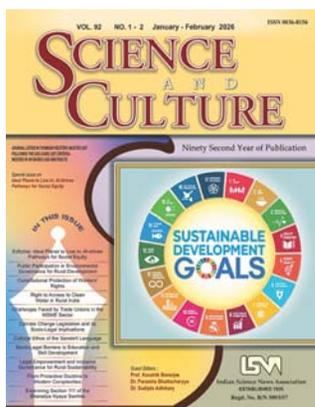# SCIENCE AND CULTURE

VOLUME 92 ❑ JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2026 ❑ NOS. 1–2

*E*DITORIAL

IDEAL PLANET TO LIVE IN: AI-DRIVEN PATHWAYS FOR SOCIAL EQUITY

The quest for an ideal planet to live in has long been a philosophical aspiration, but in the contemporary era, it has become an urgent necessity. The accelerating challenges of climate change, resource depletion, social inequities, and cultural disintegration demand a holistic framework that integrates sustainability with technological innovation. This special issue of the journal, *An Ideal Planet to Live In: Realization in the Framework of Sustainability in the Era of Artificial Intelligence*, seeks to explore how science, culture, law, and artificial intelligence can converge to shape pathways toward a more equitable and sustainable future.

The contributions in this issue are organized around five critical sub-themes:

- Science for Rural Development: Rural communities remain the backbone of many nations, yet they often face systemic neglect in terms of scientific innovation. Papers under this theme highlight how scientific research and technological interventions can empower rural populations, enhance agricultural productivity, and foster resilience against environmental and economic challenges.

- Culture for Rural Development: Sustainability is not merely technological or economic-it is deeply cultural. This section emphasizes the preservation and revitalization of indigenous knowledge systems, traditions, and cultural practices as essential components of rural development. By integrating cultural heritage with modern frameworks, contributors demonstrate how identity and sustainability can coexist harmoniously.

- Socio-Legal Approaches Towards Rural Development: Law and governance play pivotal roles in ensuring justice and equity. Articles here examine the socio-legal dimensions of rural development, including land rights, access to resources, and participatory governance. These discussions underscore the importance of legal frameworks in safeguarding marginalized communities and promoting inclusive growth.

- Applications of AI for Environmental Sustainability and Resource Management: Artificial intelligence offers unprecedented opportunities to monitor, predict, and manage environmental systems. Contributions in this theme explore AI-driven models for climate forecasting, smart agriculture, water management, and renewable energy optimization. The focus is on how AI can serve as a tool for ecological balance rather than a driver of exploitation.

- AI-Driven Pathways for Social Equity and Economic Growth: Beyond environmental concerns: AI has the potential to reshape social and economic landscapes. Papers under this theme investigate how AI can reduce inequalities, create inclusive economic opportunities, and support sustainable livelihoods. From digital literacy initiatives to equitable access to AI-driven services, this section envisions a future where technology bridges divides rather than deepens them.

Together, these sub-themes reflect the interdisciplinary nature of sustainability in the age of artificial intelligence. The issue invites readers to imagine not only the technological possibilities but also the ethical, cultural, and legal responsibilities that accompany them. By situating rural development at the heart of this

discourse, the special issue underscores that the realization of an ideal planet must begin with empowering the most vulnerable communities.

We hope that the insights presented here will inspire scholars, policymakers, and practitioners to engage in collaborative efforts toward building a sustainable and equitable world—one where artificial intelligence serves humanity and the environment in equal measure. ❐

Kaushik Banerjee
Paramita Bhattacharyya
Sudipta Adhikary
Brainware University, India

ABOUT GUEST EDITORS

Dr. Kaushik Banerjee
e-mail: hod.law@brainwareuniversity.ac.in

Dr. Kaushik Banerjee has been a distinguished academic leader at Brainware University, currently serving as the Professor, Dean and Head of the Department of Law. A dual doctorate holder, he earned his PhD in Management in 2013, followed by a PhD in Law from the prestigious West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences (NUJS) in 2018. With a robust academic and research portfolio, Dr. Banerjee has authored over 45 research articles published in reputed Scopus and UGC CARE-listed journals, along with 35 book chapters and 10 Books contributing to interdisciplinary scholarship. His intellectual engagement extends to national and international platforms, where he has presented numerous papers at seminars, conferences, and symposiums. A committed mentor and guide, he has successfully supervised six PhD scholars, shaping the next generation of researchers. Through his visionary leadership, academic excellence, and dedication to student and stakeholder development, Dr. Banerjee continues to make remarkable contributions to academia and institutional growth.

Dr. Paramita Bhattacharyya
e-mail: pib.law@brainwareuniversity.ac.in

Dr. Paramita Bhattacharyya serves as an Associate Professor at the School of Law, Brainware University, Kolkata, bringing over a decade of distinguished experience across academia and Court practice over 15 years. She holds a Ph.D. in Law. Dr. Bhattacharyya has established a strong research presence with more than 30 peer-reviewed publications including UGC CARE, UGC listed (Old)and Web of Science Indexed Journals, edited books and patent to her credit. She is currently supervising 2 research scholars as a principal supervisor

Dr. Sudipta Adhikary
e-mail: sua.law@brainwareuniversity.ac.in

Dr. Sudipta Adhikary serves as an Associate Professor and Research Coordinator at the School of Law, Brainware University, Kolkata, bringing over a decade of distinguished experience across academia and industry. He holds a Ph.D. in Management and possesses a rare interdisciplinary academic portfolio, includes speciallizing in-Master of Public Administration, Master of Technology Geotechnical Engineering, Master of Business Administration a degree in Human Resource Management and Master of Business Administration degree in Human Resource Management and Marketing. A Chartered Engineer and an active member of The Institution of Engineers (India), Dr. Adhikary has established a strong research presence with more than 40 peer-reviewed publications, including contributions to UGC CARE-listed and Web of Science indexed journals, as well as scopus-indexed book chapters. In addition, he has authored book, edited books, and patents to his credit. His scholarly impact is reflected in an h-index of 4 and an i10-index of 3. Dr. Adhikary's research interests lie at the intersection of Human Resource Management, Labour Law, Waste Management, and Sustainable Development Practices, with a focus on promoting innovative, interdisciplinary, and sustainable solutions to contemporary socio-economic challenges.

Note by the Editor-in-Chief, *Science and Culture:* This issue has been sponsored by the Department of Law, Brainware University, Kolkata.