



CELEBRATION: President K R Narayanan is all smiles at the birth centenary celebrations of Prof K S Krishnan at the National Institute of Advanced Studies in Bangalore on Tuesday. Governor Khurshed Alam Khan and NIAS Director Roddam Narasimhan look on.

India's tests will be catalyst for N-arms elimination, says KRN

The Times of India News Service

BANGALORE: President K.R. Narayanan on Tuesday said India's nuclear weapon capability, demonstrated recently, will "act as a catalytic agent in the international efforts to eliminate nuclear weapons from the face of the Earth".

"Our objective is not to blast our way into the Nuclear Club, but to work with all nations for the liquidation of any such club, along with its immense stock of weapons of mass destruction," he said at the birth centenary celebrations of Prof K.S. Krishnan, organised by the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), here.

India had declared its nuclear option, by implication, even before it became independent, he noted. He quoted Nehru, who said in 1946, "As long as the world is constituted

as it is, every country will have to devise and use the latest scientific devices for its protection. I hope Indian scientists will use atomic power for constructive purposes. But if India is threatened, she will inevitably try to defend herself by all means at her disposal."

Call for cooperative effort: India's future as a nation rested on cooperative efforts, whether it is in politics, economics or science, he said.

C.V. Raman's paper on what came to be known as the "Raman Effect" was written jointly with Prof K.S. Krishnan.

"I have heard it said that the discovery could have been called the Raman-Krishnan Effect." But astrophysicist S. Chandrashekar had said the discovery was possible because two absolutely original scientists worked together. Raman himself, in his Nobel lecture, acknowledged Krishnan's contri-

bution.

He added: "Those who impose embargoes on India do not seem to remember that some of the fundamental discoveries in mathematics and geometry came from the Indian civilisation. Even in modern times, Indian scientists have made important contributions to science. Anyway, it appears that the genius of India expresses itself at its best in the face of overwhelming challenges."

He referred to Krishnan's role in recommending Mahatma Gandhi for the Nobel Peace Prize. "Gandhiji was passed over, and the next year, in 1948, the Nobel Committee was again bombarded with nominations for Gandhiji. But his assassination came two days before February 1, the deadline for the nomination. No prize was awarded that year, as 'there was no suitable living candidate'."