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GOLDEN JUBILEE ISSUE

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From the Editor's Desk

Dear readers,

It is with great pleasure and a profound sense of accomplishment that I extend my warmest greetings to the esteemed members of the Mycological Society of India (MSI) on the momentous occasion of the golden jubilee of this venerable society. As we embark on a journey through the annals of time, tracing the endeavours of the MSI and origins of its flagship publication, KAVAKA, we find ourselves immersed in a legacy of scholarly pursuit, scientific discovery, and unwavering dedication.

The MSI's very foundation, laid in the year 1973, was an embodiment of the shared enthusiasm of its esteemed members to explore the vast and intricate world of mycology. As the years unfolded, so did the scope and influence of MSI, fostering a community of scholars, researchers, and enthusiasts dedicated to unravelling the mysteries of fungi through its publication – **KAVAKA: being transactions of the Mycological Society of India**. From its humble beginnings, KAVAKA has flourished under the relentless commitment of our esteemed contributors and the tireless dedication of the society's members, who refused to stop even during unprecedented challenges posed by global COVID-19 pandemic. In these trying times, the members of MSI exhibited exemplary resilience and dedication by continuing their activities, even convening MSI meetings virtually. The journey of this esteemed society has been one marked by an unyielding passion for advancing the field of mycology. Apart from making KAVAKA a quarterly transaction, other significant milestone of MSI's journey is the inclusion of KAVAKA in the UGC CARE list, a recognition that underscores the academic excellence and impact that the journal has achieved. This acknowledgment is not only a reflection of the quality of the research within these pages but also a tribute to the collective intellect and commitment of the entire MSI community.

As we celebrate the golden jubilee of MSI, it is crucial to reflect on the fungal diversity of India, which is intricately woven into the rich tapestry of ecosystems. Fungi – ignored by many – reviled by some, may turn out to be important keys to both human and planetary health. They contribute significantly to biodiversity, agriculture, medicine, and industry. India's diverse climatic zones, from the Himalayan heights to the coastal plains, harbour an astonishing array of fungal species, many of which are yet to be discovered and documented. The fungal riches of India are not just a repository of biological diversity, but are a source of potential solutions to global challenges, from sustainable agriculture to bioremediation; and it becomes imperative to disseminate this information through a common platform like KAVAKA, which serves as a conduit for promulgating research, scholarly insights, and innovative methodologies. The journal is committed to maintain the standards of scientific inquiry and to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas that transcend disciplinary boundaries.

In the words of the renowned mycologist Paul Stamets, "*The mycelium is the neurological network of nature. Interlacing mosaics of mycelium infuse habitats with information-sharing membranes.*" Similarly, the MSI, through its endeavours and the pages of KAVAKA, has woven a mycelial network that binds researchers, educators, and enthusiasts in a shared quest for understanding and preserving our fungal heritage. The society has not only provided a platform for collaboration and knowledge exchange but has also nurtured a community of passionate mycologists

As we celebrate the glorious 50-year journey of MSI, it is imperative that we look forward and set our sights on new horizons. On that note, I urge all members of MSI to channel their expertise, enthusiasm, and passion towards enhancing the citation of KAVAKA and elevate the visibility and influence of our

publication within the global scientific community. I call upon each member to actively participate in enriching the content of KAVAKA by submitting high-quality articles, insightful reviews, and innovative research findings. Your scholarly contributions not only shape the future discourse of mycology but also propel the journal to new heights of recognition and influence.

On this auspicious occasion, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the members of the MSI for achieving this significant milestone. The golden jubilee is not just a testament to the society's past achievements but also a call to embark on new and exciting journeys in the world of mycology. May this celebration be a catalyst for renewed enthusiasm, collaboration, and discovery, propelling MSI towards even greater heights in the years to come. Together, let us march ahead, breaking new grounds, and ensuring that KAVAKA remains a cornerstone of mycological scholarship.

Sincerely,

31st December 2023

Prof. Rupam Kapoor
Editor-in-Chief
KAVAKA