

NIAS NEWS



Vol 9 No 1

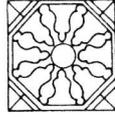
January 2000



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JANUARY 2000





Editors' Note

This issue of *NIAS NEWS* is, perhaps, the one that we have had the least pleasure to edit and publish. For it appears immediately after the passing away of Prof M N Srinivas, the doyen of Indian sociology and one of the most eminent faculty in our Institute. Prof Srinivas always had a comment for the newsletter – sometimes a word of appreciation, and at other times, a piece of advice. This time there will be no such helpful comment; we will miss him terribly. This particular issue carries a couple of short essays on Prof Srinivas, and there will be more in the issues to come. For, as Prof Srinivas would have surely said – the show must go on.

This issue of the newsletter has adopted a new physical format. We feel that this format is a bit unusual, but perhaps, much more handy. We have also added a new section that will provide a description of some of the new important publications of the Institute. Some things, however, do not change! We will, therefore, continue to serve as a quarterly window into the activities of the National Institute of Advanced Studies, bringing you newsworthy information about the research being conducted in our Institute as well as the other activities that we organise every month. As always, we welcome you to write to us if you would like to participate in any of the upcoming events being organised at the Institute, or if you have any suggestions regarding the contents or the new format of the newsletter.

Finally, we are extremely sorry for the inordinate delay in publishing this issue of *NIAS NEWS*, of course, for reasons entirely beyond our control. This, however, we hope, will not detract from its newsworthiness and interest that it has always held for its readers.

Anindya Sinha, Hamsa Kalyani and A Devaraju,
Editors
January 2000



From the Director's Desk



I take this opportunity to send all readers of *NIAS NEWS* warm greetings on the new year in the new millennium. But these greetings are touched with sadness, as we have lost one of our most distinguished colleagues at this Institute, Prof M N Srinivas, when he passed away on 30 November 1999. Prof Andre Beteille, Prof Srinivas's first PhD student and his long-time colleague, has recently written, "The passing of M N Srinivas marks the end of an era in the life of social sciences in India. He dominated sociology in the country more than any other single person among his contemporaries or his predecessors, and it is difficult to think of any one who can fill the place vacated by him." Two appreciations on Prof Srinivas appear in this issue, and more will be published in later issues.

We have otherwise had another busy quarter, as you will see from the many reports in this issue. Among these I must specially mention here the meeting that took place in NIAS on *Equity, Diversity and Information Technology* during 3 - 4 December 1999, which was jointly organised by the late Prof Srinivas, Prof Kenneth Keniston, Andrew Mellon Professor of Human Development at MIT and Sir Ashutosh Mukherjee Visiting Professor at this Institute, and Prof A Jhunjhunwala of Indian Institute of Technology, Chennai. Unfortunately, Prof Srinivas passed away just a few days before this meeting itself took place. This was Prof Keniston's second visit to NIAS.

As you will notice *NIAS NEWS* appears in a new format. This format is certainly easier to mail, and, I hope, easier to handle and read for all of you. Any comments you may have on this format would be most welcome.

It gives me pleasure once again to acknowledge the kind gifts we have received in the last quarter from (i) Dr S G Sampath and (ii) Prof and Mrs T

N Krishnamurti. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to the family of Prof Bimal Krishna Matilal, who have kindly donated his personal collection of journals to the NIAS Library.

R Narasimha



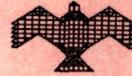
PROF BIMAL KRISHNA MATILAL

Prof B K Matilal was a leading scholar of Indian philosophy. Prof Matilal was born in Joynagar Mazilpur, West Bengal, in 1935. He was Jubilee Scholar in 1954-56 and awarded the Hem Chandra Goswami Prize and Gold Medal in 1956. He was a Harvard-Yenching Fellow between 1962-64.

Having obtained his M.A. and Ph.D. from Harvard in 1965, he started teaching at the University of Toronto, Canada. He taught at the Government Sanskrit College of Calcutta University for 5 years and at the University of Toronto for 12 years. He has been the Spalding Professor of Eastern Religions and Ethics at Oxford University and a Fellow of All Souls College. He was the founder-editor of the Journal of Indian Philosophy which started in 1970. Some of the works of Prof Matilal are Navya-Nyaya Doctrine of Negation (Harvard University Press), Epistemology, Logic and Grammar in Indian Philosophical Analysis (Mouton) and Logic and Ethical Issues of Religious Belief (Calcutta University).

Prof. Matilal died in 1994. We are extremely grateful to his family for their kind gesture of donating his personal collection of journals to our library.

PROF M N SRINIVAS: AN OBITUARY



The following is the text of the Director's remarks at a memorial meeting organized on 17 December, 1999, in honour of late Prof M N Srinivas.

Friends,

We are gathered here today to pay tribute to one of the great Indians of this century and an esteemed and dear colleague of ours, the late Prof M N Srinivas. For the last seven years he had been the JRD Tata Visiting Professor at this Institute. I would like to begin by reading from a message that I have recently received from Dr J J Bhabha, Chairman of the Council of Management of this Institute.

"It is with grief and a sense of great loss that I have learnt about the untimely death of Prof M N Srinivas.

"Though advanced in age, he held with eminence the position of the JRD Tata Visiting Professorship.

"In addition to the long and impressive list of his Visiting Professorships at Universities and Institutes in different parts of the United States of America, as well as in various University Centres in India, his two renowned books published by the Oxford University Press titled *Indian Society through Personal Writings* and *Village, Caste, Gender and Method* reflected credit on the National Institute of Advanced Studies.

“Prof Srinivas will be much missed and I request you to extend my deepest sympathy to all those who will be mourning his loss.”

I have received similar messages from other members of the Council, including Mr Ratan Tata, Mr R M Lala and Dr K Kasturirangan.

Prof Srinivas was born on 16 November 1916 in Mysore and graduated from Mysore University in 1936. He obtained a PhD degree in 1944 at Bombay working with G S Ghurye for a thesis on the religion and society of Coorgs. In 1945 he went to Oxford and obtained another Doctor's Degree (D.Phil.) there. After being appointed to a lectureship in Indian Sociology at Oxford, Prof Srinivas returned to India and carried out field work in the village Ramapura, near Srirangapattana, before returning to Oxford to continue with his appointment. The book he wrote on this work, called *The Remembered Village*, written largely from memory when he was visiting Stanford in 1970 after his notes were burnt down during the Vietnam disturbances in the United States, has become a great classic. It remains to this day a fascinating, and eminently readable, account of village life in this part of the world, and is an excellent example of the simple, direct and forceful style of his prose. Prof Srinivas returned to India in 1951 to work as Professor of Sociology in the MS University of Baroda. In 1959 he went to Delhi to set up a department of sociology at the Delhi School of Economics. He returned to Karnataka in 1972 and played a key role in founding the Institute of Social and Economic Change, where he was Joint Director during 1972-73 and a Senior Fellow till 1979. In the year 1992 he joined this Institute and continued a vigorous intellectual life, writing more papers and books than persons half his age are able to do. His most recent work included a collection of essays titled *Indian Society Through Personal Writings* and an edited volume on *Caste: Its 20th Century Avatar*. Weeks before his death Prof Srinivas spoke at NIAS on *Obituary on caste as a system*, setting out his view that the old economic and social relationships that were characteristic of the

caste system had broken down, but that caste had survived as a means for securing access to resources of different kinds. At various times during his career he held distinguished visiting positions at many famous overseas universities, including Oxford, Cambridge, Stanford, Cornell and Canberra.

Prof Srinivas has been widely honoured for his work within the country and abroad. To mention only a few of them, he was a Fellow of the British Academy, Honorary Fellow of the Royal Anthropological Institute and Foreign Honorary Member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He was awarded the *Padmabhushan* and the T H Huxley Memorial Medal of the Royal Anthropological Institute in 1976 and the Kannada Rajyothsava Award in 1996. He received honorary doctoral degrees from the universities of Nice, Mysore, Chicago, Delhi and others.

It is not my intention to talk here about Prof Srinivas's professional work; I wish to leave that to others who are experts in the field. Till I came to NIAS in 1997, I myself had only a nodding acquaintance with him, and knew him only as an author of some very interesting books that I had read. It is only during the last few years that I got to know Prof Srinivas closely. I like to think that we quickly became close friends. I also learnt very quickly that in spite of his formidable reputation and scholarship, Prof Srinivas was always a man with whom even an engineer and scientist like me could interact very closely. I also found out, again very quickly, that apart from his professional standing as the leading sociologist of the country and somebody respected all over the world for his scholarship and for his deep insights into Indian society, he was a person with an extraordinarily broad world view that was at one and the same time both very Indian and very global. He mixed easily not only with colleagues in social anthropology and other social sciences, but with scientists, engineers, businessmen,



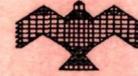
bureaucrats, politicians, journalists and so on. I some times think of him as a scientist's sociologist, but I am quite sure that others that he met and charmed looked upon him in a similar way with respect to their own professions. What struck me was that, if you asked him a question or made a remark, it always invited a response that in the first place was jargon-free. I believe he could do this because everybody knew that if he wanted to, his reply could be couched in incomprehensible phraseology; but he knew, and we knew, that it was unnecessary for him to do that. Furthermore that response proceeded from facts or empirical observations. It finally led to some interesting – often profound – generalization which was both illuminating and convincing.

There were two characteristics of Prof Srinivas that I found extraordinary. First, in spite of his minute knowledge of Indian society, its extraordinary divisions into castes and sub-castes and even smaller groups, with their diverse cultural habits, practices and rituals, he was totally free of that deep cultural pessimism that is so characteristic of a large section of the Indian intellectual community. It was not just that he looked upon these divisions as forming clinical material for social-anthropological research. It was rather that he had a deep appreciation of the background that created those divisions, their historical and social setting, and indeed their contributions to the rich diversity that is our society. Even more importantly, I believe he had a deep faith in the resilience and the innate wisdom of Indian society.

The second characteristic that was most unusual was that his world view encompassed all the human commentaries on the world that range from religion at one end to technology at the other: indeed he made me realize that they are not the ends of a spectrum! He saw that religion and technology, and all the other human forces in between, influenced each other and our society. He was not a technophobe, and, as I have already said, he was very science-friendly.

If I may inject a personal note, there was an occasion when I had written a report on an episode in Indian technological history and made a few remarks there on relations with the caste system, I gave a draft to Prof Srinivas asking him for his comments. I was overwhelmed by his reaction. Apart from his kindness in coming to see me over the weekend about that report, he made profoundly insightful suggestions about the social factors that underlie technological developments. He brought to my attention Lynn White's book on *Religion and Medieval Technology*, and he even arranged to get a copy from his daughter Dr Lakshmi Srinivas in the US so that I could see what Lynn White had said. He talked about the Viswakarmas, and led me to the literature on their cultural, religious and technological practices.

But this is only one example. When a little more than a year ago we organized a Seminar on the *Global Village* as part of the Bangalore IT.COM event that Mr Sanjoy Dasgupta, Secretary for Information Technology, Government of Karnataka, organized, I went hesitantly to Prof Srinivas to ask him whether he could help us draft the *Bangalore Declaration* on Information Technology for Developing Countries. Prof Srinivas not only enthusiastically agreed but worked for several months, once again with a mixed group of businessmen, bright young computer scientists, bureaucrats and the rest, to help draft the *Declaration* – a statement which I still believe is a model for the view that developing countries like our own should take on modern technology – a view that at one and the same time recognizes the role of technology in transforming our society, but sees that as only one of the many human forces at work in our world. And, during these meetings, he immediately won the respect and affection of all the diverse members of the Committee.



Just before he passed away he was busy in organizing another meeting for NIAS on *Equity, diversity and information technology* with Prof Kenneth Keniston from MIT, who was at that time Sir Ashutosh Mukherjee Visiting Professor at this Institute.

Prof Srinivas was one of the pillars of this Institute. If in this Institute we want to live by the mission statement that we have made, namely that we want to bring together the natural and social sciences, and technology and the arts, to look at the complex problems that face Indian and global society with confidence and integrity, I consider that we could not have had a person more fitted to help realizing that mission than Prof Srinivas. Apart from all the other contributions that he made he was always present at our Wednesday "Inner Circle" discussion meetings at the Institute. The last note I had from him was an apology for missing what turned out to be the last meeting he could have attended. On these Wednesdays he sat there in the front row, listening to every word that was said, and out of his wide knowledge, his inexhaustible curiosity, and his familiarity with the ways of the world, was full of stimulating or profound comments, suggestions for references to look up, or points to consider.

We will not just miss him, I think he is truly irreplaceable.

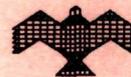
He was furthermore a perfect colleague. He never demanded anything for himself – he even gave to the Institute – and was always available for consultation; he was invariably helpful in looking at any difficulty that we might have had to face. His passing away is a great loss to the world of social anthropology, to this country, to this Institute and to me personally, for I will miss a great mind, a personal friend, an elder brother and a wise counselor in all matters – religion, sociology, science and technology or administration. May his example and his world-view continue to be a guide to all of us.

Scholarship and social insight
M N Srinivas turns 80

R L Kapur

Prof R L Kapur is currently Honorary Visiting Professor at NIAS. This article, reprinted from Frontline (Vol 14, Issue 1, 24 January 1997), was based on a talk by him at a function organised at the Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore, to celebrate Prof Srinivas' 80th birthday. M N Srinivas, the world famous social anthropologist, turned eighty on November 16, 1996. I am neither a social anthropologist nor have I been his student in any formal sense; so, I am not in a position to assess critically his academic contributions. I see him as a very special human being who has enriched my life in many ways and taught me many things without perhaps being aware of what I have gained from him. His personal qualities are what I shall talk about, hopefully, without outraging his well-known sense of modesty, and certainly without using my professional expertise to psychoanalyse him in any way!

I had never heard of Prof M N Srinivas before I went to Edinburgh to work with the well-known psychiatrist and social anthropologist, Morris Carstairs. Carstairs had done some seminal field work in Rajasthan and amongst the Bhils of central India, the result of which was the well-known book "The Twice Born". Consider it my personal misfortune or a lacuna in our system of education; I had already acquired a degree in Psychiatry and was ready to practice my profession without a deep understanding of the customs and mores of Indian society or of the unwritten rules regarding how people should relate to one other. Finding myself in an alien culture I developed a passion for understanding my own and decided to do my research in cultural psychiatry, i.e., in finding relationships between patterns of mental disorder and cultural practices. Carstairs heavily influenced me in this direction and insisted that I read the writings of his good friend "Chamu" before I



started my work. I remember picking up the book "Religion and Society amongst the Coorgs of South India", in 1969 to be precise. My first impression, I must admit, was not very positive. Here was a man using very simple language to say very simple things about ordinary people and that too in a highly personalised way. Where was the science in it, I wondered?

Only after I started my own work in a South Kanara village did I realise the value of the personalised approach. The villagers would not even talk to me about the things I wanted to know, if I presented myself only as a researcher. I found it necessary to start working as a doctor in their midst, helping them with their day-to-day health problems. In time they started revealing their psychological problems to me. I read the book about Coorgs once again and many other writings of Srinivas, to pick up in a very amateur way, some principles and strategies of participant observation. Not having any background in sociological theory, perhaps I missed a lot. But whatever I learnt was so helpful that I adopted Srinivas as my teacher, as Ekalavya did Dronacharya.

He became a larger-than-life figure for me. Imagine then my surprise when I found him one day in my house to purchase some furniture, which I planned to sell since I was returning to Edinburgh after completing my field work. Heaven knows how he came to know about this furniture, but I remember quickly selling him the stuff for half the price before he got the chance to ask for my thumb! Prof Srinivas will probably contest the 'half price' but I would have happily given the furniture free, if he had let me do that.

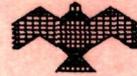
Years passed before we crossed paths again and I found him as a senior colleague at the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS). What I say now arises out of my experience of working closely with him.

What strikes you most about this man? The first is his courage to pick up boldly such topics for examination as are of the deepest concern to all of us. He looks at these issues with an extremely wide angle lens, making

sensitive observations on apparently disparate phenomena and before we start getting anxious about what he is leading us to, he weaves his observations into a unitary whole from which the insights ooze out effortlessly.

To illustrate this, let me pick up at random one of his papers. I choose his short article "Changing values in India today" (Srinivas, 1993a). In this, he examines the Indian constitution, Indian democracy, India's agriculture, India's economic development, status of Indian women, corruption, violence, spread of dowry, role of media and films, elitism in education, glamour of power, rise of consumerism, the new teen-age culture, the brain drain, the lure of the foreign and the rise in stress-related diseases, showing how all these are both the cause and result of changing values. So simple is his language and so homely the metaphors that it all seems to be an informal exchange amongst friends at the local paan shop. Yet the conclusions hit you in the pit of your stomach and force you into deep thinking about the future of Indian society. How does Srinivas wield this magic? I feel the explanation lies in his great sense of empathy, which allows him to enter other people's lives, the people he is observing and the people he is addressing.

His apparent simplicity of communication often hides the hard work and emotional strain that goes into his academic endeavours. He is loathe to talk casually on any topic and it is for this reason that sometimes he declines an invitation to deliver a lecture even on a subject thoroughly familiar to him, if sufficient notice is not given. To those who do not know him this may appear stand-offish, if not rude, but those who have seen him going through great anguish and 'labour pains' while writing an article or before delivering a lecture, understand that this comes from his need to be thorough. Srinivas' mind is continuously ticking away and new ideas are evolving all the time. These need to be put in some kind of order before he feels ready to speak or write.



His empathy strikes you in very personal ways as well. I have found myself taking his advice on many personal matters. His concern for you when you are sick is touching. Quite recently, he rang me up to say how worried he was about my continued cold and sore throat and offered to give me some herbal lozenges, sent to him by his daughter in the U.S. He fulfilled his promise at the very first opportunity. Only a person who can feel for others in such personal way can, I believe, do good social anthropology.

His powers of observation can take a very funny turn sometimes. A few months ago, he wondered why a particular person wore such tight clothes. "His whole self seems to be bursting out of his shirt" he said, perplexedly. Frankly, I had not noticed this oddity before. The statement not only demonstrated Srinivas' powers of observation but also told me a lot about the person who was being described.

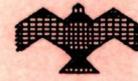
What also stands out about Srinivas is his humility. Whenever I go to discuss anything with him, he starts by saying "I do not know much about it", but then ends up giving references and cross references of work carried out in fields far away from his own. "I wonder if you have read so and so" he asks tentatively, as if his inquiry might offend the storehouse of knowledge that you must be! In a talk, he once gave about his life and his work, he took pains to explain how his scholarship was purely a matter of accidents. "I took up humanities because I wanted to escape science". "I did not take up medicine because I wanted to escape cutting up bodies". "I did not apply for Mysore Civil Service because I was scared of competitive examinations".

His laconic sense of humour is a delight to us all. A couple of years ago, I invited him for dinner. I wrote asking him to bring his wife Rukmini with him. At the same time, I wrote to another friend asking him to bring his wife Thelma with him. As it happened the wires got crossed, and the letter which reached Prof Srinivas asked him to bring Thelma with him! He telephoned me up, and I distinctly remember his

words: "Dr Kapur, I have received your letter and I shall be delighted to come. But Thelma? You see ... I do not know her ... how do I ...?". All this was said with such a quiet intensity as if to convey that he would do anything to respond to my request, only if he knew how to.

There are very few people I know who are as curious as Prof M N Srinivas. His curiosity and as a result his knowledge about current affairs of all kinds puts us to shame. Last year, he started talking about the pop singer Steven Kapur a.k.a. "Apache Indian", to some young faculty members at the NIAS. One of them did not know Steven Kapur and later asked me agitatedly, "But why does Prof Srinivas know about Steven Kapur"? I have a very simple answer to such questions. Srinivas knows about a great many things. Only the other day, he was talking to me about the Miss World competition. I am sure he knew all the participants by their names, the countries they represented and many other bits of information about them which I would love to know but feel too embarrassed to ask.

Here is an experience I shall never forget. I had done some work on Punjab militancy and had given my monograph to Prof Srinivas for his comments. He returned the document to me in fifteen days with the text underlined in red and green ink, and with question marks, exclamation marks, annotations, references, ideas for further research, gentle hints at my stupidity, as well as practical suggestions about what to do with this document. Most astounding were the words within a red circle "Completed. M N Srinivas, 2nd November, 1994, 8.13 P.M." This is not obsessiveness. Obsessiveness feels hollow and makes others anxious. What I saw in this comment was a total involvement in the task before him. A total involvement which ended with a playful but elegant gesture over a task well done, something like Tendulkar raising his bat after completing a century. No teacher of mine has ever examined my writing in this involved manner; nor I must admit, have I ever paid such attention to any of my students' work.



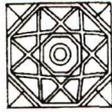
A personal tribute to Srinivas cannot be completed without referring to his frankly admitted commitment to spirituality and religion. He is a Hindu and proud to be one. Such is his conviction that he has no difficulty recommending that the crisis India is going through can only be met with a philosophy and social ethics "firmly rooted in God as a creator and protector and the sustainer of human species" (Srinivas 1993b). The idea of God as a creator, he believes, is "also a cure to anthropocentrism, since it requires that man has to be friendly to all nature including animals and birds and to the environment as a whole. The recent Western sensitivity to the environment and to animal rights needs a firmer basis than calculated self-interest and that can only come from a religious world-view".

In another article he says, "organised religion is necessary not only to provide succour to millions of people but also to produce rebels and mystics who cleanse it periodically. The pharisee and the mystic are both bound together in a permanent relation of opposition and complementarity" (Srinivas 1995). Only a Hindu could say this.

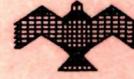
There is so much I want to say about the wide range of interests and passions Srinivas has, for example, foods, cricket, paisley ties, malt whiskeys, pipes, walking sticks, art pieces, detective novels, which are as much a part of his existence as religion is, but that will take many more pages. But let me close by referring to his life mate Rukmini. While having qualities and attributes that are very much her own, she is such a complement to Srinivas that it is difficult to imagine one without the other. A connoisseur of good food would understand what I am trying to say. While the individual species have a flavour of their own, some form such a natural blend that together they achieve a new height of pleasure. Such is the pleasure of seeing them together. May they both live many years to give joy to many.

References:

- Srinivas, M N, 1993a. Changing values in India today. *Economic and Political Weekly*, 8 May, pp. 933-938.
- Srinivas, M N 1993b. Towards a new philosophy: Renewing faith in God as a saviour. *Times of India*, 9 July.
- Srinivas, M N 1995. Gandhi's religion. *Economic and Political Weekly*, 24 June, pp. 1489-1491.



Research Programmes



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

More specifically, a new project was initiated during the period from October to December 1999, while several projects were successfully completed. The new project is entitled:

A Critical and Comparative Study of the Nature and Extent of State Liability arising out of Nuclear Incidents/Accidents within National Boundaries and Beyond

Initiated by the International and Strategic Studies Unit of the Institute, this project will be carried out jointly by V B Coutinho, Professor and Head, Post-Graduate Department of Studies in Law, Bangalore University, as the principal investigator and S Rajagopal of the Unit as the co-investigator.

The project on **South Asian Women in International Security: Building Co-operative Networks**, being run by the Gender Studies Unit of the Institute and funded by the Ford Foundation, USA, has been extended upto November 2000.

After having a joint meeting with their US counterparts from the Carnegie Mellon University during September 24 - 26, 1999, at Warwick, UK, the International and Strategic Studies Unit has successfully completed the first phase of its project entitled **An Indo-US Programme on Electric Power Technology Assessment**. The recommendations of the Indo-US group will be brought out as a NIAS report shortly.

The project on **Issues on Non-Proliferation and Total Elimination of Weapons of Mass Destruction**, being run by the International and Strategic Studies Unit, has also been completed.

Finally, the pilot study for the longitudinal research programme on **Women and Decentralised Governance**, which was initiated by the Gender Studies Unit of the Institute, has been completed.



Publications

NIAS PUBLICATIONS

Copies of the below-mentioned NIAS publications can be purchased from the Institute. Please contact the Controller, NIAS, for more details.

I. NIAS WORKING PAPERS

WP1-99 Fissile material cut-off treaty and options for India
S Rajagopal

II. NIAS SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS

5-99 Scientific and philosophical studies on consciousness
S Menon, M G Narasimhan, A Sinha and B V Sreekantan (Eds.)

This publication contains invited papers presented at the first national conference, held in February 1999 at NIAS, on "Scientific and Philosophical Studies on Consciousness". This collection of the full text of the papers provides an insight into the current status of research and development in the area of consciousness studies, in particular, the nature of consciousness from the perspectives of Indian and Western classical thought, psychology, linguistics and the natural sciences including the physical and biological sciences. For details of this volume, please contact Sangeetha Menon (smenon@nias.iisc.ernet.in).

PAPERS

Krishnamurthy, U, Roopkala, M S, **Sinha, A**, Satishchandra, P and Ullal, G R 1999. Are there fast and slow kindlers in hyperthermia-induced seizures? Abstract at the *First Annual Conference of the Indian Epilepsy Association*, Hyderabad, India, December 1999.

Ramachandra, K 1999. On the future of Riemann Hypothesis. *Current Science* 77: 951- 953.

Ramachandra, K 1998. A remark on Perron's formula. *Journal of the Indian Mathematical Society* 65: 145-151.

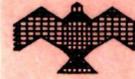
Sinha, A, Ullal, G R, Shankar, S K and Satishchandra, P 1999. Genetics of hot water epilepsy: A preliminary analysis. *Current Science* 77: 1407-1410.

Sinha, A 1999. Almost minds? The search for consciousness in nonhuman primates. *Scientific and Philosophical Studies on Consciousness* (eds. S Menon, M G Narasimhan, A Sinha and B V Sreekantan), National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore, Special Publication 5-99, pp. 149-158.

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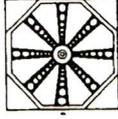
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Commentary



This section of NIAS NEWS, being introduced in this issue, will provide a succinct overview of some of the important publications authored by the faculty of NIAS.

THE STATUS OF RURAL WOMEN IN KARNATAKA

B K Anitha and N Shantha Mohan

This book, authored by S Batliwala, B K Anitha, A Gurusurthy and C S Wali, was published in both English and Kannada by NIAS (Special Publication R1-98, December 1998). Copies can be requested from the Librarian of the Institute.

The present Gender Studies Unit of NIAS (earlier known as the WOPRA Unit) initiated the project on the Status of Rural Women in Karnataka (SRWK) in the year 1994. The primary objectives of the project were

- To generate a baseline data that reflect the status of women in Karnataka
- To develop qualitative indicators for status of women mainly on those areas of women's lives, that are less documented,
- Use the findings of the study as an advocacy tool to affect policy changes and to provide inputs to partners, panchayats and other NGOs to evolve new strategies.

The study adopted an innovative methodology to understand the status of women in terms of access and control over a range of resources. This included along with tangible resources physical mobility, her sexuality, reproduction and physical security. Participatory methods were employed at the field level and the study was carried out in collaboration with NGOs as equal partners. More importantly, the study included an equal number of men in the sample.

The sample population for the study was drawn from six geographically representative districts - Kolar, Chitradurga, Bijapur, Raichur, Dakshina Kannada and Kodagu.. The study restricted its sample to ever-married women in the reproductive age group, that is, between 18 to 40 years of age. One man from each of these household was also a part of the sample. A total 1171 households were canvassed. All questions were pre-coded and data on 200 items was collected.

Major findings of the study

The findings of the study reveal the status of rural women in absolute terms as well as in relation to their men. Some of the key findings are:

Sex ratio

- The sex ratio for the entire study population, computed on the basis of the total number of members for all households, is 969:1000, almost identical to the Karnataka state 1991 Census figure. When computed separately for adults and children, the sex ratio reveals a disturbing trend. The adult (aged above 14 years) ratio is 1001:1000 but the child sex ratio is 922:1000. The reasons for this abysmally low sex ratio among children need to be examined through further analysis.

Access to and control over private assets and resources Land

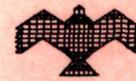
- 71 per cent of the households surveyed in the study own land. Out of this, 81 per cent of the landowning households have title deeds in the names of men. In contrast, ownership by women is only 12 per cent. The remaining 7 per cent of the households had joint ownership of the land.

House

- 88 per cent of the households own house. An overwhelming 80.38 per cent of these houses belong to men and a meagre percentage of 14.38 belong to the women members.

Food

- While nearly three-fourth of the sample population does not experience food insecurity, the poverty of sharp differences appear in the reporting of person/s sacrificing in the event of a food crisis. While 79 per cent of women respondents take exclusive responsibility during such food shortages, only 12 per cent of the male respondents say that they singularly absorb the crisis.



Access to public resources

Drinking water

- Majority of households of lower income categories access public serves of water – sources that are relatively unsafe.
- 22 per cent reported that the source they access for drinking water is an open well, river or stream - sources that are relatively unsafe.
- Households, from higher income categories, have control over their water source. 28 per cent of households depend on sources owned by landlords or private sources, Dependence on other sources has meant enduring harassment meted out by the private owners of the water source.

Fuel

- 83 per cent of the households rely on bio-mass cooking fuels like fire-wood, dung-cakes and crop wastes, that are hazardous to the health of women, who almost exclusively shoulder the responsibility of cooking.
- Only, (2.9 per cent) of the households own the fuel-efficient and smokeless stoves.

Education

- Contrary to official statistics which claim a gross enrollment ratio of over 100 per cent, the study shows that only 69 per cent girls and 74 per cent boys below age 15 attended school.

Control over labour and income

Cultivation

- On contrast to the official departure from these statistics, work participation data for agriculture shows equal participation of men and women, in both main and marginal categories; The study has used a more gender sensitive definition of work and methods of data collection to incorporate the invisible hands of women in agriculture.

Dairy

- The study clearly demonstrates the “feminisation” of dairying – the qualitative data generated by the study, show that men are predominantly involved in marketing and women in the day to day work of feeding and caring for animals, and milking, which are an extension of women’s domestic work. Data on poultry also reveal the same pattern.
- The proportion of unremunerated production work, and fund to be much greater for women than for men. Only 64 per cent of all productive work done by women yielded income, whereas 86 per cent of the productive work done by men yielded income.

Control over the body - Sexuality, reproduction, and physical security

Reproductive health

- 26 per cent of the women respondents suffer from reproductive system ailments. One-fourth of these women had not taken any treatment.
- Of the 1033 women who had delivered at least one child, (63 per cent) had delivered the last child at home, not assisted by any trained attendant. The high percentage of home-based deliveries, reflects the poor response of health services to women’s reproductive health needs.
- An alarming figure of one in every five women reported having lost at least one child before it reached the age of 5.

Age at marriage

- 34 per cent of the women in the sample reported being married before menarche, but only a

negligible 3 per cent of the women, said they would choose the option of a pre-menarche marriage for their daughter, if left to themselves.

- Although 52 per cent of the women respondents had married before the age of 16, only 23 per cent opined that they would get their daughters married at this age, an encouraging trend. In fact 30 per cent of the men chose the option of getting their daughters married before the age of 16.

Dowry

- The data on dowry strongly supports our initial hypothesis that the custom of dowry has increased over generations, probably penetrating communities that did not have the practice of dowry.

1 per cent of the women reported that dowry had been paid during their mother's marriage - (55 per cent reported that dowry had not been paid, 3 per cent reported bride-price, and 41 per cent said "don't know");

17 per cent reported that dowry had been paid for their own marriage, (83 per cent reported not paying);

31 per cent reported having paid dowry for their daughter's marriage and

64 per cent said that they anticipate that dowry have to be paid for the marriage of their unmarried daughter/s!

Control over physical mobility

- Mobility data bring out clearly that women's mobility is inversely related to distance. 66 per cent of the women had not visited a health clinic (usually located in larger villages), 52 per cent had not been to the taluk headquarters, and 73 per cent had not visited the district headquarters. The corresponding



percentages for men were 14 per cent, 30 per cent and 36 per cent respectively. Similarly, 72 per cent of women had never visited the school and 40 per cent had never visited the panchayat office, whereas the corresponding figures for men are less than half the women's figures, that is, 31 per cent for school and 15 per cent for the panchayat office.

Access to law and justice

- The data on whom women approach for redressal clearly upholds the norm that women should seek redressal for their grievances within the family. Not only 78 per cent of the women but also 56 per cent of the men in the sample endorse this viewpoint. Further, when asked about whom they would personally prefer to approach if they faced an injustice, only 25 per cent men chose the family!

The study has generated quantitative database on every imaginable dimension of women's status along with qualitative information on women's life and the psychological core of their sub-ordination. Law and social policy, with its limitations cannot engineer or alter social structures and cultural phenomena, least of all, gender relations. However, a state committed to gender equality must intervene through policies and laws that can lay the ground for transformatory strategies. But if this study is any indication of women's or even men's feminist consciousness, the task ahead is formidable. Strategies are needed not only to support those closer to the goal of gender equality, but also to carry the vast majority resigned to status quo, towards this elusive goal.

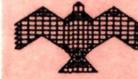
DOCTORAL PROGRAMME IN NIAS

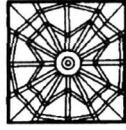
NIAS is a unique institution that conducts advanced research in multidisciplinary areas that bridge the gap between the natural sciences, technology and the social sciences. Complementing its research programmes, NIAS also offers courses in different areas of research, development and policy for different groups of professionals including teachers, bureaucrats, and executives.

One constraint that NIAS has functioned under so far has been the lack of a doctoral programme whereby young students are trained in the research areas that the Institute has traditionally been interested in. There is, however, an urgent need for such a programme for two principal reasons. First, the unique multidisciplinary academic culture that NIAS has so carefully been building up over the past years has to be nurtured and not allowed to dissipate with the passage of time. This would require that young, talented, and committed students are identified and absorbed into the organisation — they would then serve as torchbearers into the future. Second, much of the research being conducted in the Institute, being of an interdisciplinary nature, requires cooperation between a number of specialists. Large groups such as these would definitely benefit from young researchers of different disciplines who can actively contribute to the progress of the group in their respective areas of expertise.

It must also be noted that there has been, in recent times, increasing awareness and interest in issues relating to the interfaces between the natural sciences, technology and the social sciences among young Indian graduate students. Many of them, in fact, are becoming increasingly attracted to pursuing a research career in these interdisciplinary areas. Very few opportunities, however, exist for such students, who have dared to think differently, to pursue a career of their choice within the country. In collaboration with MAHE, an innovative leader among institutions imparting higher education in the basic and applied sciences in the country, NIAS has, therefore, begun a doctoral programme that would specifically award doctoral degrees to students interested to pursue independent research in the areas that NIAS specialises in. For more information, please contact Anindya Sinha (asinha@nias.iisc.ernet.in).

Anindya Sinha





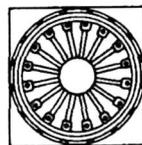
New Faculty at NIAS

Dilip Ahuja

ISRO Professor of Science and
Technology Policy Studies

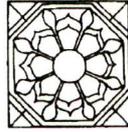
Dilip Ahuja has joined the NIAS Faculty on December 13, 1999. Prior to coming here he worked at the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Secretariat in Washington, DC. He has held research appointments at the University of Maryland, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Indian Institute of Science and the Tata Energy Research Institute. He has also been a Guest Investigator at the National Institute of Mental Health in Maryland and a Fellow in the Interdisciplinary Program in Health at the Harvard University School of Public Health in Boston.

Dr Ahuja's research interests include policy options for addressing global climate change, renewable energy systems, and environmental impacts of biomass and fossil fuel combustion. At the GEF, he worked on developing operational programs to address climate change. In addition to continuing to work on his interests, he also hopes to work on the analysis of inherent trade-offs between different desirable values.



Honours and Distinctions for NIAS Faculty

Arvind Kumar has been selected as a Visiting Fellow at the Henry L Stimson Center, Washington DC, USA, which he will visit during the period from April to May 2000.



Important Events



Complementing its research programmes, NIAS organises a variety of seminars, workshops, and academic courses each year. Some of the important events that were organised during the period from October to December 1999 included:

MEETING ON "ELECTRIC POWER FOR INDIA: AN US-INDIA BILATERAL STUDY"

24 – 26 September, 1999

This meeting was organised by the International and Strategic Studies Unit, NIAS, and the Carnegie Mellon University, USA, at Warwick, UK. Energy experts from India and the US met to discuss the subject of Electric Power for India as part of ongoing collaborative project on "An Indo-US Programme on Electric Power Technology Assessment" between NIAS and the Carnegie Mellon University, USA. The discussions related to:

Technologies, especially those related to cleaning coal to reduce the ash content and also several other technologies like fluidised beds of various types to ensure more efficient combustion.

Development of electronic devices that could clean up bulk power to ensure that essential parameters like voltage and frequency remain within stipulated limits.

Development of energy from biomass as a decentralised power source for rural development.

Identifying relevant technologies that could result in reducing transmission and distribution losses.

Discussions also centered round modes of financing and policy initiatives to be promoted by the government to support the recommendations mentioned above.

S Rajagopal

**FIRST NIAS COURSE FOR ISRO OFFICERS ON
"THE INDIAN SPACE ENTERPRISE: FORESEEING
THE FUTURE"**

4 – 9 October, 1999

The general theme of this course was "The Indian Space Enterprise: Foreseeing the Future". This course was directed towards a group of senior engineers and scientists from the Indian Space Research Organisation who have been identified as potentially constituting its future leadership. The purpose of the course was, in general, to help in shaping the orientation and planning skills needed by this group, and, in particular, to offer a view of the broader horizons to which the goals of the Indian space programme may be set as we enter the 21st century.

The course was inaugurated by Dr K Kasturirangan, Chairman, ISRO, and featured several lectures on a variety of issues and topics such as 'A vision 2020 for a developed India', 'Space law', Technology development: its future and dual-use in the future of our space programme' and 'The social conscience of ISRO'. The programme also included panel discussions and lectures on related issues in science and technology. The speakers were drawn from diverse fields of expertise, and included, among others, Dr Y S Rajan, Dr V S Mani, Dr V Siddhartha, and Mr Kiran Karnik. The week-long programme also included visits to different organisations working under the umbrella of ISRO. The course was brought to a fruitful conclusion with the valedictory address delivered by Dr A P J Abdul Kalam, Scientific Adviser to the Raksha Mantri.

**M G Narasimhan
Anindya Sinha**

LAUNCH OF THE FORUM FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT

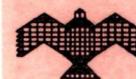
26 October, 1999

The need for entrepreneurial development in India has never been greater. As the US magazine *Newsweek* said in November 1998, Bangalore is now recognised as among the top 10 cities in the world for IT. But a closer look at IT in Bangalore, as elsewhere in India, reveals that the avenues for genuine (product and technology driven) entrepreneurs are still very limited and unwholesome at Bangalore. The Forum for Entrepreneurship Development (FED) is an attempt to build some basic infrastructure that can show the way for a systematic and reproducible development of entrepreneurship. The scope will initially be limited to entrepreneurship in information technology but the essential lessons learned should be transferable to other technology- and service-oriented enterprises. India has already taken a number of steps in setting up various technology parks. However the linkages between academia, R&D and industry are still weak. In strongly knowledge-based industries it is necessary to strengthen these linkages for greater support to established industries as well as start up companies in this highly competitive area.

The objective of FED is to promote investment and technology development in and for the IT industry in India through providing support to entrepreneurial development, establishing and enhancing industry-academia-R&D linkages, and building partnerships for growth.

The Forum envisages a coordination of different agencies and diverse expertise. It is a consortium of actively collaborating institutions, at present consisting of the following.

- FED (at NIAS):
- Business Plans & Micro Finance (at IIM-B)
- ITInc (at Society for Innovation and Development/IISc)



- Intellectual Property Rights Cell (at Management Studies/IISc)
- Entrepreneurship Training Programmes (at Entrepreneurship Development Institute)

These institutions cover overall Coordination, Technology Incubation, Business Plan/Venture Capital Generation and IPR protection issues respectively.

- The focus of FED will be on start-ups, in particular (to begin with) on technology driven IT enterprises, with an emphasis on successful nurturing of entrepreneurs and entrepreneurial talents.
- The Forum is a non-profit organization, with a small membership fee for entrepreneurs and aspiring entrepreneurs.
- The Forum will form networks itself, and provide a platform for entrepreneurs to network with venture capitalists, private investors, industry experts, other successful entrepreneurs, corporations and governmental agencies, and academic and R&D institutions.
- The Forum will form a nodal group of consultants and advisors. Their expertise will be sourced to present information to entrepreneurs in the form of group presentations, technology advice, and mentoring.

The programmes of the Forum will be coordinated at NIAS, which also plans to provide linkages with government and non-governmental organizations concerned with spreading the benefits of IT across all sections of the population, keeping in mind the social benefits that can be derived by the country by an intelligent application of information technologies, in the spirit of the *Bangalore Declaration* adopted in November 1998.

Charter members of the Forum:

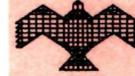
Prof R Narasimha, NIAS
Dr V Chandrasekar, C&C Associates – Convenor
(e-mail: candc@giasbg01.vsnl.net.in)
Prof Vijay Chandru, IISc
Mr Vinay Deshpande, NCORE Tech
Mr V R Govindarajan, Aztec Software and
Technology Services (P) Ltd
Mrs Poornima Jairaj, Sivan Securities Limited
Prof K H Khincha, SID
Prof Swami Manohar, IISc
Dr Mary Mathews, IISc
Mr Rahul Matthan, Matthan Law Offices
Prof S Sundararajan, IIMB

R Narasimha

WORKSHOP ON “SOCIO-ANTHROPOLOGICAL APPROACHES TO EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH”

1 – 10 November, 1999

As part of its research project on Primary Education, a workshop for field researchers from seven different states was organised by the Sociology and Social Anthropology Unit. The purpose of the workshop was to discuss and develop research methodologies that could enhance anthropological perspectives to the study of education. Prof R. Narasimha inaugurated the workshop and spoke about the paradoxes and problems of education in India. The late Prof M.N. Srinivas also addressed the group and highlighted the need to address issues of education as not only important but as vital to the interests of the nation. He had also noted the ways in which ethnographic methods could contribute to the development of educational research. Eklavya, an organisation that has pioneered new curricula for primary education had deputed a resource person, Dr Ram Narayan Syag, to attend the workshop. Dr Syag provided valuable inputs to the workshop and translated the proceedings of the workshop into Hindi. Other lectures for the workshop were on Ethnographic



Methods, Participatory Research Approaches, Focus Group Discussions and Classroom Observations. Two field visits were organised – one to Vikasana, an alternative school for rural children and the other to Heggade Devana Kote, a tribal block in Mysore district. The workshop also developed interview schedules and other research and data collection formats, which will be used by the field researchers.

A R Vasavi
B K Anitha

SYMPOSIUM ON “POVERTY AND HEALTH IN SOUTH ASIA: CRISIS AND CHALLENGE”

16 November, 1999

This symposium was primarily organised by Health in Sustainable Development, World Health Organisation, Geneva; the International Poverty and Health Network; Community Health Cell, Society for Community Health Awareness, Research and Action, Bangalore; and co-sponsored by the Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Bangalore, and the National Institute of Advanced Studies.

REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON “DRAFT INDIAN NUCLEAR DOCTRINE”

26 – 27 November, 1999

This one-and-a-half day workshop, organised by the International and Strategic Studies Unit in collaboration with the Regional Centre for Strategic Studies (RCSS), Colombo, Sri Lanka, was designed to provide adequate opportunity to young academics to analyse and deliberate on important issues related to the doctrine in a transparent manner.

The 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 among the strategic communities of India?

Does India need a nuclear doctrine at this juncture; if yes, why yes and if not, why not ?

No first use policy: its genesis in the Indian context and its relevance;

Notions of deterrence;

Does India need the triad: an analysis covering all aspects of adopting the triad;

Impact of the nuclear doctrine on conventional conflict; and

Role of media in seeking public opinion on the need for a nuclear doctrine.

The workshop generated a spectrum of viewpoints on all the above themes that to an extent helped in achieving a balanced perspective. This workshop brought together a number of eminent scientists, technocrats, lecturers and experts from the humanities drawn from Chennai, Madurai, Hyderabad, Trivandrum and Bangalore. The Executive Director of the RCSS, Maj. Gen. (Retd) Dipankar Banerjee was present during the workshop and effectively chaired the different sessions. Whether the nuclear doctrine was desirable or not was also a part of the debate.

There were also formal group discussions. Participants were given a number of topics to discuss, which finally culminated in a well-informed debate. The rapporteur of each group presented a report on the discussion held among the members of the group. The draft Indian nuclear doctrine certainly evoked much discussion and debate during the workshop. It was generally believed during the discussion among the participants that India needed the doctrine but at the same time there was a clear indication that India needs to adopt a more pragmatic approach in dealing with nuclear issues. India should also campaign vigorously for global nuclear disarmament and, in the present circumstances, it is expected that India may be heard with greater attention internationally, especially among the P-5. The adoption of a nuclear doctrine may not



suggest that India does not want nuclear abolition. There is a special mention of nuclear disarmament in the draft doctrine. Achieving a nuclear weapon-free world would be the top most priority for India even in the existing circumstances.

A report based on the discussion and debate held during the workshop would be published by NIAS in due course of time.

Arvind Kumar

WORKSHOP ON "EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY"

3 – 4 December, 1999

The inspiration for this Workshop came from the discussions that took place during a Seminar on *The Global Village* that was held in November 1998 in Bangalore (see *NIAS NEWS* 8(1), January 1999). At that Seminar the *Bangalore Declaration* (available as a document from NIAS) was adopted by the assembled community of IT professionals and enthusiasts. The *Declaration* laid emphasis on the issue of equity in developing countries.

The present Workshop got together some fifteen people from across the country; they came from many different backgrounds (technologists, businessmen, voluntary organizations, government officials etc.), all sharing a concern about equity in IT. The meeting considered the lessons that could be realized from a variety of local projects undertaken in the sub-continent, and from their successes and failures. The question of providing increasing accessibility to the poor, and the technologies that might make that possible, were also discussed. Local languages in computers, the actions required to improve the infrastructure, and the political factors that militate for and against the spread of IT into larger sectors of the population were all subjects discussed at the meeting. A separate volume containing the papers presented at the meeting will be available before long.

R Narasimha

FIRST NIAS COURSE FOR SENIOR LEVEL INDIAN ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE OFFICERS ON "ISSUES IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT"

13 – 17 December, 1999

The programme covered a wide range of issues on sustainable development including application of remote sensing for sustainable environmental management, energy planning for sustainable development, sustainable rural development, biodiversity, technology, economic growth for sustainable development and excellence in education with an emphasis on the perspectives for the future.

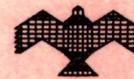
S Rajagopal

WORKSHOP ON IT BILL 1999

14 December, 1999

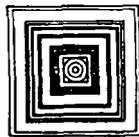
The Union Ministry of Information Technology took an important initiative when they placed the IT Bill 1999 before the Lok Sabha. A Workshop on the Bill was organized at NIAS by Prof R Narasimha (NIAS), Prof N Balakrishnan (IISc), Prof Swami Manohar (IISc) and Mr Rahul Matthan (Matthan Law Offices). The Workshop was supported by the Secretary for Information Technology, Government of Karnataka and sponsored by Online Bangalore.com.

The participants in the Workshop included representatives of industry, academia, government and the legal profession, and included Justice Bhoruka of the Karnataka High Court. The Workshop welcomed the initiative taken by the Government but made a set of detailed recommendations. The Workshop concluded that, while the current Bill is forward-looking in many of its provisions, it contains others that could curb the growth of a nascent industry that has the potential of being a powerful creator of wealth and a major global player. The Workshop therefore



recommended that the Bill should not be passed in its present form, but be substantially modified. Indeed, it was recommended that the present Bill should be split into two or three separate bills. The preferred option is to have two bills, one on E-commerce and the other on Cyber Crimes. In that case, however, it was considered that the first 17 clauses of the present Bill would have to be supplemented by a completely reformulated section on Cyber Certification. If it should not be feasible to do this sufficiently early, it would be preferable to proceed with an E-commerce Bill, to be followed as quickly as possible with the Cyber Certification Bill. A separate Cyber Crimes Bill would still be necessary, but it requires detailed and comprehensive examination, which should also be undertaken as early as possible. The Workshop considered that such a splitting of the present Bill into two or three separate bills is necessary to ensure that the important and rapidly changing IT industry is allowed full potential for growth, with more comprehensive provisions relating to computer-related crimes and a technology-neutral certification regime that is not dominated by government licensing procedures.

R Narasimha



Associates' Programme

The Institute maintains a strong outreach with its Associates Programme, organised by **P K Shetty**. 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 period from October to December, 1999, included the following events:

- 6 October Bharat Natyam recital
Shuba V Rajagopal
- 7 October Obituary on caste as a system
M N Srinivas
- 26 November On wildlife through the lens
Vivek R Sinha
Former Director, ADE, Bangalore
- 17 December On Professor M N Srinivas:
In memoriam
This meeting was organised as a tribute to the memory of Prof M N Srinivas by the faculty and associates of NIAS and from his close friends and collaborators elsewhere.



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. These Wednesday meetings, organised by **Sangeetha Menon**, also serve as a forum for invited guest speakers to deliver a lecture on a subject of their choice. The discussions then continue over the high tea that follows these talks!



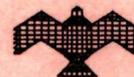
The Wednesday Discussion Meetings during the period from October to December, 1999, have included:

- 13 October Studies in history and philosophy of biology: On reductionism in genetics
M G Narasimhan
- 20 October Exclusion and opportunity: Trends in India's primary education
A R Vasavi
- 3 November A reading of extracts from the play "The lesson" by Eugene Ionesco
Beverly Vaidya
Sangeetha Menon
Asha Ramesh
M G Narasimhan
This was the first programme of the NIAS Literary Forum. This play deals with the failure of communication and its negative consequences in human relationships. At the same time it offers a scathing criticism of the educational system of the day.
- 17 November Towards Sustainable Agriculture
P K Shetty
- 24 November Observing classroom transactions in rural primary schools
B K Anitha
- 8 December True Lies? Deception in wild bonnet macaques
Anindya Sinha

Guest speakers at the Institute during this period were:

- 27 October Reflections on Indian polity
L C Jain
Former High Commissioner to South Africa

- 26 November Recent trends in science and technology policy
J J Salomon
Conservatoire National des Arts et Metiers
Paris, France
- 1 December Indo-US conflict on patents
Anitha Ramanna
Jawaharlal Nehru University
New Delhi



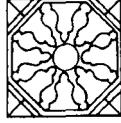
THE NIAS LITERARY FORUM

A new forum, "The NIAS Literary Forum" has been established in the Institute to pursue and conduct literary activities such as play reading, reading of poetry (one's own or others') reading of short stories and so on. These activities are aimed at providing complementary support to the Institute's more regular work. The activities are open to all members of NIAS fraternity. Currently, this forum aims to meet on one Wednesday every month. For more details about its activities, please contact **M G Narasimhan**.

The forum presented its first programme in the form of reading of the one-act play: "The Lesson", by Eugene Ionesco, on 3 November, 1999. The participants in this reading were Beverly Vaidya, Asha Ramesh, Sangeetha Menon and M G Narasimhan.

PHOTO EXHIBITION

There was an exhibition of a collection of digital photographs taken by **Sangeetha Menon**, on the theme 'Lilies', from 3 - 9 October, 1999, at the NIAS Auditorium. This exhibition was organised in connection with the first NIAS Course for ISRO Officers. These photographs are now live on her personal homepage: URL<www.passion4art.com/smenon.html>



Meetings attended by NIAS Faculty

Asha Ramesh

Invited as a resource person to conduct a political training session for the Grameen Mahila Okkuta of Grama Vikas in Kolar district on 15 October, 1999, for prospective women candidates in the forthcoming Gram Panchayat elections.

Invited as a resource person at a workshop organised by Aalochana, Pune, to develop a training kit for women in politics during 21 - 22 October, 1999.

Presented a paper on "Political participation of women" at the National Conference on CEDAW, jointly organised by UNIFEM (United Nations Development Fund for Women) and the National Alliance of Women (NAWO), on 13 - 15 November, 1999.

Invited as a resource person to orient the Karnataka Mahila Samakhya team to assist the Appraisal Team, of which the Gender Studies Unit is a member, to conduct the appraisal of the Government of India women's empowerment programme in 7 districts of Karnataka, 25 - 26 November, 1999.

H K Anasuya Devi

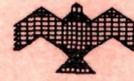
Presented a paper on "Role of computers in deciphering Brahmi script: Recent trends" at the International Workshop on Document Analysis, Speech and Natural Language Processing, held at the Indian Statistical Institute, Calcutta, on 23 - 24 December, 1999.

Shantha Mohan

Presented a paper on "Political participation of women" at the National Conference on CEDAW, jointly organised by UNIFEM (United Nations Development Fund for Women) and the National Alliance of Women (NAWO), on 13 - 15 November, 1999.

Presented a paper on "Community participation in primary education – the Karnataka experience", at the National Seminar on Community Participation and Empowerment in Primary Education, organised by the

National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration, New Delhi, during 8 - 10 December, 1999.



S Rajagopal

Participated in a meeting on "Electric Power in India" in Warwick, UK, during 24 - 26 September, 1999, as part of a collaborative project between Carnegie Mellon University and NIAS.

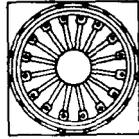
Participated as a representative of NIAS in the scientific session on the "Role of Nuclear Power in Sustainable Development", organised at the International Atomic Energy Agency, Vienna, Austria, during 27 September - 1 October, 1999. Attended the conference on "Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban-Treaty" at Vienna, Austria during 6 - 8 October, 1999, as a representative of NIAS and Indian NGOs.

VISITORSHIPS HELD BY NIAS FACULTY

H K Anasuya Devi was on sabbatical as a Visiting Scientist to the Indian Statistical Institute, Calcutta, during the period from 15 February – 1 December 1999.

VISITORS TO THE INSTITUTE

Prof Jean Jacques Salomon, Professor of Technology and Society, Director of the Centre Science, Technology et Societe at the Conservatoire, National des Arts et Metiers, Paris, visited the Institute from 23 to 25 November, 1999. Prof Salomon, an expert on science and technology policy, delivered a lecture on "Recent trends in science policy" on 24 November. He was accompanied by his wife, Dr Claire Bayet Salomon, a distinguished historian of science.



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.

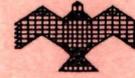
We solicit your contributions to help us to realise our goals. Bequests can be made to the NIAS Endowment Fund in the manner described below.

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.

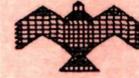
NIAS is registered under the Foreign Contributions (Regulation) Act, 1976, and is entitled to receive contributions from abroad directly (Register number 094420614, Account No. 0100005000200, State Bank of India, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore 560 012). Contributions must be made by cheques drawn 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.

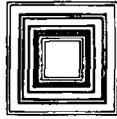


The Institute welcomes contributions of any amount. Typical sums and the purposes for which they can be used and the forms in which acknowledgements can be made are shown below.

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
5. *Visiting Professor* (from India or abroad)
Rs 10 lakhs or US \$ 25,000
May be named with concurrence of donor
6. *Lecture Hall*
Rs 20 lakhs or US \$ 50,000
May be named with concurrence of donor
7. *East Wing, Main Building*
Rs 40 lakhs or US \$ 100,000
May be named with concurrence of donor
8. *West Wing, Main Building*
Rs 50 lakhs or US \$ 125,000
May be named with concurrence of donor

9. *Endowed Fellowship*
Rs 30 lakhs or US \$ 70,000
May be named with concurrence of donor
10. *Endowed Professorship*
Rs 40 lakhs or US \$ 90,000
May be named with concurrence of donor
11. *Endowed Research Unit*
Rs 80 lakhs or US \$ 187,500
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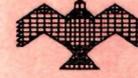
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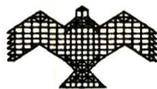
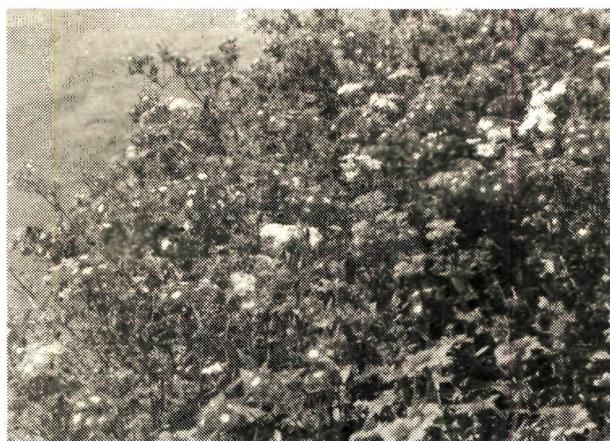
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The National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS) was conceived and initiated by the late Mr. J R D Tata, who sought to create an institution which would conduct advanced research in multidisciplinary areas, and also serve as a forum to bring together 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 has thus been 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.



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