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## The argumentative scientist

In a recent interview, Barak Obama deplored the changing ethics in public life remarking that ‘people are entitled to their opinions but not to their facts’. Misrepresentation of facts, to sway beliefs and convictions and persuade people to accept a conjecture, appears to have pervaded politics globally. I suppose it is only a matter of time before the scientific community, with disappearing lung spaces that leave little options for entertainment other than the loud media, is re-educated into accepting this diabolic emerging tactic.

A recent editorial (Arunan, E., *Curr. Sci.*, 2018, **114**(7), 1385–1386) is a disturbing example of the extent to which

this decay is pervading Indian science. *Current Science* is a respected journal published in collaboration with the Indian Academy of Sciences, and I would certainly expect that its editorials present arguments and perspectives in a style befitting a learned science academy of the nation. Unfortunately, this editorial in an argumentative attempt to establish a thesis, indulged in voicing a string of patent untruths as if they were verifiable facts.

V. Radhakrishnan had not built flying machines or boats during his earlier tenures at CalTech or CSIRO, Australia. He came to RRI from the Radiophysics Laboratory of CSIRO, where he had established himself in research on both

pulsars and the interstellar medium, which resulted in outstanding publications with several hundreds of citations. Moreover, he had distinguished himself by championing prescient experimental developments that positioned CSIRO radiophysics into world leadership.

A colleague at RRI had this to say of the editorial: ‘I hope he (the author) writes at least about cricket more factually’.

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