

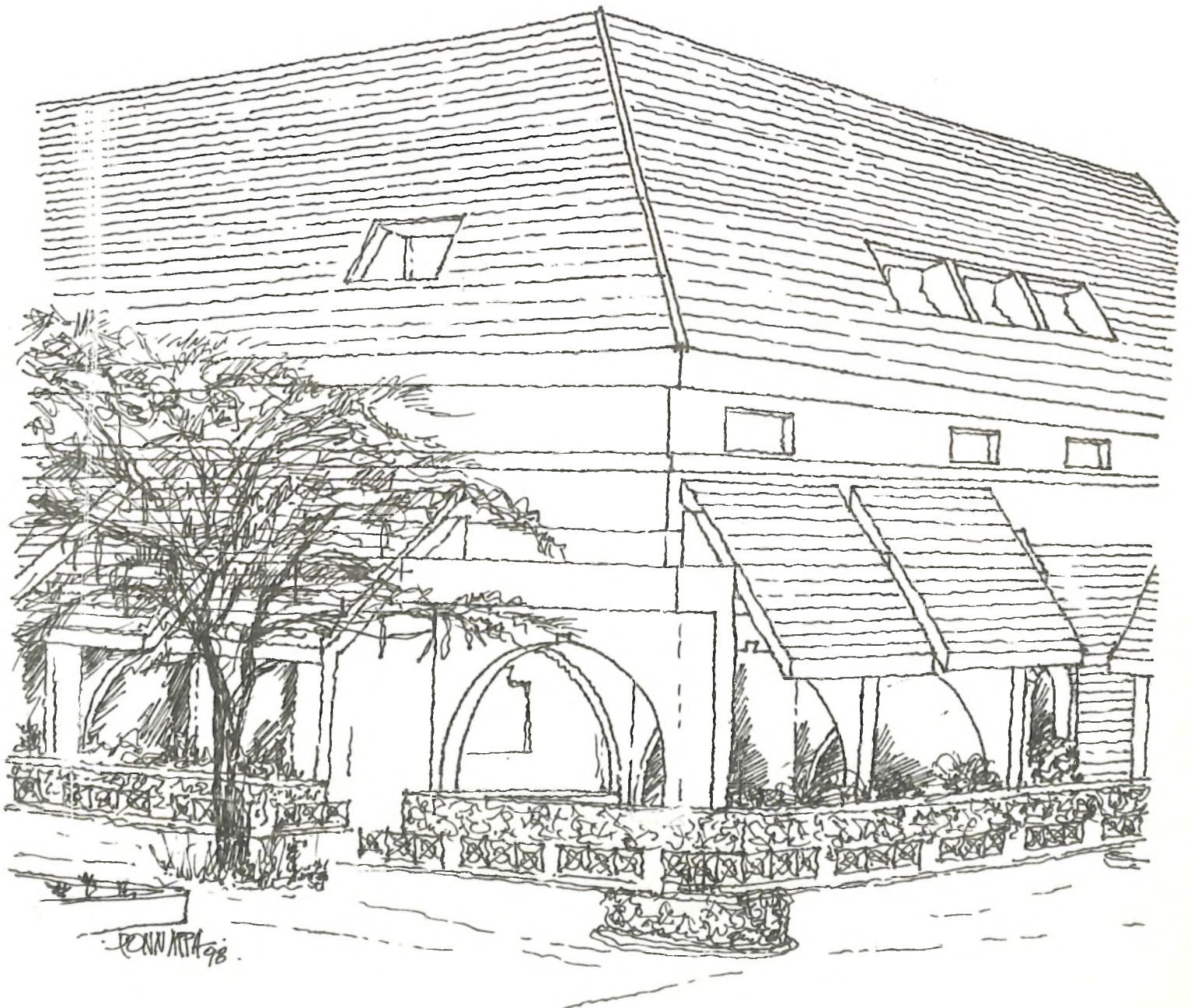


NIAS NEWS

A NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDIES
BANGALORE

Vol-8 No.1

January 1999



Editors' Note

NIAS NEWS has provided a window into the National Institute of Advanced Studies for over five years now. During this time, the newsletter has been continually expanding its scope and reach. Taking up from where Major-General M.K. Paul left off, we hope to maintain the tradition of excellence already set. Our objective is to bring you newsworthy information which will allow you to be aware of the research being conducted in our Institute as well as the many other activities that we organise every month. We now plan to publish *NIAS NEWS* every three months so that our contact with you will become closer. Please do come and join in our activities. And help us to expand our horizons.

Anindya Sinha, Hamsa Kalyani and A. Devaraju, Editors
January 1999

From the Director's Desk

Since the last issue of the Newsletter we have been very busy at the Institute with a variety of programmes, as you will see from the rest of this Newsletter. We have had several courses – for university teachers and for the Indian Foreign Service; a series of round table meetings, especially on infrastructure, energy etc.; evening lectures and Associates' programmes in addition to the Wednesday morning Discussion Meetings. We have also now a system of publications from NIAS, coming out as Reports or Lectures. In early November we played a leading role in organising an International Symposium on the Global Village for the Bangalore IT.COM show. I have written elsewhere in this Newsletter on the Seminar: it is enough to say that the Seminar threw a lot of new light on the subject from many different points of view – technological, commercial and sociological, and brought out the "Bangalore Declaration" on IT for developing countries. In-between we hosted meetings on gender issues in this part of the world and on the role that women can play in promoting international security. We also had a two-day meeting on Dimensions of Science in the month of August, when scientists mixed with men of letters to examine different aspects of science. I expect that the coming year will also be very busy, and that you will all see many more publications reporting events at NIAS. Meanwhile we are still seeking support for the Institute's activities from various sources, and if you have any suggestions about how the NIAS Endowment Fund can be enhanced I will be very happy to hear from you!

R. Narasimha

Research Programme in NIAS

The principal areas of research that faculty members of the Institute are currently involved in include consciousness studies, environmental toxicology, epigraphy, gender studies, international strategic studies, philosophy of science, primate cognition, sociology and social anthropology, and theory of numbers.

In addition, a few research projects were initiated during the period of July to December, 1998:

AGRARIAN DISTRESS IN BIDAR DISTRICT/KARNATAKA

Based on reports of a spate of suicides in north Karnataka, a week-long field study of the situation was undertaken. Reports focusing on the economic, social and agricultural aspects of the crisis are being finalised.

A R Vasavi

Sociology and Social Anthropology Unit

P K Shetty

Environment Unit

WOMEN AND DECENTRALISED GOVERNANCE – A LONGITUDINAL STUDY IN KARNATAKA

This project, supported by the Ford Foundation, has both research and advocacy dimensions, and envisages to document the forces and processes at work from the period leading to elections and the formation of new panchayats, study the factors that

impede or promote the participation of women and men in the panchayat raj institutions, disseminate the findings to various constituencies, and evolve innovative interventions through participatory methodology to strengthen panchayat raj institutions.

N Shantha Mohan

Asha Ramesh

Piyush Antony

Gender Studies Unit

LITERACY COMPLETION CAMPAIGN IN KARNATAKA – AN EVALUATION

This project, supported by the Directorate of Mass Education, Government of Karnataka, envisages to evaluate and make an impact study of literacy completion campaign in all districts of Karnataka.

N Shantha Mohan

Gender Studies Unit, Women and political rights

This project, supported by IWRAP (the International Women's Rights Action Watch – Asia-Pacific), aims to develop a base-line report on the disparities and disadvantages women face in politics (panchayat raj institutions, local bodies, assemblies and the parliament) in the light of the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments and the 84th Bill using the CEDAW framework (CEDAW-Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women)

N Shantha Mohan

Gender Studies Unit

Important Events

Complementing its research programmes, NIAS organises a variety of seminars, workshops, and academic courses each year. Some of the important events in the later part of last year were:

FIVE-DAY TRAINING MODULE FOR INDIAN FOREIGN SERVICE PROBATIONERS, 1997 BATCH

13 – 17 July, 1998

This training programme was conducted by the International Strategic Studies Unit of NIAS. It was the second such training programme that brought together a number of eminent scientists, technocrats, bureaucrats and experts from the humanities, to specifically discuss issues and challenges confronting India's security in the aftermath of nuclear testing in the sub-continent.

The objective of the course was to acquaint the probationers with the recent trends and future direction of India's strategic vision as well as its security and nuclear policies. The papers and discussions focused on the following key areas:

What is the present status and focus of India's strategic vision; what are the recent trends in security thinking in the region; where are the gaps; and what are the possible future directions and priority areas?

What are the sources of threats to national and regional security in South Asia? Are these predominantly military, or more? Are these static, or are they subject to change in the context of transformation experienced regionally and globally?

Should non-military sources like social, political, economic, environmental and other factors be included in the agenda of security discourse?.

The other important lectures included "Historical Background of Nuclear Programme" by Dr Raja Ramanna, "Status of Nuclear S & T in India" by Dr Anil Kakodkar, "India and the Non-proliferation Regime: NPT, CTBT, FMCT" by Prof S Rajagopal, "Future of Missile Technology" by Dr V J Sundaram, "Dynamics of Negotiating Nuclear Treaties" by Ms Arundhati Ghosh and "Technology Denial Regimes in the Inter-national Varna Order" by Dr V Siddhartha.

K S KRISHNAN BIRTH CENTENARY CELEBRATION

28 July, 1998

The Institute celebrated the birth centenary year of Prof K S Krishnan on 28 July, 1998, at the J R D Tata Memorial Auditorium. His Excellency Shri K R Narayanan, the President of India, Smt Usha Narayanan and the Governor of Karnataka graced the occasion. Speaking on the occasion, the President said that Prof Krishnan was not only an outstanding scientist but also a proud Indian and a wonderful human being. Prof Krishnan was both a symbol and a product of the Indian renaissance that produced many great figures in India's political, social, intellectual, scientific and cultural life, the president stated.

Dr Raja Ramanna, who knew Prof Krishnan personally, shared some anecdotes with the audience. Paying his tribute to Prof Krishnan, Dr Ramanna said that in celebrating the birth centenary of K S Krishnan we are honouring not only a very great scientist of India, but the country itself, which has produced people of the calibre of Krishnan.

Prof Roddam Narasimha, in his welcome address, stated that Prof Krishnan's distinguished record of research in several areas of physics - beginning with his collaboration with the renowned scientist C V Raman on the Raman effect - and several other achievements was indeed remarkable. Prof Narasimha said that Prof Krishnan was first and foremost a great teacher and then a scientist, who was closely involved with the establishment of the science and technology edifice of this country besides becoming the first director of the National Physical Laboratory in Delhi. He also said that Krishnan was a committed scientific leader who assisted in the formulation of the country's atomic energy programme in its early phases under Homi Bhabha's leadership.

On this occasion, the President released a set of NIAS publications, including several reports, working papers, and lectures.

SOUTH ASIAN WOMEN IN INTERNATIONAL SECURITY: BUILDING CO-OPERATIVE NETWORKS

30 – 31 July, 1998

This international workshop organised by International Strategic Studies Unit of NIAS was designed to approach the gender and security issues in South Asia by broadening the concept of security to "comprehensive security" and taking up issues which are transnational in nature, with a strong gender component. The workshop was chaired by Dr Deepa Ollapally. Participants from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Uganda and Australia attended the workshop.

WORKSHOP ON ADVOCACY PLANNING FOR EFFECTIVE WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

19 – 21 August, 1998

This workshop was organised in collaboration with the Bangalore Consultancy Office, BCO and was financially supported by the G-WIP, Global Women in Politics, Washington. The Women's Policy Research and Advocacy Unit in the Institute was initiated in the year 1994. The Unit took up the study on the status of rural women in Karnataka in the years 1995-1998. The report of the study is published both in English and in Kannada is available at the Institute. The findings of the study clearly brought out the women's lower status in both the private and public spheres. Recognising the close nexus that exist between the private and the public spheres of women's lives, the unit presumes that the assertion of rights – access and control over power in any of the spheres will reflect in the other sphere. It was against this background that the unit hoped to evolve an advocacy plan for effective political participation of women.

The workshop was designed to develop an action plan based on the experiences of various peoples' movements. The failures and successes of the case studies that form a part of the workshop, brought out the need for collaborative work. Another point that emerged from the discussion was that the identity of women tend to get subsumed in larger struggles. Therefore, for effective political participation of women, the identity of women has to be built up as a primary concern. Further collaborations to carry out this study with the partners are being discussed. The report of this study which is under publication, incorporates the case study presentations by the participant organisations assessing their advocacy strategies on various issues, the role of women in it and the action points that emerged from the discussion.

VI NIAS COURSE FOR UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE TEACHERS

31 August – 19 September, 1998

The VI NIAS Course for University and College Teachers, with Dr Anindya Sinha as its Co-ordinator, was held from 31 August – 19 September 1998. The theme of this three-week course was “The Educational System in India”. In a departure from our previous courses for teachers, this course focussed on a single theme – Education, and delved into different aspects of our educational system. These included, broadly, infrastructure and management of our educational institutions, scientific research in universities and colleges, sociological problems associated with education, and the design of an educational system for the future.

The course was inaugurated by Prof C Seshadri, Retired Principal, Regional Institute of Education, Mysore, while the valedictory address was given by our Director, Prof R Narasimha. Some of the eminent speakers in the course included Dr D M Nanjundappa, Chairperson, ICSSR; Prof M N Srinivas, NIAS; Dr Suma Chitnis, Director, J N Tata Endowment Fund, Ashok Clement, Director, NIIT, Bangalore; Fr V Braganza, St Xavier’s Research Foundation, Ahmedabad; and the artist S G Vasudev. There was a lecture-demonstration on Hindusthani classical music by Smt Aditi Upadhy and also a visit to Nrityagram as part of the course. There were twenty eight teacher participants from eighteen states across the country and representing a variety of disciplines in the natural, the social and the applied sciences. The course was perceived by the participants to be highly successful in its aim of not only bringing together teachers who would have otherwise never had the opportunity to exchange ideas, but also expose them to some of the major problems plaguing the educational system in our country today.

A ROUND-TABLE MEETING ON “THE BANGALORE-MYSORE CORRIDOR – A HIGH-SPEED TWO-TRACK ELECTRIC RAIL LINK”

25 September, 1998

Considering the extent of the over-crowding in Bangalore city in recent years and the enormous problems of traffic, energy, water and pollution that the infrastructure of the city is being subjected to, a one-day round-table meeting on the above subject was organised by the State Planning Board and NIAS. One of the options that might mitigate several problems is to consider construction of a double-track high-speed railway line between Bangalore and Mysore and thereby spread industry and business along this rail corridor away from Bangalore.

Prof Roddam Narasimha, Prof D M Nanjundappa, Mr Jayant Deo, Mr K B Wariyar, Mr Ashok Kheny, Mr Shashikanth, Dr A Ravindra and Dr N R Narayana Murthy took part in this meeting.

INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL SEMINAR ON THE GLOBAL VILLAGE

2 – 4 November, 1998

In November 1998, the State of Karnataka hosted a major Information Technology event called Bangalore IT.COM 98. As part of this event, NIAS played a leading role in organising an international technical seminar on the theme of the Global Village.

The Global Village has now become a widely used word, and signals the profound changes that are taking place in societies across the world, as the revolutionary developments in information technology of the last decade or so are making geographical boundaries irrelevant in many trans-national transactions. In Bangalore, we have already been used, for many years now, to our engineers working closely with those on the other side of the

globe without ever moving out of their offices (when they do cross over to the other side of the world – which they do every now and then – it is because they are in search of greener and more prosperous pastures!); work done here during our day is transmitted to the US (or wherever else) where it can be continued during their day, to be resumed here on the next day again. Information can be of great value, commercial and otherwise, but has no mass, and can be transported virtually at the speed of light. The volume of these transactions is already quite large in Indian terms (e.g. it exceeds the turnover of the tobacco industry); our exports last year stood at Rs 7000 crores (of which nearly a third came from Bangalore), and are doubling in less than two years; but of course they are still only a small fraction of the global trade in software.

But apart from this business across national borders, the convergence between computers and communications has led to a cultural exchange, through the Internet and other media, that is beginning to usher in the Global Village – a large inter-dependent self-contained community across the globe – we hope of happy, prosperous Villagers. And the social effects of these technological developments can be profound.

The future of the Global Village therefore depends (a) on technological advances, which are still taking place at a breath-taking pace, and (b) on the way that we are able to utilise and manage these advances for a massive social transformation of our own developing society. Creation of national wealth is one major driving force; and electronic commerce, entertainment etc. provide extra-ordinary opportunities. But at the same time, IT also provides us with equally extraordinary opportunities to do many other things too; for example:

- nurture our human resources, not merely those that belong to an affluent elite, but

including people in the rural areas, irrespective of language, region, religion, gender etc.,

- empower women, by providing new opportunities for professional growth,
- improve our system of governance through enhanced transparency and consultation,
- enhance the quality of our life, through newer methods of education, providing greater access to knowledge and information of various kinds – including science, art and literature.

Indeed, the opportunities seem limitless, but unless we are conscious of both opportunities and pitfalls, and unless the infrastructure matches our ambitions, IT will not have served national needs best. If we are not careful, IT can also divide the world into information “haves” and “have-nots”; how can we ensure that we can escape this “digital divide”, as it has been called?

These were the subjects that the Seminar addressed. The programme was conceptualised in a series of meetings held at NIAS with a distinguished group in academia (including experts in social sciences), industrialists, businessmen and administrators in government. This group already brought together a coalition of forces that I believe is necessary for considering the issues mentioned above.

The programme featured distinguished speakers from within the country and abroad. It began with an inaugural address by Prof M G K Menon, Vice-Chairman of the National IT Task Force appointed by the Government of India. Prof Menon presented the perspective that the Government had on the development of IT in the country, and the ambitious goals that the IT Task Force had projected. This talk was followed by a keynote address by Prof Raj Reddy, the well-known computer scientist at Carnegie Mellon

University, Pittsburgh, USA; the talk was telecast from the US through Internet. After a few initial glitches the talk went off very well, and indeed the participants were even able to ask questions to the speaker at the end of his talk. Among the others who spoke at the meeting were Prof Kenneth Keniston of MIT, who examined software, cultural diversity and global culture, and highlighted the importance of reaching the benefits of IT to the large number of Indians who may not be literate in English. Prof Rajeev Sangal of IIIT, Hyderabad spoke on IT Standards for the languages of the world, in particular including those of India. Mr John Clews, Chairman of SESAME Computer Projects, UK also spoke about IT and the languages of the world. Prof A Jhunjhunwala of the Indian Institute of Technology Madras described the developments that have taken place in India in telecom technology and the way that these can be utilised for bringing IT to rural areas. Mr Peter O'Neill, Editor of Third World EEC News spoke about IT and social services. Mr Vinay Deshpande, of NCORE Technology (P) Ltd, Bangalore, spoke on design for the global competitiveness of Indian firms. Prof N Balakrishnan of the Indian Institute of Science analysed information security, an area that has been much neglected in the country. Mr Nandan Nilekani of Infosys Tech (P) Ltd. offered a broad survey of the Indian software scenario and its prospects. Dr Jai P Singh, President of ASC Enterprises Ltd, India highlighted the extraordinary potential that satellite communication offers for telecom, information mobility and entertainment. Mr Krish Prabhu of Alcatel Network Systems, USA sketched the emerging trends in telecom and the importance of taking into account the convergence that is taking place between computers and communication.

Prof V Rajaraman, looking at the history of development of IT in India pointed out how it was the computerisation of reservations in Indian Railways that converted a large number of Indians from hostility to admiration for what computers can do. Prof V N Balasubramanyam

of Lancaster University, UK considered why Bangalore is where the action is, and made an analysis of the factors that had led to the emergence of Bangalore as a global player in IT. Prof AnnaLee Saxenian of the University of California made an interesting comparison between Silicon Valley in California and Route 128 in Massachusetts, and highlighted the characteristics that have been responsible for the continued vitality of Silicon Valley. Prof J R Choudhury spoke on IT in Bangladesh, and Prof V K Samaranayake similarly on IT in Sri Lanka. Mr Abraham Kuruvilla, Brilliant School of Management, Bangalore considered the general situation of India in the IT sector and the need to understand our position and to define appropriate strategies.

Prof Malcolm McCullough of Carnegie Mellon University concluded the series of lectures by analysing the social history of computing, and remarked on the re-emergence of craftsmanship as a major force with the wide availability of digital computers in the world.

At the end of the meeting on the evening of 4 November the Seminar adopted what has come to be called The Bangalore Declaration on IT for developing countries in the global village. The draft of the Declaration was prepared by a committee consisting of

Prof Vijay Chandru (Chairman)
Prof Jamilur Reza Choudhury
Prof Kenneth Kensiton
Prof Swami Manohar
Dr Masduki
Mr Peter O'Neill
Prof V K Samaranayake
Prof M N Srinivas

After extensive discussions during the Seminar it was adopted with the amendments suggested by participants. A copy of this Declaration is available from NIAS.

The Seminar was telecast live at four centres in Bangalore. It was widely reported in the press, indicating how timely and stimulating

the Seminar was. At the end of the year, The Times of India voted Bangalore IT.COM as the most interesting thing that had happened in the City during the year 1998. We expect to continue with involvement on the theme of the Seminar at NIAS and elsewhere, in collaboration with Mr Sanjoy Das Gupta, Secretary, Information Technology of the Government of Karnataka and Senior Associate of the Institute, and our colleagues from academia and industry in Bangalore.

A MEETING ON “STATUS OF INFRASTRUCTURE IN KARNATAKA – A YEAR AFTER”

27 – 28 November, 1998

NIAS, along with the Alumni Association of Jadavpur University, Bangalore Chapter, organised a seminar on “Status of Infrastructure in Karnataka - A Year After”, in continuation with one organised last year on “Infrastructure in Karnataka – Key to Growth. Is Karnataka Geared Up?”. Various departments responsible for the planning of the city’s infrastructure presented their plans, especially in the context of last year’s discussions. This seminar carried out an appraisal of the achievements of these departments and their future plans. Several important on-going projects such as the elevated light rail system, a new airport, the Bangalore-Mysore expressway, the Cauvery Project Stage-IV, fly-overs and ring roads were also discussed.

The seminar was very well-attended, and included amongst its participants government representatives, engineers, scientists, and activists from various non-governmental organisations.

COLLOQUIUM ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

8 December, 1998

The Gender Studies unit organised this meet to mark the Human Right’s Day to focus on

Women’s Rights. Participants included senior officers from the Karnataka Police Force, the bureaucracy, the judiciary, academics and researchers, as well as social and media activists.

The sessions were devoted to presentations on the subject of crimes against women, police interventions and NGO initiatives. The group discussions served to evolve a common plan of action to check increasing violence against women (VAW).

The purpose of this discussion was to promote an interface between all people concerned about growing violence. It also served to strengthen networking between NGOs as well as the various arms of the government to facilitate advocacy and develop mechanisms to address the issue.

The immediate need for gender-sensitisation for enforcement agencies and government functionaries, and to build a platform to share research findings so as to finally facilitate co-operation and thus, influence the operation of vigilance bodies to check atrocities on women, were some of the issues discussed in the colloquium.

FISSILE MATERIAL CUT-OFF TREATY: INDIA’S OPTIONS

17 December, 1998

This workshop was organised by the International Strategic Studies Unit as a part of the Department of Atomic Energy Project on “India’s options on the Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty” (FMCT). FMCT is currently one of the most important items on the global agenda. This workshop was focused on various options open to India and participants included experts, academics and researchers working in this field to analyse the possible benefits and risks to each of the options associated with it. A report on the discussions held is being completed.

REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON WOMEN AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

30 – 31 December, 1998

This workshop was supported by IWRAW (International Women's Rights Action Watch-Asia Pacific). The base-line report which was developed as a prelude to the project on Women and Political Rights and which discussed the disadvantages and discrimination faced by women in politics, was shared with various non-governmental organisations.

Visits

Shri Mac Maharaj, Honourable Minister for Transport, Republic of South Africa visited NIAS on 8 October, 1998.

Distinctions

Arvind Kumar

Selected to attend the Summer Workshop on "Defence, Technology and Co-operative Security in South Asia" during September 21-29, 1998 at Shanghai, China. This award was given by the Regional Centre for Strategic Studies, Colombo.

Sangeetha Menon

Gita Puraskaram – State award from the Bharateeya Vichara Kendra, Kerala, for research on the Bhagavad Gita, Thiruvananthapuram, September 1998

P K Shetty

Membership of the Editorial Committee, *Sneha Chintana* (a quarterly journal in Kannada and English)

M N Srinivas

Membership of the Editorial Advisory Board of *The International Encyclopaedia of the Social and Behavioural Sciences*, edited by P B Baltes and N J Smelser

The fifth and final volume of the Festschrift for Prof M N Srinivas. *Social Structure and Change: Volume 5*, edited by A M Shah, B S Baviskar and E A Ramaswamy. Sage, New Delhi, 1998

Honorary D Litt. from the University of Delhi, December 1998

Fellowships

Sundar Sarukkai

Visiting Scholar, STS Program, MIT, USA; October - December, 1998

Visiting Scholar, Program in History and Philosophy of Science, Stanford University, USA; December, 1998 - January, 1999

Publications

REPORTS

- R1-98** **Status of rural women in Karnataka.**
Batliwala, S, Shantha Mohan, N, Anitha, B K, Gurumurthy, A and Wali, C S
- R2-98** **Bioremediation of pesticide-contaminated agricultural soils and effluents**
Shetty, P K
- R3-98** **Pan Indian rare manuscripts initiative: a proposal**
Menon, S and Williams, G M
- R4-98** **The cosmic ray story**
Sreekantan, B V

WORKING PAPERS

- WP1-98** **Symbols of truth: objectivity and reality in science**
Sarukkai, S
- WP2-98** **Explaining consciousness – pointers from philosophy of mathematics**
Sarukkai, S
- WP3-98** **Beyond belief: trust, deception and knowledge**
Sarukkai, S

- WP4-98** **Science, knowledge and society – a response to Sokol and Nanda**
Sarukkai, S
- WP5-98** **Culture of technology: the Indian experience**
Sarukkai, S
- WP6-98** **Narratives in the re-constitution of communities**
Vasavi, A R

LECTURES

- L1-98** **Social anthropology and literary sensibility**
Srinivas, M N
- L2-98** **Reservation – quality and equality**
Natraj, V K
Institute of Development Studies, University of Mysore
- L3-98** **India's nuclear tests and US responses: the perception gap and its impact**
Ollapally, D
- L4-98** **Literatures in India**
Ananthamurthy, U R
Bangalore

BOOKS

Batliwala, S, Anitha, B K, Gurumurthy, A and Wali, C S 1998. *Status of rural women in Karnataka*. National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore
Batliwala, S, Anitha, B K, Gurumurthy, A and Wali, C S 1998. *Status of rural women in Karnataka* (in Kannada, abridged). National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore

Sreekantan, B V 1998. *Extensive air showers*. World Scientific, Singapore; (co-authored with M V S Rao)

Srinivas, M N 1998. *Indian society through personal writings*. Oxford University Press, New Delhi (paperback)

Srinivas, M N 1998. *Village, caste, gender and method*. Oxford University Press, New Delhi (paperback)

Sundaram, C V 1998. *Atomic energy in India – 50 years*. Dept. of Atomic Energy, Govt. of India, New Delhi; (co-authored with L V Krishnan and T S Iyengar)

PAPERS

Rajagopal, S 1998. Review of the Indian nuclear experience. *Proceedings of the Workshop on a Comparative Analysis of Approaches to the Protection of Fissile Materials*. Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, California, USA

Ramachandra, K 1998. On a method of Davenport and Heilbronn. *Hardy-Ramanujan Journal*, **21**: 12-26

Ramachandra, K 1998. Some local-convexity theorems for the zeta-function-like analytic functions-III, *Contemporary Mathematics*, **210**: 243-256 (co-authored with R Balasubramanian)

Ramachandra, K 1998. Some remarks on a lemma of A E Ingham, *Publ. Math. Debrecen*, **521** (3-4): 281-289

Sinha, A 1998. Book review – Language behaviour: acquisition and evolutionary history, by R Narasimhan. Sage, New Delhi. *Current Science* **75**: 400-401

REPORTS

Rajagopal, S 1998. Steps towards nuclear weapon-free world. Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India (co-authored with B M Udgaonkar)

ARTICLES

Deva Raju, A. A great teacher is remembered. *Indian Express*, 13 August, 1998.

Deva Raju, A. A tribute to C V Raman. *Indian Express*, 3 November 1998.

Kumar, A. Indo-Pak relations after Pokhran II: reviving the past agenda. *Deccan Herald*, 18 July, 1998

Kumar, A. Relevance of non-alignment in the new order: India's role in perspective. *Deccan Herald*, 11 September, 1998

Kumar, A. Chinese perceptions of India after nuclear tests: mistrust and fear should go. *Deccan Herald*, 17 October, 1998

Kumar, A. Indo-US relations: establishing mutual trust, *Deccan Herald*, 30 October, 1998

Associates Programme

The Institute maintains a strong outreach with its Associates Programme. The Associates of the Institute include prominent personalities from widely different backgrounds in the media, arts, policy-making and academia. Associates are invited to a monthly evening lecture series and other important events, and constitute a strong base of ongoing outside support and interactions.

The Associates Programmes during the later part of 1998 included the following:

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 14 July | Indo-Sri Lanka relations
Mangala Moonsinghe
<i>High Commissioner for
Democratic Socialist Republic
of Sri Lanka, New Delhi</i> |
| 14 August | The relative
inexperiencibility of the
Christian Trinity: a
phenomenological case study
<i>George M Williams
Department of Religious Studies
California State University,
Chico, U.S.A.</i> |
| 14 September | Educational options for the
poor
<i>V Braganza
St Xavier's Research
Foundation, Ahmedabad</i> |
| 27 November | Power scenario in
Karnataka: status and
perspectives
<i>K Jairaj
Managing Director
Karnataka Power Corporation
Ltd., Bangalore</i> |

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 24 December | Efficient private sector
participation in
infrastructure
development
<i>Ashok Modi
Lead Specialist, Project
Financing
World Bank, New Delhi</i> |
|-------------|---|

Wednesday Discussion Meetings

The members of the Institute meet every Wednesday morning for informal academic discussions after a talk delivered by a member of the faculty. Wednesday meetings also serve as a forum for invited guest speakers to deliver a lecture on a subject of their choice. Another highlight of the Wednesday talks is the high tea that follows them!

The Wednesday Discussion Meetings this year have included:

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 1 July | Women, decentralisation
and development
<i>V Gayathri</i> |
| 8 July | Women and
decentralised
governance: a need for a
longitudinal study
<i>B K Anitha</i> |
| 19 August | Seismic studies of Indian
explosions
<i>Raja Ramanna</i> |
| 26 August | Developments in the
Indian women's
movement
<i>Asha Ramesh</i> |
| 23 September | Subjectivity
<i>Sundar Sarukkai</i> |

7 October	Character recognition <i>H K Anasuya Devi</i>	11 August	Indian dance: an expression from tradition to modernity <i>Madhu Natraj</i> <i>Natya Institute of Kathak Choreography, Bangalore</i>
28 October	Agrarian distress in Bidar district: a case study <i>P K Shetty and A R Vasavi</i>	12 August	Indian theories of perception and artificial intelligence <i>M A Alwar</i> <i>Department of Sanskrit, Mysore University</i>
4 November	Atomic energy in India: inheriting a legacy and interpreting a dream <i>C V Sundaram</i>	14 October	Identity and authority in village schools <i>Padma Sarangapani</i> <i>Bangalore</i>
16 December	Studies in history and philosophy of biology: an overview <i>M G Narasimhan</i>	18 November	Money and market: some theoretical and practical issues <i>Meenakshi Rajeev</i> <i>Indian Statistical Institute, Bangalore</i>
Guest speakers at the Institute during this period were:			
22 July	Agricultural production in the face of monsoon variability <i>Sulochana Gadgil</i> <i>Centre for Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences</i> <i>Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore</i>	25 November	Bhartrhari's view of language <i>Vasant S Khokle</i> <i>Department of Linguistics, University of Mumbai</i>
29 July	The pedagogy of culture <i>Prema Clarke</i> <i>World Bank, New Delhi</i>	2 December	Contributions of Islam to science <i>Sanaullah Bintory</i> <i>Department of Physics</i> <i>Al-Ameen College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Bangalore</i>
5 August	Development of a GEF operational programme for the transport sector <i>Dilip R Ahuja</i> <i>Climate Change and Global Environment Facility</i> <i>Washington D C, U.S.A.</i>	7 December	Repertoires of collective action and discursive shifts: a comparative perspective <i>Edmund Burke III</i> <i>Department of History</i> <i>University of California, Santa Cruz, U.S.A.</i>
5 August	Capsule-based software design: a new mantra for India to be the world power in software <i>Aditya P Mathur</i> <i>Department of Computer Science</i> <i>Purdue University, Lafayette, U.S.A.</i>		

- 9 December South Indian films and politics
Madhava Prasad
Centre for Study of Culture and Society, Bangalore
- 23 December Ironies of the early Indian women's movement
Nancy A Falk
Department of Comparative Religion
Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, U.S.A.
- 30 December Bombay's people in the 19th century: a historical analysis of the insolvency record of the Bombay High Court 1860-1998
Asiya Siddiqi, Bangalore

Upcoming Events

The Philosophy of Science Unit is organising a one-week lecture course on "Some Landmarks in the History of Physical and Chemical Sciences and Technology" on 15 - 17 February 1999. The course is primarily aimed at university and college teachers from different parts of the country. The total number of expected participants is about 30. The contact person for this meeting is **M G Narasimhan**.

The International Strategic Studies Unit is organising a workshop on "Energy for Rural Development" on 19 March, 1999. The participants will include representatives from various departments of the government, as well as public and private sectors. The contact person for the event is **S Rajagopal** (rajgopal139@hotmail.com).

Planned Events

The Gender Studies Unit is planning to organise a National Workshop on "Women and Political Rights, Women and Armed Conflict, and Women and Marriage Rights within the CEDAW (Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women) Framework" during March/April, 1999. The contact person for the event is **Shantha Mohan** (shantham@hamsadvani.serc.iisc.ernet.in).

An Appeal for Funds

Building and sustaining the intellectual and social foundations of a transforming civilisation

About NIAS

India has several fine institutions, in the natural sciences, in engineering and technology, and in the social sciences. But these institutions harbour different cultures, and, indeed, are often worlds unto themselves. And there are too few bridges between and among them. The most interesting and challenging problems of the coming century probably lie in the interfaces between these cultures and disciplines – interfaces that are studied far too little in our country. It is in these no-man's lands that I believe the future of NIAS lies – in subjects that do not belong to the tidy little pigeon-holes that the current knowledge system of the world has created – artificially, and for technical or

bureaucratic convenience, not because that is the way the world operates. How to build these bridges, how to bring different intellectual and social communities together, and how to look at the future of our nation and the world with the greatest possible intellectual integrity as well as public and social confidence – it is the pursuit of these aims that NIAS is taking up as its mission.

If we have to achieve these goals it is necessary for us to bring together the best in the natural and social sciences. The late JRD Tata, who conceived of this institution, saw the great need in India to form a new kind of leader – he envisioned an institution that could harness creativity and commitment, mathematics and management. With my distinguished colleagues on the faculty of NIAS, and the eminent persons we count among our Associates, I am hopeful that we can carve a unique niche for ourselves in the public and intellectual life of this country and the world, moving in the direction that our founders so clearly saw as essential for the future health of our nation.

The Appeal

The pursuit of our goals demands a measure of autonomy. We need financial support from diverse sources to ensure and sustain that autonomy. The early generosity of the House of Tatas and the Government of Karnataka has given us some splendid facilities. We now need to build on this foundation, diversify our sources of income and carry out programmes that are sensitive, at one and the same time, to public and national needs as well as to the demands of uncompromising intellectual rigour.

We solicit your contributions to help us to realise our goals. Bequests can be made to the NIAS Endowment Fund in the manner described below.

R Narasimha

Director, NIAS, and

Chairman, NIAS Endowment Committee

How to make contributions to the NIAS Endowment Fund

All contributions made to NIAS or its Endowment Fund are tax-deductible under Section 35, Subsections (i) and (ii) of the Indian Income Tax Act of 1961.

NIAS is registered under the Foreign Contributions (Regulation) Act, 1976, and is entitled to receive contributions from abroad directly (Register number 094420614, Account No. 0100005000200, State Bank of India, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore 560 012). Contributions must be made by cheques drawn in favour of the National Institute of Advanced Studies; the cheques may be sent directly to NIAS, or credited to the State Bank of India account mentioned above with independent intimation to NIAS.

The Institute welcomes contributions of any amount. Typical sums and the purposes for which they can be used and the forms in which acknowledgements can be made are shown below.

1. Books

Can be donated as books or as funds to be utilised for purchase of books
Every book donated or purchased out of donation funds will carry a label indicating the name of the donor

2. Objects of art (paintings, sculpture etc.)

Rs 10,000/- and above
Will carry a small plaque indicating the name of the donor

- 3. Annual Endowed Lecture**
(speaker residing in India)
Rs 2.5 lakhs or US \$ 6,000
May be named with concurrence of donor
- 4. New Office Space**
Rs 5 lakhs per room
Room will carry a plaque indicating the name of the donor
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Rs 10 lakhs or US \$ 25,000
May be named with concurrence of donor
- 6. Library Hall**
Rs 20 lakhs or US \$ 50,000
May be named with concurrence of donor
- 7. Lecture Hall**
Rs 20 lakhs or US \$ 50,000
May be named with concurrence of donor
- 8. East Wing, Main Building**
Rs 40 lakhs or US \$ 100,000
May be named with concurrence of donor
- 9. West Wing, Main Building**
Rs 50 lakhs or US \$ 125,000
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- 10. Endowed Fellowship**
Rs 20 lakhs or US \$ 50,000
May be named with concurrence of donor
- 11. Endowed Professorship**
Rs 30 lakhs or US \$ 75,000
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- 12. Endowed Research Unit**
Rs 75 lakhs or US \$ 187,500
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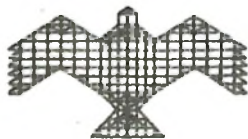
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The National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS) was conceived and initiated by the late Mr. J R D Tata, who sought to create an institution which would conduct advanced research in multidisciplinary areas and also serve as a forum that will bring together administrators and managers from industry and government, leaders in public affairs, eminent individuals in different walks of life and the academic community in the natural and social sciences. The intention is to nurture a broad base of scholars, managers and leaders who may contribute to tackling the complex problems facing contemporary India in a more informed and effective manner.

The philosophy underlying NIAS is given shape by its research teams, which are drawn from a variety of disciplines in the natural and social sciences. The Institute is unique in its integrated approach to the study of intersections between science and technology and social issues.



Prof R Narasimha
Director
National Institute of Advanced Studies
Indian Institute of Science Campus
Bangalore 560 012, India
Tel: 91-80-3310969 Telex: 0845-8349 IISC IN
Fax: 91-80-334 6634 Email: roddam@caos.iisc.ernet.in

Published by National Institute of Advanced Studies, Indian Institute of Science Campus, Bangalore 560 012
and printed by Verba Network Services, Bangalore

For Private Circulation only