Dear members of the Board,
World Federation of Science Journalists (WFSJ),

I am writing to you with great enthusiasm to express my candidacy for the board of the World Federation of Science Journalists.

My journey in science journalism, spanning more than 25 years, has been deeply committed to making science accessible, engaging, and impactful for diverse audiences. I bring a strong foundation of editorial leadership, global collaboration, and advocacy for inclusive science communication, which I believe echoes the Federation's purpose and mission.

My vision for WFSJ is rooted in expanding access to quality science journalism in the Global South, focussing on both the medium (upskilling science journalists and communicators) and the message (casting a wider net for adoption of evidence-backed reportage in newsrooms). My wish is also to make space for greater gender equity within the field. I hope to develop initiatives that will empower science journalists from underrepresented regions (such as Africa, Asia and the middle east) and backgrounds by creating avenues for skill development, networking, and international collaborations.

In an era marked by AI and technological disruptions, climate change and public health crises, WFSJ has a leading role to play in ensuring that science journalism not only informs but also drives policy and societal change. I see the Federation as a prime mover in promoting responsible reporting in these pressing areas, particularly for journalists in the Global South who must contend with limited resources, political constraints, and pressing regional issues.

Varied editorial experience across newsrooms has given me a good understanding of the challenges and opportunities that science journalists face. As the Editor in Chief of *Nature India* and *Global Supported Projects* at Nature Portfolio, I manage diverse teams of journalists and science-interested colleagues and oversee editorial initiatives that bridge scientific knowledge and societal needs. I lead the scientific programming of international events at Nature Conferences and spearhead impactful editorial projects across our portfolio, which showcase regional scientific advances on a global platform.

Having worked across different media ecosystems, from the *Press Trust of India* to *Down To Earth* and *The Telegraph*, I have built sustainable science editorial frameworks, made cross-regional collaborations, and amplified underrepresented voices in science journalism. My continuing tenure as the founder and president of the Science Journalists Association of India (SJAI) helps me strengthen regional networks and enhance the capacity of local science journalists through training, mentorship, and support. The annual SJAI conferences have now become a fount for such warm and sustainable relationships. These experiences also allow me to focus on mentoring women journalists, helping them overcome systemic barriers in science reporting.

I bring a global perspective on the science-media interface, working with *Nature*’s magazine content for about 18 years now. As a British Chevening Scholar, I gained insight into international media practices, and my engagements in programming the World Conference of Science Journalists on various occasions has helped me collaborate with journalists from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds. I recently judged WFSJ’s Kavli Prize Week grantees, delighted at the quality of applications and every so hopeful for the future of science journalism.

A fragmented mediascape that has shrunk the space for science journalism, I have always believed that the future of our trade rests on empathy, mutual respect, mentorship and shared purpose. Convening conferences and science communication workshops across diverse geographical regions has strengthened my belief that knowledge sharing and skill-building must be inclusive, especially for science journalists who often work in isolation or face constraints in accessing resources. Collectively, our tribe will survive if we have strength in both numbers and skills.

As a board member, I would like to facilitate creation of programmes where science journalists, particularly those from marginalized backgrounds, feel supported and valued. Collaboration has always been at the heart of my work – whether in co-organizing gender equity conferences or mentoring journalists at workshops in challenging environments like the Everest region or Bangladesh.

The Global South faces distinct challenges, ranging from climate vulnerability to the need for sustainable development. As a board member, I would focus on advocating for journalists in these regions to have better access to resources, training, and platforms to report on issues critical to their communities. I would also like to champion initiatives that support women science journalists by addressing gender disparities in pay, recognition, and professional opportunities. By working with the Federation, I would aim to develop workshops and fellowships tailored to their unique challenges, helping build a more equitable and inclusive journalistic landscape.

I am deeply committed to the values of ‘giving back’, which defines the WFSJ in many ways. It would be my honour to serve on the board.

Thank you for considering my candidacy.

Warmly