



## Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India

# Foreword

On the occasion of the 75th anniversary of India's Independence, we are thrilled to partner with Red Dot Foundation for the second book, *She Is—Women in STEAM*. The Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the Government of India, established in 1999, aims to provide pragmatic and objective advice to the Prime Minister and the cabinet in matters of Science and Technology.

Indian women have long been actively involved in Science and Technology and have contributed to various disciplines of science. Anandibai Joshi was the first Indian woman physician with a Western Medicine degree in the United States of America. Janaki Ammal was the first Indian scientist to be honoured with the Padma Shri Award in 1977. She was the Director-General of the Botanical Survey of India. Kalpana Chawla has inspired many by being the first woman astronaut of Indian origin to go to space.

One cannot forget Tessie Thomas, the “Missile lady” who is the first Indian woman scientist to have headed a missile project. She was the Project Director for the Agni-IV and Agni-V missiles at the Defence Research and Development Organisation. When India successfully launched a satellite into orbit around Mars, the picture that captured the world was of several women celebrating at the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in Bangalore.

This book, *She Is—Women in STEAM*, is important because it showcases the incredible journeys of several women scientists across different disciplines. It spotlights their work and leadership. It acknowledges their enormous contributions to the S&T ecosystem of our country. We are proud of them and we hope their stories inspire many more girls in the country to take up science, mathematics, engineering, and technology. We also appreciate the contribution of those in the humanities discipline as it contributes to a holistic society.

At the Office of the PSA, we have many programs to bring science and technology to different parts of India and encourage our youth to design, develop, and innovate so that we can instil the scientific temper within our curriculum and ideology.

On this 75th anniversary of India's Independence, we would like to wish everyone a wonderful future. Together we can ensure the success and progress of our country to greater heights.

**Prof. Ajay Sood, Principal Scientific Adviser to Government of India**