, a black scientist, and a female philosopher. The audience was impressed by the diversity of the panel and the quality of their contributions. The moderator then closed the discussion by thanking the audience for their participation and reminding them of the importance of diversity in science.

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Superstitions thrive

Despite the fact that science has made significant progress, superstitions and beliefs based on tradition and ignorance continue to thrive in society. These beliefs can have a significant impact on society and on individual lives. It is important to work towards eliminating these superstitions and beliefs and promoting scientific thinking.

From mythology

Mythology is a collection of stories that are passed down from generation to generation. These stories often involve gods, goddesses, heroes, and villains. They are used to explain the natural world and to provide moral lessons. It is important to understand that mythology is not the same as science.

Not a prescription for the poor

The government's decision to change the use of NIPS is a welcome step towards reducing the burden of poverty. However, the rollout of the scheme is not without its challenges. The government needs to ensure that the scheme is implemented effectively and that it reaches the intended beneficiaries.

Coverage by an estimated 50 crore poor beneficiaries through NIPS. There are two problems: first, the NIPS rollout is not uniform across the country, and second, the NIPS is not accessible to all the intended beneficiaries. These issues need to be addressed to ensure that the scheme is successful.

The government should also consider the cost of implementing the NIPS. The government needs to ensure that the scheme is financially sustainable and that it does not lead to an increase in the national debt.

It is important to remember that the NIPS is not a panacea for poverty. It is a tool that can be used to help reduce poverty, but it is not a substitute for other necessary policies and programs. The government should continue to work towards reducing poverty and to ensure that the NIPS is a tool that is used effectively.