



Science for Society

Science for Man

Science in Thinking

BREAKTHROUGH SCIENCE SOCIETY

All India Committee

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A Voluntary Organization Committed to the Cause of Science, Culture and Scientific Outlook

Press statement on the half-day closure of educational and scientific institutions

20 January 2024

Breakthrough Science Society strongly condemns the half-day closure of Government offices, including the leading government Science Institutes, on the day of the Ram Mandir inauguration on 22 January 2024. While we acknowledge the significance of this religious event for millions in India, we firmly believe that the pursuit of governance, scientific study, and research must remain independent of and untangled from religious activities. This is the cornerstone of secularism enshrined in our constitution.

This closure sets a dangerous precedent for the future of secular governance and of science in India. By prioritizing religious events over scientific inquiry, we send a message that secular governance, pursuit of truth, advancement of knowledge and rationality are secondary to matters of faith. This not only undermines the inculcation of scientific temper, secularism and the crucial role of science in public life but also sows the seeds of societal division and conflict.

We believe that religion is a matter of personal belief and should not be a factor in determining public policy.

Therefore, we demand that the government reconsider its decision to close Government offices and educational and science institutes on this occasion. We urge them to find alternative solutions that allow people willing to participate in the inauguration may do so while ensuring that the vital work of governance, scientific research and education continues uninterrupted.

Furthermore, we call upon fellow scientists, researchers, students, and all concerned citizens to raise their voices against this encroachment on the sanctity of scientific space. Let us stand united in the defense of reason, evidence, and the unwavering pursuit of knowledge for the betterment of all.

Dhrubajyoti Mukhopadhyay
President