

NIAS NEWS

A NEWS LETTER OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDIES,
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Vol-2

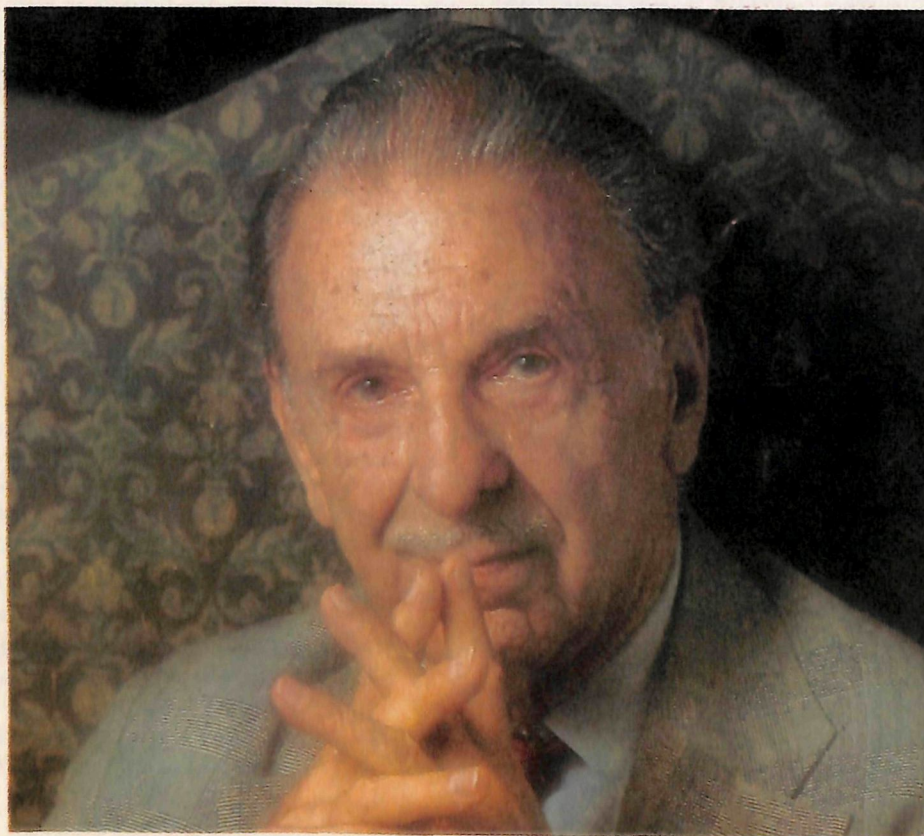
Saturday, 1st January 1994

No. 2

THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

This third issue of the NIAS Newsletter also happens to be the First Anniversary Issue. The activities of the Institute during the second half of the year have been hectic and a new initiative with yet another major course was also undertaken. This experiment turned out to be a grand success. The response and critical acclaims from the readers of the NIAS NEWS continue to encourage us in our endeavour.

The issue starts with a sad note because of the demise of our esteemed and beloved Chairman Mr. J.R.D. Tata who can very rightly be called the Father of the Institute.



In the passing away of Mr. J.R.D. Tata, on 29 November, 1993, the nation has lost the distinguished doyen of Indian industry, a creator of wealth for the people - who also fostered the concept that wealth should be held in trust for the people - the father of Indian aviation, a staunch nationalist with a great concern for the development of the people of India and an enlightened Institution builder. The National Institute of Advanced Studies is the product of his visionary idea conceived about two decades ago. It was our good fortune that this Institute, which happens to be one of the latest and is now fully functional, received benign guidance from him as Founder and Chairman of the Council of Management since its inception.

On hearing the sad news of his demise, the Director, Members of the Faculty and Staff of the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore, assembled in the Lecture Hall of the Institute at 1.30 P.M. on Monday, November 29, 1993 to condole the passing away of Mr. J.R.D. Tata at Geneva.

Dr. Raja Ramanna, who spoke on the occasion, recalled with deep admiration and affection the rich contributions made by Mr. Tata, and the high responsibilities of office held by him throughout his eventful and distinguished life. The founding of the Institute was one in a succession of many creative initiatives taken by Mr. Tata at regular intervals, in the interest of national development. Dr. Ramanna also made a touching reference to the consistent graciousness, genuine concern and involvement that Mr. Tata showed in all his human relationships - with his professional colleagues and with every one he came into contact with.

The assembly observed a two-minute silence in memory of the departed soul, and the following condolence resolution was passed:

RESOLUTION: "The Director, Members of the Faculty and the Staff of the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore, were deeply grieved to receive the sad news of the passing away of Mr. J.R.D. Tata, respected and beloved Founder of the Institute and Chairman of the Council of the Management. They wish to convey to the members of the bereaved family their heart-felt condolences".

THE FACULTY

1. Prof. R.L. Kapur and Dr. Biswajit Sen are continuing with the project entitled "A Psycho-social Study of Alienation amongst Indian Youth". The questionnaire study involving 700 young people from different parts of the country and both from rural and urban backgrounds dealing with their response to socio-political situation and examining the degree of alienation amongst them, is now complete. The interviews have been progressing and Dr. Biswajit Sen has just returned from Assam after interviewing some young people who took part in militant activities there.

2. Dr. Fathima Nusrat Jehan has joined this project as a Research Associate.

3. Ms. Susmita Subramanyam has taken up a Ph.D. programme under the guidance of Prof. R.L. Kapur to work broadly to examine the psycho-social correlates of excellence.

4. Dr. P.K. Shetty spent a month at Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research, Kalpakkam to prepare a detailed plan of work on Marine Microbial Ecology in the vicinity of a Coastal Power Station.

Future Activities

5. The D.R.D.O. has invited Prof. R.L. Kapur to run a series of workshops on "Stress Management" for the Scientific Officers working with D.R.D.O. in

Bangalore, Delhi and Hyderabad. The first workshop on the subject will be held in Bangalore during 3rd week of February, 1994. The Faculty will include besides Prof. Kapur, Dr. Biswajit Sen and Ms. Susmita Subramanyam.

OTHER ACTIVITIES AT NIAS

1. Workshop on "Teaching Management to Women Managers" from 16 to 23 July, 1993 organised by the Foundation for Research in Health Systems in collaboration with the DSE (German Foundation for International Development) and CHETNA (Centre for Health Education Training and Nutrition Awareness), Ahmedabad.
2. First Course on "An Integrated Approach to Knowledge and Information" for University and College Teachers organised by NIAS with the support of the University Grants Commission and the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research from 4 to 30 October, 1993. A detailed report on this experimental course appears separately in this issue.
3. Workshop on "Research Priorities for the Medicinal Plants Conservation in South India" organised by the Foundation for Revitalisation of Local Health Traditions, Bangalore, between 19 and 21 November, 1993.

4. Consultative meeting on "Indian Medicinal Plants Data- base Network" arranged by the Foundation for Revitalisation of Local Health Traditions, Bangalore - on 11 and 12 December, 1993.
5. **Annual Academic Council Meeting:** The Annual Academic Council Meeting of the year 1993, was held at the Institute on 17 October. The meeting was Chaired by Dr. Raja Ramanna and attended by Prof. R.L. Kapur, Prof. Andre Beteille, Mr. S.T. Baskaran, Prof. N. Mukunda, Mr. K. Subrahmanyam, Mr. R. Ramani, Joint Secretary (Training), Department of Personnel and Training, Government of India and Maj. Gen. M.K. Paul, V.S.M (Retd). The various aspects considered in the meeting were report of the work done so far, various courses to be conducted in the NIAS, the status of the Visiting Professorships and projects undertaken by various faculty members. In particular, it was decided that NIAS should take on the Ford Foundation project to examine the possibility of starting the women's policy and advocacy cell.
6. **Future Activity:** A high level INDO-US Joint Meeting will be held at NIAS on 18 and 19 January, 1994. Deliberation will be on "Technology Transfer and Non- Proliferation". The American team will be headed by Mr. Robert McNamara (Former President of the World Bank and US Secretary of Defence) and the Indian team will be headed by Dr. Raja Ramanna, Director, National Institute of Advanced Studies.

VISITING CHAIRS

HOMI BHABHA CHAIR

Prof. C.V. Sundaram who continues to hold this chair is engaged in a comparative assessment of energy options for bulk electricity generation in India. Apart from this, in the area of Environmental Studies, two programmes are under consideration. The first relates to the study of the impact of thermal pollution on microbial life in ocean environment, during the operation of electric power stations. Dr. P.K. Shetty, who is the principal investigator, has prepared the project proposal, for possible funding by the Board of Research in Nuclear Sciences.

In the other case, a reference has been received from the Hutti Gold Mine Company (near Raichur) for carrying out an Environmental Impact Assessment Study of their gold extraction operations and the accumulation of the tailings dump. The collaboration of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Bombay has been sought in this work.

J.R.D. TATA CHAIR

Prof. M.N. Srinivas is about to finish the editing of the Symposium, "Caste: its Twentieth Century Avatar" to be published by Penguin India in 1994.

He has also continued the work on his autobiography.

SARVEPALLI RADHAKRISHNAN CHAIR

Prof. B.V. Sreekantan has been in the States participating in an X-Ray Astronomy Programme, at MIT, Cambridge. He is due to return by end Dec. 93.

ASSOCIATES

As reported in the earlier issues it is really heartening to note that the Associates Programme as a whole has really been a great success and continues to be so. Besides the lectures on current topics by eminent guest speakers, a decision has been taken to include in the programme other stimulating items such as panel discussions, exhibitions on art and culture and musical concerts etc.

The topics of the Associates programmes during the second half of the year were:-

1. 2 Jul 93 - A Lecture on "Political Development in India's North-East Since Independence" by Prof. Debo Prasad Barooah, Former Vice-Chancellor, Guwahati University and retired Professor of Political Science.
2. 30 Jul 93 - A Lecture on "The Current Political & Economic Situation in India" by Mr. M.D. Nalapat, Resident Editor, The Times of India.
3. 20 Aug 93 - A Lecture on "Technology Transfer and Non- Proliferation" by Dr. Raja Ramanna, Director, NIAS.
4. 24 Sep 93 - A Lecture-demonstration on "Art and Sculpture" by Mr. Balan Nambiar.
5. 27 Oct 93 - A Panel Discussion on "Origins of Vedic Culture". This was chaired by Dr. S.R. Rao, Advisor, Marine Archaeology Centre, National Institute of Oceanography, Donapaula, Goa. Other Participants were Dr. N.S. Rajaram and Dr. Rajesh K Kochhar, Professor, Indian Institute of Astrophysics.
6. 30 Dec 93 - A Lecture on "The Interconnection between microcosm and macrocosm - darkmatter, a case study" by Prof. Ramanath Cowsik, Director, Indian Institute of Astrophysics.

**FIRST COURSE ON
"AN INTEGRATED APPROACH TO
KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMATION" FOR
UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE TEACHERS**

R.L. Kapur
Deputy Director

The idea for holding such a course was first mooted in a conversation between Dr. Raja Ramanna, Director, National Institute of Advanced Studies and Dr. S.K. Khanna, Former Vice-Chairman, University Grants Commission during March 1993. Having successfully conducted seven courses for senior executives in Government and Industry aimed at broadening the participants' mental horizons and improving their decision-making capacities, Dr. Ramanna was very keen that something on similar lines should be started for academicians of Universities and Colleges. As the idea gained strength, the U.G.C. agreed to the programme and the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Indian Institute of Science campus, Bangalore agreed to co-sponsor it along with NIAS. Prof. R.L. Kapur was given the charge of organising the course.

The course was held from 4th to 30th October, 1993. As a result of letters sent by Dr. Raja Ramanna and the U.G.C. to various University and College Principals, more than 350 applications were received. 25 candidates were finally selected from this large number to attend the course. The participants were from different states in the country (Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Arunachal Pradesh, Punjab, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Meghalaya, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Kerala, Tripura and Orissa) and from different disciplines (Analytical Chemistry, Psychology, Pharmacology, Education, Sociology, Anatomy, Nursing, English, Biophysics, Home Science, Geography, Chemistry, Polymer Science & Technology, Hindi, Telugu, Analytical and Applied Economics, Environmental Sciences, Zoology, Physics, Marine Geology, Microbiology and Economics). Out of 25, there were 6 women and 19 men. A series of lectures were delivered on the following topics:

Name of Lecturer	Lecture Theme
Prof. Upendra Baxi	Inaugural Address Title: "Knowledge and Power: Some Interrogations"
Prof. K.N. Panikkar	Historical Roots of Indian Culture
Prof. Andre Beteille	The Indian Society

Mr. K. Subrahmanyam	National and International Politics
Prof. R.K. Kochhar	Development in Indian Science and Technology
Dr. Narendar Pani	Indian Economic Scene
Dr. Biswajit Sen	Psychology of Indian Youth
Dr. Ravi Narayan	Issues in Health Care
Prof. R.L. Kapur	Mental Health
Dr. N. Ravi	Information about AIDS
Prof. C.V. Sundaram	Issues in Environmental Protection

Group discussions were held on the topics of Student Unrest, Drug Addiction, Responsibilities, Rights and Accountability of a Teacher, Multicultural Education, Teaching in Vernacular, Women in India, Selection and Examination Procedures and Relevance of Post-graduate Education. A symposium entitled "Crisis in Undergraduate Education" was organised in which eminent teachers like Dr. H. Narasimhaiah, President, The National Education Society of Karnataka, Bangalore; Prof. Andre Beteille, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi, Mrs. Teresa Bhattacharya, Commissioner and Secretary, Education Department Government of Karnataka, Bangalore; Prof. N. Mukunda, Chairman, Division of Physical and Mathematical Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore; Prof. R. Narasimha, INSA Golden Jubilee Professor, Dept. of Aerospace Engineering, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore and Dr. Om Prakash, Head, Dept. of Medicine, St. Martha's Hospital, Bangalore, took part. While the symposium made an objective analysis of undergraduate teaching, a more subjective analysis was carried out in a workshop entitled "What does Teaching Mean to Me?". A unique feature of the course was the evening talks on "My Life and My Work" given by experts and scholars who are nationally renowned and have made original contributions. These included Dr. Raja Ramanna, Director, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Prof. M.N. Srinivas, the internationally renowned Sociologist, Prof. C.N.R. Rao, Director, Indian Institute of Science and Mr. R.K. Laxman, the well-known cartoonist.

Each lecture module was evaluated by the participants and their opinion was sought on the effectiveness of the module and how to improve it. As it turned out the course was appreciated by all the participants. We can not do better than reproducing the letter written by the participants (signed by all of them and addressed to Prof. G. Ram Reddy, Chariman, U.G.C.). It goes as follows:

Dear Prof. Reddy,

In an academic atmosphere generally marked by cynicism, diffidence and demoralization, we believe that it is important to acknowledge constructive work wherever it is being done.

Allow us to bring to your kind attention the fact that we the participants in the course, "An Integrated Approach to Knowledge and Information" organised by the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore, and co-sponsored by the UGC, have been greatly benefited. Indeed, little did we realise ever since our arrival in Bangalore that for a full month we would be exposed to such an exciting period of lecture, discussion and experimentation with innovative ideas. The course that we have gone through, in our opinion, is one of the most creative and pioneering in the whole country. It has brought together a cross section of outstanding young teachers from different disciplines and different corners of the country. It has also enabled a group of extremely outstanding teachers, activists and men of letters such as Prof. Andre Beteille, Prof. C.N.R. Rao, Prof. K.N. Panikkar, Prof. M.N. Srinivas, and Prof. N. Mukunda, Prof. H. Narasimhaiah and others to interact with us. In the process, it has been possible for us to broaden our mental horizon, learn from the insights of divergent disciplines, and address ourselves to some of the most pressing challenges facing our country, such as Communalism, Science Policy, Social Justice, etc.

We wish to place on record, most of all, the fact that all these activities have been carried out in a congenial and sprawling campus of the National Institute of Advanced Studies with excellent living conditions. We are grateful to Dr. Raja Ramanna, Director of the Institute, Prof. R.L. Kapur, the Course Director and his dedicated team of personnel. Full freedom has been given to us in designing some of the important programmes of this course, such as the many panel discussions we have had over issues like drug abuse, students' unrest, accountability of the teachers and multi-cultural education.

Finally, we would like to thank the University Grants Commission for having come forward to sponsor this course. We are convinced that the UGC ought to recognise Institutes like the NIAS for carrying out such an excellent course in the interest of teachers' training. For us, the participants, the course which we have just concluded will be one of the most memorable ones in our career.

Thanking you, with regards, we remain,

Yours sincerely,

(Sd/- By all the participants of the course)

It is our plan to continue with this course in the coming years and we have already approached the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research and University Grants Commission in this connection.

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND NON-PROLIFERATION

RAJA RAMANNA

In recent times, several divergent social aspects of the world are beginning to disappear at a pace never thought of before. The speed at which integration is taking place is due in no small way, to the many new advances in technology made during this century. Similarly, economic reforms to ensure a basic minimum quality of life to all human beings will contribute to integration. In spite of all this, a sudden change to society is bound to have traumatic effects. National and ethnic issues will continue to play a powerful role. At times, it can appear in very destructive forms as has happened in many parts of the world. There is reason to believe that the forces of nationalism will never truly disappear even though they have their self-destructive phases. It would be difficult to picture a world where everybody thinks and acts alike.

One has, however, to draw the line between, where integration leads to imitation and boredom and where national and historic values continue to remain as sources of inspiration for constructive thought. Coming as I do from an old country, this means a lot to me, perhaps more than what it does to newer countries.

Modern Science and Technology is, no doubt, casting doubts on many ancient human values, but Science and Technology by itself cannot produce new values. It is only the human mind that can do so. Over the centuries the older values have given support, if not towards stability, at least for survival. These cannot be wished away.

In the past, violent social changes have led to revolutions and wars. Now-a-days, they appear in their latest and perhaps worst form as terrorism. Thus, there is a connection between social change, technology and terrorism. It is clear that new values have to come into existence to take into account the interactions between society and technology. We must take special note of the fact that, while mankind has benefited by the progress of technology, it seems that the use of technology in itself, seems to be slipping away from man's control. The most ominous case, where the loss of control has taken place and is threatening humanity, is the case of the unrestricted development of nuclear weapons and their delivery.

The development of nuclear weapons at the speed it was achieved during the World War II, the international cooperation that led to its development and its use in an actual war, is now a matter of history and we shall not deal with it here. It is the

subsequent part of the history that is a matter of concern to all those who believe in values.

Towards the end of World War II, it was believed that only a few countries could develop nuclear weapons and, if only the details of their construction were kept secret, the problem would just disappear. We all know that this could not have happened, otherwise we would not be talking of non-proliferation to-day. The next disastrous step was the "Cold War" which led to unprecedented heights the development of weapons of mass destruction. It would have continued as Star-War threats and the like, but for the sudden end of the Cold War. There are many who believe that it was the availability of weapons of mass destruction which saved Europe from another war and the arguments used are based on the theory of "deterrence". Perhaps the Cold War itself ended on what can be described as "exhaustion" resulting from the arms race. In any case, with the end of the "cold war", arms reduction has become a reality, though not completely or satisfactorily. At the present moment, in spite of the end of the "big" Cold War, there are "cold" and "semi-hot" wars taking place all over the world.....

Now that an ultimate weapon in the form of a nuclear system has been discovered, and it seems that it is not all that difficult to make, as it was made out to be immediately after its use in an actual war, it is but natural that many countries would seriously consider its acquisition. It was not merely as an exercise to maintain one's power but as one necessary for sovereignty and independence. One supposes that a few nuclear weapons would give the required security based on the "deterrence" theory. Such thoughts would be the first reaction for countries with an unsympathetic and sometimes cruel colonial past where they were left with instabilities and animosities in their neighbourhood, fuelled by earlier regimes. Not unexpectedly, this attitude of the erstwhile colonial countries has not been welcomed by those who had previously used the same theory during the Cold War days. There is, however, no doubt that, if nuclear weapons become freely available, it has implications on the security of nations and the very conception of what the world should be in the future, would be in jeopardy.

The reaction of advanced countries to such implications was the formation of an International body under the auspices of the United Nations to supervise diversion of nuclear material towards the making of nuclear weapons, given or sold for peaceful purposes. Supervision means search and, while the advanced countries feel self-righteous about it and have had no second thought in applying it to sovereign developing countries, they would think of no such thing for themselves. Three divisions

have come into existence in this context : one for developing countries, another based on ethnicity for Europe, who have planned their own inspection system and the third for the five countries who were the victors of the World War II, and were totally exempt from all international supervision and control. They had a special "N.P.T." created for themselves which permitted them proliferation ad-lib. It only meant that they would not supply any nuclear or allied material to those who had not signed on the dotted line, but made an appearance as though they had signed an equitable N.P.T. When the discriminative nature of the treaty was pointed out, I have seen references to countries who are against discrimination, described as "rogue" countries. Such is the contempt for those who have suffered colonial occupation and who do not want it to happen again. The embargo on nuclear materials is already in operation and there is reason to believe that this embargo selective of countries will continue, especially on technological matters. Supervision and control of weapon fissile material produced from fuel material supplied by others make sense, but to include all fuel and all types of engineering materials and equipment, seems to go beyond sovereignty and international trade. It also means the creation of a world with permanent inequalities leading to frightful consequences. It immediately follows that nuclear options becomes inevitable in the maintenance of sovereignty as a reaction to a return to new forms of colonialism.

Immediately after gaining Independence India believed that after the "Second War to end all wars" had taken place, no country would attack another on some flimsy reason of merely teaching one a lesson. India in the earlier years after independence was moving to some kind of disarmament under the strong influence of Gandhi and nearly 2,300 years earlier of Ashoka. Her experience unfortunately has been a sad one and we have now had to resort to arms in a big way. From these recent and past experiences, we know that a weak defence system always attracts bullying, proselytisation and economic controls. The situation in spirit is not very different from what it was like at the beginning of the century. The differences are that some countries which were despised in the past have become technological countries whose strength cannot be overlooked and one day may ask for a piece of the new colonial cake. There are others, like India which with its complex problems comes somewhere in between. It has survived tremendous pressures in the past to maintain its own culture and integrity though, because of its lack of defence preparedness, it lost on the political front at various stages of its history. There are others fully under the grip of the economic difficulties and are lost in problems of internal

stability. They will take some time to have a viable independent policy. It makes them easy targets for further exploitation, one of them being signing agreements whose purpose they do not fully understand.....

Technological progress in the developing countries is as important as that in the developed countries. In the coming century, it will be very difficult for the world to bear big economic differences between countries. If technology is contributed in a way that the developing country can also make its contribution not only for its own economy, but in such a way that the world can also benefit, economic stability can be assured. Developing countries cannot survive only by exporting Tea, Coffee, Granite and other such elementary materials. They should be brought to a level, if not to the same level as the developed countries, at least to some critical level, with which they can use and contribute to the technology in some specialized aspects of interest to world trade. This cannot happen if there is a large difference between technological strength of the two sets of countries. If they are sufficiently close, by making use of every other, there is a possibility of increasing the wealth of all countries.

This has been the Indian view right from the beginning and if there is a movement in the U.S. for the banning of nuclear weapons, I am sure most of us would join the movement and it may even be possible that other countries who may refuse to co-operate initially may eventually join, when they know that the initiative is from the U.S. I have come here to plead for that movement. We all know that it is comparatively easy to give assurance of denouncing nuclear weapons and support wide diffusion of knowledge and technology for the benefit of mankind. The most difficult aspect of this human approach is to create systems where terrorism does not prosper because of poor implementation and inspection systems, political duplicity and nationalistic jealousies. Scientists and Technologists all over the world must find solutions to check proliferation immediately prior to the banning of nuclear weapons. They must also put an end to commercial secrecy and a new patent system will have to be evolved. The whole exercise of banning weapons and checking will be futile if it gets mixed up with ethnicity and other differences between man and man. It is here that the United Nations could give a lead in a big way in implementing the great possibility of a world without nuclear weapons and a high technological base for the entire world.

(This is an Extract from Dr. Raja Ramanna's address delivered at the Seminar on

"Non-Proliferation and Technology Transfer" at the Pennsylvania University, USA on 5th Oct 93).

THE HEART HAS ITS REASONS

M N SRINIVAS

Westerners generally regard themselves as "rational" in their life and thought, and along with this belief, there exists the feeling, not always articulated, that others are not. A more recent avatar of this dichotomy is found in the distinction between modernity and tradition. It is not my intention here to go into the truth or falsity of this distinction but accept it for the moment as true, and then proceed to show that at least in one most important area of life, viz., the choice of spouse, modern Western cultures have outlawed rationality while India - and several other non-Western cultures - regard it as the one area calling for the cool calculation of advantages and disadvantages.

"Love" is the dominant criterion in the choice of spouse in the West, and it is admittedly non-rational if not irrational, and often explosive in its impact -- If I remember right, Plato called it 'divine madness' -- and anarchic in its consequences. But then love is the right, the only proper, basis for marriage, and calculation in the choice of partner, is *infra dig* if not worse.

In contrast, among such traditional groups in India as the rural, landowning, high castes and urban traders, marriage is one of the vital areas where rationality should reign supreme, unhindered by emotional considerations. However, the pressure for making a rational calculus is far greater on the girl's parents than on the boy's, for, traditionally, while the husband could set aside the wife even for flimsy reasons, the wife could not. This was especially true of the 'higher' groups.

Such choice has to be exercised, however, within the framework of certain customary rules. First of all, the spouse has to be from the same sub-caste, and preferably very young. And in India south of the Vindhyas, cross cousins were the first choice as spouses. Also, among groups, a man had a right to marry an elder sister's daughter.

While sub-caste endogamy ensured cultural compatibility if not homogeneity, kin marriages helped to minimise mother-in-law daughter-in-law conflict, a vital consideration in traditional marriage. In other words, both the customary criteria were part of the calculus of choice. But even here, if a choice was possible and beneficial it was exercised: Thus a father's sister's daughter was preferred to a mother's

brother's daughter, if the father's sister's husband was richer, or his wife a pleasanter person.

Way back in the 1930s, I heard a conversation in a train, between two men, obviously relatives, in which the bride's father was advised that it was better to "book" the boy whose father was asking a dowry of Rs. 1000/- in preference to another asking Rs. 800/-. The advisor added that the former was a better investment. (A thousand rupees was a lot of money in those days).

Romantic love is indeed an ancient idea, but making it the basis of marriage is a fairly recent Western idea, popularised by novelists such as Sir Walter Scott in the 19th century and his numerous successors today. Indeed, churning out romantic stories is now big business. And in recent years the films and TV, not to mention popular magazines, have spread the idea of romantic love all over the world.

However, the idea that marriages should be based on love, is only an ideal even in the West. As a matter of actual fact, calculations of material advantages do enter into 'romantic' alliances, but their existence is either not given any importance or totally ignored. Further, the fact that these marriages occur within known cultural and social boundaries also tends to be ignored. Thus religion, sect, ethnicity, language and region are all significant as background factors. When "love" crosses these hurdles, it causes a stir. Usually, however, love occurs within these boundaries.

Non-Western societies have also changed in the post-colonial years, and this is particularly true of the middle class in India. In the first place, the middle class has increased considerably in size, and this trend is likely to continue. The modernization of the middle class has resulted in the widening of the "endogamous field" as a result of redefined caste. Sub-caste barriers are falling, as far as marriage is concerned, particularly among the high and dominant castes. Class and life-style have become more important, occasionally resulting in young men and women finding partners outside caste. And more rarely, outside region, language, and even religion. Also no sensible middle class parents would ignore their son's or daughter's preference in the matter of choosing a spouse. In the higher levels of the middle class, young men and women increasingly tend to choose their own partners. And let it be remembered that the middle class provides models for emulation by those below them.

Finally, it needs to be mentioned here that marriage itself is coming under a cloud in the West. Apart from the greatly increased frequency of

divorce, and the consequent emergence of a significant proportion of single-parent households, there is a growing tendency for young men and women to live together without going through the formality of a wedding. Such unions seem to have been tacitly accepted by society. If the son who has married a daughter formally is a 'son-in-law' the male partner of the 'unwed' daughter is jocularly referred to as 'son-outlaw'. In other words, the 'outlaw' is in.

Does all this portend the disappearance of the nuclear family in the West? My own feeling is that it is really premature to write the family off. There are already signs of a reaction against permissiveness, and this may grow in strength in the near future. That this may bring some unpleasant things in its train, is also not unlikely. At the present moment, however, the family is at its nadir in the West, and the institution of marriage itself is under threat.

LIBERALISATION AND GROWTH

J. MOHAN RAO

Will the programme of market liberalisation deliver on its promise of a new era of high economic growth? In contemplating this question, it is instructive to take the long view not merely to avoid what statisticians call Type I error - incorrectly rejecting a valid proposition - that may arise from dwelling on the current and prospective problems of the transition to a liberal regime. The long view may also help in avoiding Type II error - falsely accepting a bad idea - that may be incurred from painting a bleak retrospective picture of planned growth since Independence. Clearly, we are recommending a very long view to aid our crystal-balling efforts!

Economic wisdom and economic performance appear to shift cyclically. It is not unfair to suggest that the friends of market-friendly policies rest their case on the none-too-flattering record of post-Independence economic growth guided by the heavy hand of the state. But including the first 47 years of this century together with the succeeding 47 years presents a different picture. The first half was spent under the colonial yoke and under a state policy of *laissez faire* to achieve a per capita annual income growth rate of between minus 0.22% and plus 0.26%; the second half in freedom and a *dirigiste* economic policy to achieve a per capita annual income growth rate of 1.57%. Between the two periods, the Indian economy went from being largely exposed to world trade to being largely sheltered from it. Just as many today decry the export pessimism and missed opportunities of the post-Independence regime, the framers of the

Bombay Plan (1944), the National Planning Committee reports (1938) and of post-independence industrial policy resolutions condemned the colonial state's failure to provide resources and policies to develop infrastructure, education, industry or agriculture.

One broad lesson to draw from our experience is that while an activist state is essential to create structural conditions for economic growth, the quality of state interventions also matters a great deal. Some have seen this as a purely technical issue arguing, for example, that fixed rules are superior to administrative discretion and that tax/subsidy or market-friendly interventions are to be preferred to quantitative restrictions. But such generalisations may be misplaced. Thus, it is hard to envisage the South Korean state making strategic choices in industrial development and rewarding/disciplining businesses in implementing those choices by acting within rules and without discretion! Conversely, even 'fixed' rules may be subverted in the way in which multiple rules interact and, more importantly, are implemented or enforced. Even on the narrower question of price versus quantity rationing, the distinction may be without much difference.

More generally, where the choice of policy instruments itself shapes the content of policy, the choice cannot be a purely technical one. The quality of state interventions depends on the grand political compromises, conflicts or consensus that a society inherits or manages to build up. While it is quite possible that no society is free to choose the sort of state that it will have, there is no use pretending that this is decided by the choice of instruments on technical grounds. This perspective should help us in focussing on a relevant reform agenda. We take up just three items for comment.

Consider agriculture where the heavy hand of direct regulation has been all but absent. In fact, the state has played a powerful role facilitating and promoting agricultural growth; through irrigation investments, agricultural research, incentive prices, directed credit and a wide array of input subsidies. Even if the water, fertilizer and energy subsidies are somehow scaled down (and surplus farmers compelled to absorb the cuts), the state's promotional role appears to be irreplaceable. Indeed, it would seem that with growing environmental and agro-management problems of the fragile arid regions, this will have to be strongly supplemented with a protective role. Thus in this important sector, it is less a question of state *versus* market than a question of appropriate managerial and pricing reforms *within* the state machinery in place. Unless the politics of pricing and the economics of decentralization are wisely resolved, neither the

economics of pricing nor the politics of decentralization will find 'efficient' alternative solutions.

Investments in hard infrastructure such as power, transport, communications and irrigation, and soft infrastructure such as education, research and health are known to be strongly complementary to productive investments in plant, equipment and land. Cutbacks in public investment have been advocated, in the first instance as a measure of austerity but in the final analysis as a way of getting the state out of direct involvement in production. This is based on the twin assumptions that privatisation in these areas is feasible and that market discipline would work far better under private ownership than under public. In many circumstances, however, these assumptions do not hold. Under conditions of natural monopoly or pure public goods, exposure to 'market discipline' is neither feasible nor desirable. The same holds true in areas with substantial externalities in production or consumption whose regulation through fiscal means alone is rendered difficult due to distributional or other constraints. Public regulations will necessarily be politicized because the benefits to be captured are large and distributive conflicts, in the context of large inequalities and a high incidence of poverty, will not be contained by the 'market'.

Hence, the compelling demands (for both growth and equity) to expand and strengthen the physical and social infrastructure sectors cannot be adequately met by simple formulas of privatisation and market discipline. Fiscal reforms need to be market-friendly without undermining the need for public resources to tackle this critical area. The regulatory apparatus in particular will need to be strengthened, not weakened, so that both efficiency and equity criteria can be simultaneously pursued.

A final area where we must not entertain unsustainable expectations is international competitiveness. The growth gains from resource re-allocations following external liberalization are well known to be minor at best. Major gains are predicted by those who believe that external exposure will speed up technological progress, continuous cost-cutting and quality improvement. However congenial such arguments may appear to be to 'common sense', economic theory provides no warrant for such an expectation: profit-seeking firms will cut costs and improve quality whatever the market environment, provided they have the technical means. But for self-sustaining development, technology imports must be self-liquidating. While trade liberalization in a low-wage economy may allow a nation temporary advantage in winning entry into tight export markets, it is improbable that

dynamic gains in productivity, especially in high-value-added products, will be secured by this route.

Rather, long-run **competitive advantage** is based on the build-up of organizational and technological capabilities. Past experience suggests that the most important lacuna of our public and private sectors has been their weak ability to institutionalize technological learning and improvement. Indian industry, its entrepreneurs and managers, evinced little interest in technology other than as a commodity to be bought. Faith in the magic of market forces will do little to alter this. It requires a new social compact involving the state, enterprises, labor and the academic community to cooperatively build up institutions committed to continuous and cumulative improvement in skills, technologies and product quality.

(Prof. J. Mohan Rao, a Visiting Associate of NIAS during 1993-94, is a professor of economics at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, USA).

WHAT IS GOOD CINEMA ?

S.T. BASKARAN

When I was speaking at a college on cinema, a lecturer asked me why one should bother much about cinema? After a hard days work one would like an entertaining film. I agreed with him but pointed out that entertainment need not be escapist. The lecturer represent a typical attitude to cinema. While we are ready to accept that one needs training and discipline to appreciate music and dance, when it comes to cinema we shift gears. A case of elitist apathy.

Good cinema has certain basic criteria, but they are not rigid and definite. If one is familiar with these norms one would be able to recognize good cinema. Before we try to answer the question what is good cinema? there is a preliminary question to be tackled. What is not cinema? In the film culture that surrounds us now, this is crucial.

Cinema is not photographed drama. In India, it was the drama companies that took to film-making first and so our cinema was under their influence for long. One of the most contemptuous statements a critic can make is to call a film 'theatrical'. Theatre and cinema are two different media and have different relationship to the audience. In a play, an event is enacted. In a film the event that is supposed to have taken place is recaptured in all its physical reality. When a film shows characteristics of stage, you can easily spot them. The characters will enter from the side of the frame ...as in a stage.

They would deliver their lines and go back. They will not modulate their voices. Middle shots will dominate the film. The shots will be frontal ... that is the characters will be facing the audience most of the time. The sound track will be filled with music, like the pit orchestra in a drama hall.

Cinema is not photographed variety entertainment either. If there are sequences in a film that are irrelevant to its central theme, then that will acquire the features of a variety entertainment programme.

Cinema is not verbal narration. If it were, you could merely listen to it on a tape. Let me give you an example of good visual narration. In the film **Gandhi**, there is a sequence in which Gandhi gets into a river and notices a woman, a few yards downstream, washing the sari she is wearing. Gandhi lets his shawl float and she takes it. Not a word is spoken and the only sound you hears is the rustle of water. The man's compassion and the woman's gratitude are shown in a series of stunning visuals.

Each art form has certain unique properties. When these are used well, then that particular art form blossoms there. Take painting for example. Made of lines, forms and colours. Music is made of harmonious tones and rhythm. If one is to describe the essential property of cinema it is cinematic language.

This language has three basic features. First ...It is primarily visual. Try to recall the opening shots of **The Bridge on the river Kwai**. Through shots of soldiers in rags and close-up of bleeding feet, the plight of those prisoners of war is crisply told. The second feature is the use of sound to support the visuals. Here it can be spoken words, music, or environmental noises.

The third feature is editing, by which the visual and sound fragments are woven into a meaningful sequence. The method of joining these separate shots form the grammar and syntax of the language of cinema. A cut (actually a joint), a dissolve in which one scene overlaps the other while changing, fade-in and fade-out where the screen goes dark and the next scene slowly appears, form the comma, full-stop and para of this language. In a famous sequence in **Pather Panchali** Satyajit Ray shows the change of seasons in a series of dissolves.

You might complain that I am talking technically, about shots and editing. We talk about painting in terms of lines and colours. If we discuss a photograph, we talk of composition and exposure. Each art form has to be discussed on its own terms. Of all the art forms, cinema is out and out a product

of technology. One has to talk in terms of these techniques only.

In fact, the language of cinema consists of a series of technical decisionscamera positions, lenses to be used and lighting. This language follows the logic of our mind. Let me illustrate this. You see a man coming at a distance. In a film this will be shown in long shot. You recognize him as your friend as he comes closer. That would be a middle shot. When he is very near, you notice that he has a plaster on his chin ... probably cut himself while shaving. A close-up! In a film this will be told in three quick shots. In sound also it is the same principle. You hear a distant cry. When it gets closer you recognize your child's voice. When very near, the child tells you that she had a fall and hurt her knee. This is how the mind gets the meaning out of the sounds that reach us.

When a film maker uses this language of cinema effectively, there good cinema blossoms. When he moves away from this language and uses verbal narration as a crutch for his story-telling, then it ceases to be cinema. The scope and use of cinematic language is vast and technology is providing new tools. The loneliness of a man can be shown by a overhead shot. Remember Dustin Hoffman walking out of the court in **Kramer VS Kramer**, after losing the custody of his child? The evil in a man can be underlined by low-angle lighting. Then there is the use of symbols which enriches the language of cinema. In the film **Aparajitho**, a flight of pigeons is used as a symbol of soul leaving the body, when Apu's father died. In Bergman's **Wild Strawberries**, the car of the quarrelsome couple breaks down and both try to push it along the road. The car here is used as a symbol of their broken marriage.

Earlier, I gave the example of how a man coming down the road will be shown in a film. That is a very simple use of cinematic language. Each film-maker, according to his creative ability would use this language. I may look at the sunset and say 'the sun is setting'. But when a poet sees it, he says 'Now fades the glimmering landscape on sight'. Both talk of the same phenomenon. But how differently!

The language of cinema is not anything difficult to get accustomed to. A little effort is called for. When we are not familiar with the nature of cinema, we merely react to a film. We say 'I do not like this film so it is a bad film'. We have to separate what a film actually is from what we feel about it. Then our cinematic experiences will be deeper, not escapist. And as movie-goers our cultural ambitions also will be justifiably elevated.

(Mr. Baskaran is a Senior Associate of our Institute who attended the first NIAS Course. At present he is Chief Post Master General based at Ahmedabad.)

GUEST SPEAKER

International and National Politics by Mr. K. Subrahmanyam, Former Director, Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses and Consulting Editor (Foreign Affairs), The Economic Times.

With the end of the cold war, the era that was ushered in by Yalta and Postdam conferences by the victors of the Second War has ended. Unlike in 1815, 1919 and 1945 the end of the Cold War did not signify a military victory and consequently there is no imposition of an international order by the victors. The collapse of the bipolar international system did not usher in a unipolar world. While one major power suffered an internal collapse the other major power has been significantly weakened in relation to the rest of the major nations of the world. Japan and Germany the two countries defeated in the Second World War have emerged as second and third strongest powers of the world. Decolonisation has been completed and the entire globe is covered with states, members of the United Nations. Resources of former colonies are today available in the market and are not under exclusive control of the European powers. Stalinist-Maoist Communist ideology has collapsed. The transportation and communication revolutions have shrunk the globe resulting in increasing economic, political and social integration.

The nature of war has changed. It is recognised that nuclear war cannot be won and therefore should not be fought. Consequently the nuclear weapons have lost a great part of their significance, but not entirely, in their role as international currency of power. For the first time in history two blocs of nations armed to their teeth with capability to destroy human civilisation several times over agreed, without fighting a war, to cut back their forces by half. It is also generally accepted that among the developed nations even conventional wars are no longer viable instrument of politics since wars are so destructive and are not commensurate with any possible military, political, economic or other objectives. Hence most of the industrialised nations are reducing their defence expenditures.

Political consciousness of populations all over the world has developed to an extent that, except in cases of states with very small populations, occupation of a country by another has become costlier than invading it. Keeping alien populations under subjugation has become cost ineffective. This is the lesson of Vietnam, Afghanistan and Israeli

occupation of West Bank. The populations and legislatures of developed nations are not willing to accept casualties for intervention operations in the developing world in the absence of a sense of global ideological threat, as evidenced in Bosnia, Somalia, Angola and elsewhere. The Gulf war was a war of interests for the Western nations and is not likely to be a repeatable event.

However, intrastate wars because of rise of ethnonationalism have increased. The international norm which favoured the unity of large composite nations is no longer there. The breakdown of the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia and Ethiopia and the emergence of mini and micro states as members of the UN have unleashed new forces of fragmentation all over the world. That threatens the consolidation of the developing states, especially those whose boundaries were inherited from the colonial dispensation with populations of an ethnicity divided among two or more states. The policies pursued by the major powers during the cold war era have led to the spread of infantry weapons all over the world. Narcotics trafficking has become a convenient source of raising resources to finance low intensity conflicts. The high fire power of man portable weapons has made it easier for individuals to wage war against the society. All these factors have resulted in a number of intrastate and transborder conflicts in the developing world. Ethnonationalism, international terrorism and narcotics related terrorism together have become the primary threat to international security. These threats cannot be tackled through individual efforts of nations and need an international consensus and collective effort.

In the light of these developments the role of the United Nations, augmentation of its peacekeeping and peace enforcement capabilities and democratisation and broadbasing of its decision making structure, the Security Council and its accountability have become major issues.

Today, the power of a nation is rated in terms of its economic and technological capabilities, in the light of military power losing its significance in the post cold war era. Geo- economics has replaced Geo-politics as the primary thrust in international relations. Industrialised nations have also found it advantageous to have larger markets by forming trading blocs. The world has today two blocs with the possibility of a third developing - - the European union, the North American Free trade zone and the East Asian nations which are attempting to form an Asian Pacific bloc.

Even if the international trade regime now being negotiated under GATT (General Agreement on

Trade and Tariffs) comes into being, possibilities of conflicts and competitions among the major industrial conglomerates cannot be ruled out. That is not likely to escalate into a military conflict, yet it would ensure the world does not become unipolar or bipolar in terms of a North-South divide.

Simultaneously with the end of the cold war and the collapse of the Socialist system on the Stalinist-Maoist model, India is also undergoing very radical changes. The economic liberalisation heralds this change. In the last twenty five years the centralised planning in India lent itself to the ruling party making money through license permit quota raj for sustaining the party and winning the elections. As now revealed in Italy and Japan, the politics in the country got entangled in black money generation and organised crime. This was reflected in the calibre of the legislators elected and the quality of governance in the country. Administration and Judiciary have deteriorated in performance and quality. There has been progressive centralisation of authority in the hand of nodal points of leadership slowing down the performance of administration at all levels. Parties are run with money and muscle power and elections too are won through such instrumentalities. There is very heavy emphasis on vote banks and hence political compromises on the basis of caste and communal considerations have become the order of the day. Political corruption has exacerbated the administrative corruption. Credibility in administrative fairness, rule of law and the judicial system has been heavily eroded. Various kinds of parochialisms are eating into the vitals of nationhood.

Most of these problems are attributable to the nature of the process of acquiring political power in India. While the universal adult franchise is absolutely essential to sustain the democratic system and has to be continued, the process of election through first past the post system and not valuing the right of rejection of candidates in the elections - which are responsible for the present situation - need to be reviewed and the present electoral processes have to be radically overhauled if the politics of the country is to be cleansed of corruption and nexus to organised crime. By making it compulsory to have a minimum percentage of a constituency to vote to make an election legitimate (some 60 percent minimum), prescribing 50 percent plus of votes polled as requirement for election, with run-off elections when necessary and permitting people to vote against candidates and disqualifying all those who are rejected by 50 percent of voters and the state financing the elections it is possible to clean up the electoral process. The present ruling elite has a vested interest in the present corrupt electoral practices.

There has to be a mass campaign to reform the electoral process as has happened in Italy and Japan.

There is widespread demand in the country for increased devolution of powers to various levels. While the central government has passed the Panchayati legislation to devolve power from the State capital to the districts, panchayat samitis and Panchayats, the centre itself has not initiated any moves to devolve more powers from centre to the states. The very modest proposals of the Sarkaria Commission are yet to be implemented. Delegation of powers to lower levels depends upon the confidence of leaderships at different levels and their competence to play an effective role at the levels where the leaders are. A lack of competence compels people to prefer to do the work at lower level which alone they are capable of doing and hence their reluctance to delegate. The centralisation of authority and inadequate delegation reflect on the calibre of leadership the country has elected.

A number of states in India are too unwieldy and large to be effectively governed. There is a good case for India to be a union of some fifty states. While the States Reorganisation was a farsighted reform and has saved the country from a lot of tension it was not taken to its logical conclusion. The larger the number of states more difficult it will be for a central leadership to try to run them all from Delhi. There will also be wider spread of developmental benefits with a larger number of states.

LECTURES/ADDRESSES/PRESENTATIONS/ PUBLICATIONS BY FACULTY MEMBERS (01 JULY, 1993 - 31 DECEMBER, 1993)

DR. RAJA RAMANNA, DIRECTOR

- 01 Lecture on "Structure of Music" at Indian Institute of Science, Materials Research Laboratories Auditorium, Bangalore under the auspices of 'LOOKING AROUND', on 29 July, 1993.
- 02 Lecture on "Science and Structure of Music" at the National College, Bangalore, on 31 July, 1993
- 03 Lecture on "Technology Transfer and Non-Proliferation" at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, on 20 August, 1993
- 04 Chaired a Module "What Management Institutes are Doing/can do to prepare the Asian Manager" at the Seminar entitled "In Search of the Asian Manager: Preparing to compete in the 21st Century" organised by Asian Institute of Management, Manila and ITC, Calcutta, in Bangalore, on 21 August, 1993
- 05 Inaugural Address on "Causality in Physics and Philosophy", at a Seminar jointly organised by FAMTSIT and SN Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences, Calcutta, on 27 August, 1993
- 06 Key Note address on "Science Engineering and Industry" at the Symposium organised by M S Ramaiah Institute of Technology, Bangalore, on 21 September, 1993
- 07 After-Dinner Talk on "Technology Transfer and Non- Proliferation" delivered at the Seminar on "Non- Proliferation and Technology Transfer" at the Pennsylvania University, USA, on 5 October, 1993
- 08 Presided over at the National Seminar on "Science, Religion and Swami Vivekananda" organised by the Ramakrishna Mission, New Delhi, on 15 October, 1993
- 09 Lecture on "Originality in Research" to the participants of the first NIAS Course on "An Integrated Approach to Knowledge and Information" to the University/College teachers at National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore, on 19 October, 1993
- 10 Convention Address on "Self-Reliance and Technology Transfer" at the Annual Convention of the Assam Regional Branch of the Indian Institute of Public Administration, Guwahati, on 9 November, 1993
- 11 Kamal Kumari Memorial Inaugural Lecture on "Science as an instrument of integration", organised by the Kamal Kumari Foundation, Guwahati, on 10 November, 1993
- 12 Inaugural address to the participants at the Workshop on "Research Priorities for the Medicinal Plants Conservation in South India" organised by Foundation for Revitalisation of Local Health Traditions at National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore, on 19 November, 1993
- 13 Participated in the "National Debate on Education" organised by the Maharashtra Institute of Technology, at the Gateway Hotel on Residency, Bangalore, on 21 November, 1993
- 14 Karnataka Rajyotsava Lecture on "Technology Transfer" at the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Bangalore organised by the Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore, on 26 November, 1993
- 15 Laid the Foundation Stone for the New Campus of Siddaganga Polytechnic, Tumkur, on 2 December, 1993

- 16 Inauguration of a Seminar on "Doing Business in Emerging Borderless World" organised by Jadavpur University Alumni Association on 14 December, 1993
- 17 Inaugural address at the International Conference on "Aerospace & Aviation - Growth and Prospects in South Asia", Bangalore, on 15 December, 1993
- 18 Participated in the 2-Day Symposium on "Frontiers in Chemistry" organised in honour of Prof. CNR Rao, Director, Indian Institute of Science, at JN Tata Auditorium, on 17 December, 1993

B) PUBLICATION

- 01 Book entitled "The Structure of Music in Raga and Western Systems" (1993) by the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Bombay
- 02 Paper on "Concept of discreteness, continuity and the Cantor continuum theory as related to the life-time and masses of elementary particles" in the Current Science, Vol 65, No.6, September, 1993

C) UNDER-PUBLICATION

Paper on "Causality, Cardinality and Conditioned Reality" by the forthcoming occasional paper in the Project of History of Indian Science, Philosophy and Culture, Calcutta

PROF. R.L. KAPUR, DEPUTY DIRECTOR

1. Lecture on "Creativity in Science and Arts" as part of Colloquium series organised by the Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bangalore, on 27 July, 1993.
2. Lecture on "Women and Mental Health" with special reference to the Indian situation during the Workshop on "Gender Sensitisation" organised by Bangalore Consultancy Office of NOVIB (Netherlands Organisation for International Development Co-operation) between 21 and 23 July, 1993.
3. Participated in the Symposium on "Schizophrenia & its Many Facets" and Chaired the session on "Working with the Schizophrenic Families" organised by the Richmond Fellowship Society (India), Bangalore, on 10 September, 1993.
4. Lecture on "Yoga" for Study Group of Manglika Study Group on 7th September, 1993.
5. Inaugural address in the programme entitled "Drug Addiction and Alcoholism" organised

by Ecumenical Christian Centre, Bangalore, in September, 1993.

6. Oration on "Community Care of the Mentally Ill" at the Indian Psychiatric Society Karnataka Annual Meeting at Shimoga on 12 September, 1993.

PROF. C.V. SUNDARAM, HOMI BHABHA VISITING PROFESSOR

1. Lecture on "Nuclear Materials Development in India - some case studies" at the Engineers India Ltd. R & D Centre, New Delhi on September 20, 1993.
2. Two lectures on "Issues in Environmental Protection" - in the NIAS course for University and College teachers, on October 25 and 26, 1993.
3. Lecture on "Technology Negotiations" at the course organised for Indian Foreign Service Officers, Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore on November 12, 1993.
4. Lecture on "Self Reliance in the Indian Atomic Energy programme - the vision and strategy of Dr. Homi Bhabha" at the College of Communication and Management, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Bangalore on November 22, 1993.
5. Lecture on "The Importance and Urgency of Environmental Conservation" at the Inauguration of OASES, (Organisation for Awareness of Sound Environmental Survival", Environmental Science Course, Bangalore University, Jnana Bharati, on November 23, 1993.
6. Keynote Address at the Seminar on "Study of Environmental Sciences - Use of Remote Sensing and other techniques", Department of Physics, Sri. Krishnadevaraya University, Ananthapur, on December 10, 1993.

B. PUBLICATIONS:

1. 'On Remembering Gandhi' - Published in the Sunday Magazine section of The Hindu, Madras (October 3, 1993)
2. Review of the book 'The Golem' (What Everyone should know about Science), for the Indian Review of Books, Madras.

PROF. M.N. SRINIVAS, J.R.D. TATA VISITING PROFESSOR

1. Lecture on "My Life and Work", at NIAS course for University and College teachers on 7 October, 1993.

2. Discussion with IAS Officers on "Changing Values in India" at Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore on 3 December, 1993.
3. Inaugural Address to the "Round Table on Poverty Reduction Policies and Strategies" at the Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore on 6 December, 1993.
4. Inaugural Address to the XXth All-India Sociological Conference at Mangalore on 29 December 1993.

B. RESEARCH PAPERS:

1. "Sociology in Delhi" to be published in The Delhi School of Economics edited by Professors Dharma Kumar and Dilip Mukherjee, Oxford University Press, New Delhi.
2. "Culture and Development" to be published in Narmadeshwar Prasad Commemoration Volume, edited by Dr. Bindeshwar Pathek, Patna.

C. PUBLICATIONS:

1. Foreword to The People of India, An Introduction, Dr. K.S. Singh, Anthropological Survey of India, Calcutta, 1992.
2. Foreword to From Tradition to Modernity, A Century of Living, Kalyanasundaram Sitaram, Bangalore.

DR. BISWAJIT SEN, FELLOW

1. Two lecturers on "Psychology of Indian Youth" to teachers of Engineering at C.E.D.T., Indian Institute of Science.

B. PUBLICATION:

1. Prepared a paper for publication entitled "Depression and Dysfunctional Uterine Bleeding".
2. Ph. D thesis nearing completion, title "Emotional Disorder in the Community".

INFRA-STRUCTURAL BUILD-UP

On completion of Phase-II of NIAS project, we have been able to commence work on the Auditorium of capacity 300. The foundation work is in progress since first week of December 1993.

EIGHTH NIAS COURSE ON "AN INTEGRATED APPROACH TO KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMATION"

This course which is an important annual feature will be held between 10 January and 5

February, 1994. The course is already over subscribed.

HONOURS AND AWARDS

Prof. R.L. Kapur has been honoured with the "Eminent Psychiatrist Award" for the year 1992-93 by the Indian Psychiatric Society, Karnataka branch. This award was presented at the Inaugural Function of 3rd Annual Conference of Indian Psychiatric Society Karnataka at Shimoga on 12 September, 1993.

NIAS LIBRARY

The Library has increased its list of journals considerably since the last newsletter came out. The new additions include Ecologist, Facts Against Myths, India Magazine, Lancet, Man, Manushi, Marg, New India Digest, Sruti and Journal of Transcultural Psychiatric Research Review. In addition, we have been able to add a large number of books to our collection.

It has been decided to extend the facilities of lending books to Associates living in Bangalore, commencing from February 1994.

A Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor

At a time when we are all perplexed, and are wondering a la T.S. Eliot, "Where is the wisdom we have lost in knowledge? Where is the knowledge we have lost in information?", a course on "An Integrated Approach to Knowledge and Information" could not have been more appropriately timed.

It has been a wonderful experience to be a participant of this course, organised by the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore. NIAS has done a commendable job in providing an opportunity for round the clock interaction among teachers of various disciplines from different parts of the country. For me particularly it has been an unique opportunity indeed. Because for someone staying at Agartala, in a faraway corner of the north-eastern part of the country, it is very rarely that one finds such a scope of meeting very different people from different corners of the country, staying together, exploring and experiencing the unifying force that binds all of us into an intellectual community. The most important aspect of this one month stay was the assertion of the importance of promoting a "culture of toleration of honest differences of opinion in civil society".

For me it has been an enriching experience to be able to interact with reputed scholars of various subjects in and outside the lecture hall. I must acknowledge that after these

interactions, I am now able to look at some issues of national importance with greater clarity of perception.

The Group-Discussion Sessions on various issues came out with many concrete proposals which may be the basis for thinking afresh. This course on "An Integrated Approach to Knowledge and Information" very rightly attempted national integration when it provided a forum for group discussion on the "Problems of North-East" - a region so full of diversity and colour but hardly known to people in other parts of the country. It was pointed out that the general perception that the North-East constitutes a culturally homogenous unit is not at all correct. Such misconceptions arise because the whole region remains almost isolated from rest of India due to inadequate communication system. Even after forty five years of Independence, there has hardly been any serious co-ordinated attempt at the national level to look after the

problems faced by people of North-East. The crucial issue of conflicting goals of national integration and economic development on one hand and preservation of cultural identity of the indigenous people on the other, needs to be debated in greater depth, and this process has already been initiated through NIAS.

Finally, one must admit that the informations that were transmitted outside the classroom during informal discussions and almost non-stop chats among the participants were no less important than the formal classroom lectures. Knowing people in itself is enriching and is it not simply overwhelming to know that in every corner of this country I now have a friend and a home in Bangalore at NIAS!

PARAMITA SAHA

*The NIAS wishes its readers
a Very Happy and Prosperous
New Year*