

# NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDIES

Bangalore, India



Cutting Edge Research

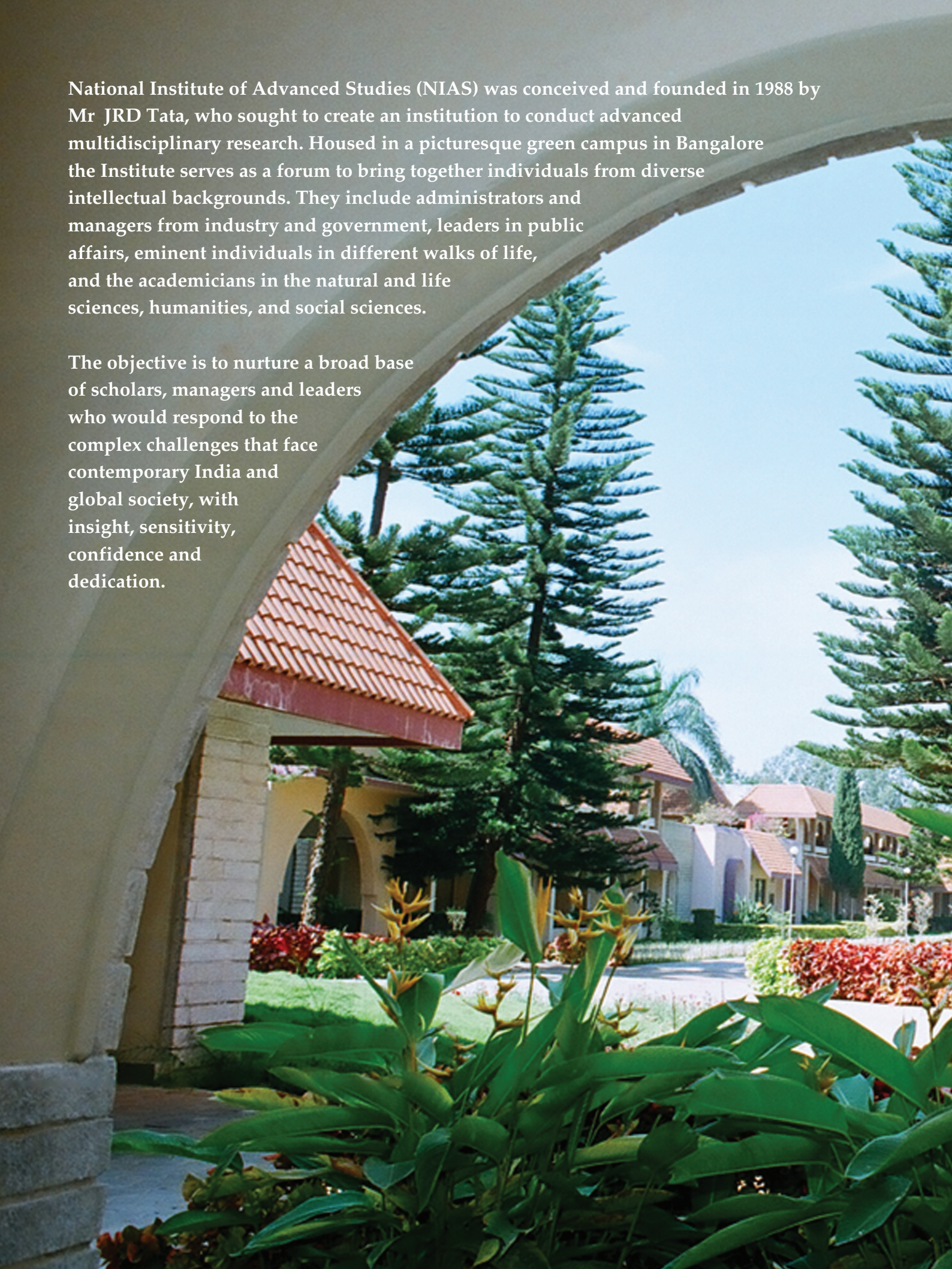
Multidisciplinary Studies

Leadership Excellence



National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS) was conceived and founded in 1988 by Mr JRD Tata, who sought to create an institution to conduct advanced multidisciplinary research. Housed in a picturesque green campus in Bangalore the Institute serves as a forum to bring together individuals from diverse intellectual backgrounds. They include administrators and managers from industry and government, leaders in public affairs, eminent individuals in different walks of life, and the academicians in the natural and life sciences, humanities, and social sciences.

The objective is to nurture a broad base of scholars, managers and leaders who would respond to the complex challenges that face contemporary India and global society, with insight, sensitivity, confidence and dedication.







## *The Mission*

To integrate the findings of scholarship in the natural and social sciences with technology and the arts through multi-disciplinary research on the complex issues that face Indian and global society.

To assist in the creation of new leadership with broad horizons in all sectors of society by disseminating the conclusions of such research through appropriate publications and courses as well as dialogues with leaders and the public.



# THROUGH THE YEARS



NIAS Main Building



Mr JRD Tata signing the Golden Book  
at the inaugural ceremony



Mr JRD Tata viewing the model of the Institute along with  
Dr JJ Bhabha, Dr Raja Ramanna and Prof RL Kapur



Second UGC Course, July 1994: Dr Manmohan Singh with  
Dr Raja Ramanna during Inaugural session



Participants of the First NIAS Course for Senior Executives  
January - February 1989



Participants of the Second NIAS Course for Senior Executives  
September - October 1989





Second UGC Course, July 1994:  
Prof RL Kapur with Dr Kiran Bedi



Mr Ratan N Tata with Prof R Narasimha at the  
NIAS Council Meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2001



Third UGC Course, July 1995:  
Dr Raja Ramanna with Mr Ramakrishna Hegde and Mr Ananth Nag



Ninth NIAS Course for Senior Executives, January 1995:  
Sir Mark Tully at a lecture session



Faculty and Friends of NIAS





Participants of the Seventh NIAS Course for Senior Executives  
January - February 1993



Participants of the Eighth NIAS Course for Senior Executives  
January - February 1994



Participants of the Ninth NIAS Course for Senior Executives  
January - February 1995



Participants of the Tenth NIAS Course for Senior Executives  
January - February 1996



Participants of the Eleventh NIAS Course for Senior Executives  
January - February 1997





Participants of the Thirteenth NIAS Course for Senior Executives  
January 1999



Participants of the Twelfth NIAS Course for Senior Executives  
January 1998



Participants of the First UGC Course  
October 1993

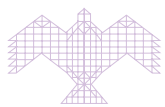


Participants of the Second UGC Course  
July 1994



Participants of the Third UGC Course  
July 1995





## *Management*

NIAS was registered as a Society under the Karnataka Societies Registration Act, 1960 on 20th June 1988. The Council of Management, the Academic Council and the Holding Trustees are the three authorities responsible for overall administration of the Institute. Mr JRD Tata was the first Chairman of the Council of Management. Dr Raja Ramanna was the Founder Director until his retirement in July 1997, and followed by Prof R Narasimha until 2004. Dr K Kasturirangan was the Director during 2004-2009 and Prof VS Ramamurthy was the Director during 2009-2014.

Mr S Ramadorai currently chairs the Council of Management. Dr Baldev Raj is the Director of the Institute.

### *Members of NIAS Council of Management*

#### *Chairman*

Mr S Ramadorai

#### *Members*

Prof P Balaram

Prof André Béteille

Mr Xerxes Desai

Dr Rajneesh Goel

Dr Devaki Jain

Mr Sanjay Kothari

Mr ISN Prasad

Dr Baldev Raj

Dr Arcot Ramachandran

Prof Ashutosh Sharma

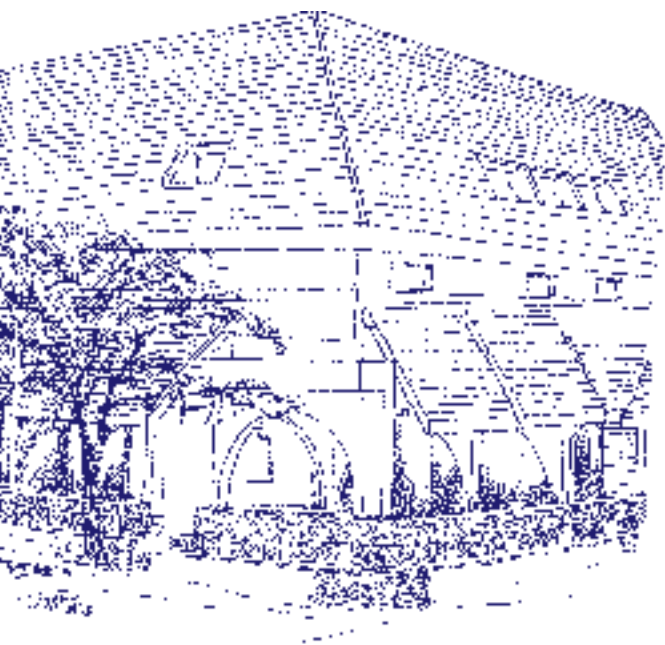
Mr AN Singh

Prof MS Swaminathan

The members of the Council of Management are also members of the NIAS Society. Prof Narendar Pani is the Secretary to both the Council of Management and the NIAS Society.







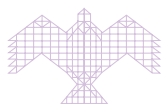
## *Research*

The philosophy underlying NIAS is given shape by its research broadly in the areas of Humanities, Natural and Engineering Sciences, Social Sciences, and International Strategic & Security Studies. The Institute is unique in its integrated approach to the study of the intersections between science and technology, social issues, humanities and leadership.

The research areas covered at NIAS are broadly in the field of social and political issues, education, gender issues, philosophy, psychology, science and society, environment, agriculture, materials heritage, art, archaeometallurgy, science atlas, energy and climate change, nanotechnology, history, social anthropology, interdisciplinary economics, strategic, security and foreign policy issues, consciousness studies, primate behavioural ecology, cognition, genetics, conservation and mathematical modelling. Research studies conducted by the faculty of the Institute are disseminated through publications in peer-reviewed journals, edited volumes, books, Institute's reports, and lectures & technical seminars.







## *History*

Over the years, NIAS has moved towards fulfilling the dreams of its founder Mr JRD Tata, its founder Director Dr Raja Ramanna and its subsequent Directors Prof R Narasimha and Dr K Kasturirangan. As a multidisciplinary Institute, NIAS combines scientific and humanistic perspectives on topics of national and international importance. Activities of NIAS include research, analysis, publications and teaching. Following the ideas of its founder, NIAS has also been an educational centre for future leaders of India through its courses and educational programmes. Over the years, NIAS has created a unique ambience wherein researchers, scholars, speakers and visitors from a variety of disciplines interact in a meaningful manner. The PhD programme that was initiated in 2004 has added to the dynamism with exploratory interest in many interdisciplinary areas of research.

The Institute has ample facilities for conferences, lectures and theatrical programmes. The JRD Tata Auditorium and the Lecture Halls facilitate an ideal atmosphere for long hours of deliberation and discussion. Situated on five acres of land within the verdant campus of the Indian Institute of Science, the buildings of NIAS have a strikingly distinctive architecture with elegant lines and arched corridors. The fully furnished guest rooms make the visitors' and course participants' stay a pleasant one.

NIAS has an active programme of public lectures, regional, national and international conferences, symposia and seminars organized independently or jointly with other institutions, that focus on topical areas of research and public concern.



Mr JRD Tata planted a banyan sapling in the campus on 19<sup>th</sup> March 1993.



The banyan tree today...

1987



Dr Raja Ramanna takes charge as Founder Director.

1988

NIAS registered as a Society under the Karnataka Societies Registration Act (1960) on 20<sup>th</sup> June 1988.

Mr JRD Tata chairs the first meeting of the NIAS Council of Management.

First Meeting of the NIAS Council of Management on 8<sup>th</sup> August. Members present include Mr JRD Tata (Chairman), Dr JJ Bhabha, Dr Raja Ramanna, Prof CNR Rao, Mr TR Satish Chandran, Mr Ashok Ganguly, Mr Keshub Mahindra and Dr MGK Menon.



Prof RL Kapur joins on 1<sup>st</sup> October as Professor and starts the Unit on Health and Human Behaviour.

1989

First NIAS Course for Senior Executives (from 16<sup>th</sup> January to 18<sup>th</sup> February). Speakers included Prof Andre Beteille, Prof Romila Thapar, Prof N Mukunda. Twenty-eight senior executives attended. They include Mr ST Bhaskaran (Dept of Post, Karnataka Circle), Mr KU Limaye (DRDO), Mr B Muthuraman (The Tata Iron and Steel Co Ltd.), and Mr M Kamal Naidu (National Zoological Park).



1990



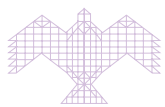
Prof CNR Rao (then Director, Indian Institute of Science) consents to be the Hon. Director (pro tempore) during the period when Dr Ramanna is away in Delhi as Minister of State.

1991



Prof CV Sundaram joins as the first Homi Bhabha Chair Professor on 18<sup>th</sup> November.





# NIAS

1992



Prof MN Srinivas joins as the first JRD Tata Chair Professor on 2<sup>nd</sup> February.

Mr JRD Tata lays foundation stone of NIAS on 12<sup>th</sup> March.



Prof BV Sreekantan joins as the first S Radhakrishnan Chair Professor on 6<sup>th</sup> August.

1993

Mr JRD Tata plants a banyan sapling in the campus on 19<sup>th</sup> March.



Plan for JRD Tata Auditorium unveiled.



First NIAS Course for UGC Teachers from 4<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> October.

1997

Prime Minister Mr HD Deve Gowda inaugurates NIAS JRD Tata Memorial Auditorium on 23<sup>rd</sup> March.



Prof R Narasimha takes over as Director on 1<sup>st</sup> August.



1998

President Mr KR Narayanan visits NIAS on the occasion of the birth centenary celebrations of Prof KS Krishnan on 28<sup>th</sup> July.

# A

# S

# *Timeline*

## 2004



Dr K Kasturirangan takes over as Director on 31<sup>st</sup> March.

Reorganisation of Units into three Schools: Humanities, Social Sciences, and Natural & Engineering Sciences.

Profs BV Sreekantan, PG Vaidya and Dilip Ahuja take charge as Deans of School of Humanities, School of Natural & Engineering Sciences and School of Social Sciences, respectively. Prof S Rajgopal takes over as Dean, Administration.

Commencement of NIAS Doctoral Programme and induction of PhD students.

## 2005

President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam delivers the 5<sup>th</sup> JRD Tata Birth Centenary Lecture.



Dr JJ Irani lays Foundation Stone of the Centenary Faculty Block on 2<sup>nd</sup> July.



## 2006

Faculty moved to the Centenary Faculty Block on 2<sup>nd</sup> October.



## 2008

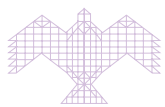
NIAS celebrates its Vicennial Anniversary.

## 2009



Prof VS Ramamurthy takes over as Director of NIAS on 2<sup>nd</sup> September.





# NIAS

## *Timeline*

2011

Twenty-fifth NIAS Course for Senior Executives on *Excellence in Leadership* (from 3rd to 8th January 2011) was inaugurated by Prof Yoginder K Alagh, Former Union Minister, Government of India. Eighteen senior executives attended. The speakers included Prof Vijayalakshmi Ravindranath, Mr MS Sathyu, Mr BG Verghese, Dr Mukund Govind Rajan, Mr Ravi Kant, Mr Krishna Byre Gowda, Air Chief Marshal SP Tyagi (Retd), Mr Paranjoy Guha Thakurta, Ms Sevanti Ninan, Mr Nandan Nilekani, Mr Nandan Kamath and Dr Baldev Raj.



2012

NIAS celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

2014



Dr Baldev Raj takes over as Director of NIAS on 1<sup>st</sup> September.

## NIAS Council of Management and Society – Chairmen



**JRD Tata**  
Founding Chairman  
(1988 – 1993)



## *NIAS Council of Management and Society – Chairmen*



**JJ Bhabha**  
Chairman  
(1994 – 2001)

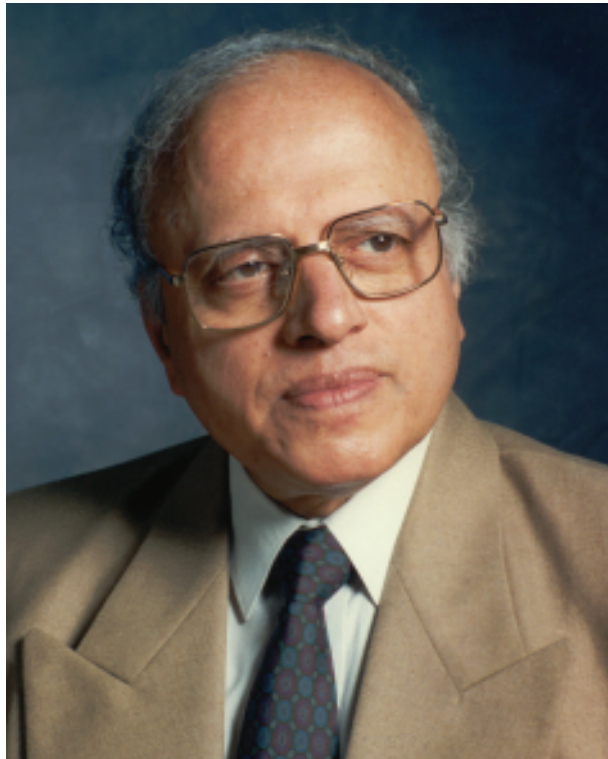
## *NIAS Council of Management and Society – Chairmen*



**Ishaat Hussain**  
Chairman  
(2001)



## *NIAS Council of Management and Society – Chairmen*



**MS Swaminathan**  
Chairman  
(2001 – 2013)

## *NIAS Council of Management and Society – Chairmen*



**S Ramadorai**  
Chairman  
(2013 – to date)





## *Founding Director*

(1987 – 1997)



**Raja Ramanna**

Dr Raja Ramanna after he retired as AEC Chairman, became the First Director of this Institute and held that post from August 1987 to July 1997. He was also Chairman, Governing Council, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bangalore. In 1990, Dr Ramanna was made Union minister of State for Defence by Mr VP Singh's Government for a brief period of 11 months. He was later nominated as a Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) from August 1997 to August 2003. He was a member of the first National Security Advisory Board (NSAB). Dr Ramanna has won many awards: Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Memorial Award, Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan, Padma Vibhushan, Meghnad Saha Medal, Om Prakash Bhasin Award and many others. Several universities conferred on him D.Sc. (Honoris Causa) degree. He has to his credit innumerable scientific papers published in national and international journals. His articles on music, philosophy were published widely. He also authored two books one is his autobiography entitled *Years of Pilgrimage: An Autobiography*, Penguin Books, 1991 and another book on music titled *The Structure of Music in Raga and Western Systems*. It was published by the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan in 1993. He died on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2004 at the age of 79.

## Director

(1997 – 2004)



**Roddam Narasimha**

Prof Roddam Narasimha was born in 1933 in Bangalore and obtained his bachelor's Degree from the University Visvesvaraya College of Engineering, Master's from the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore (IISc) and PhD (1961) from the California Institute of Technology. In 1962 he joined the Department of Aerospace Engineering at IISc, and was associated with it, till 1999, in various capacities. He was the Founder and first Chairman of the Centre for Atmospheric (and Oceanic, as it is now known) Sciences (1982-89) at IISc, Director of National Aerospace Laboratories (1984-93) and Director of the National Institute of Advanced Studies during 1997-2004. He was Chairman of the Engineering Mechanics Unit at the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research from 1988 to 2010, and is currently Honorary Professor there. During the last three decades he has held senior academic positions in many institutions across the world – as Clark B Millikan Professor and Sherman Fairchild Distinguished Scholar at Caltech, Jawaharlal Nehru Professor of Engineering at Cambridge University, Visiting Scientist at NASA Langley, Strathclyde University, University of Brussels and Adelaide University, and INSA Golden Jubilee Research Professor (1990-94) and ISRO Ramanathan Distinguished Professor at IISc and JNCASR (1994-99). Prof Narasimha's research interests are chiefly in aerospace and atmospheric fluid dynamics. He is internationally known for his extensive studies of transitions between laminar and turbulent flow, structure of shock waves, the memory and burstiness of fully developed turbulent flow, the fluid dynamics of clouds, near-ground temperature distributions and eddy fluxes in tropical atmospheric boundary layers. His recent studies on cloud flows, very relevant to global climate change and the Indian monsoons, have been called 'amazing' and 'groundbreaking'. He is author or coauthor of about 250 research publications, and has written or edited 15 books. Prof Narasimha has been widely honoured for his research contributions and his leadership in science. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society, a Foreign Associate of the US National Academy of Engineering and the US National Academy of Sciences, and an Honorary Member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences; he has also been a Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. His other distinctions include the Bhatnagar Prize, the Gujarmal Modi Award, the Ramanujan Medal, the Aryabhata Award and Padma Bhushan. He won the Fluid Dynamics Award of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics in 2000 and the Trieste Science Prize for Engineering Sciences in 2008. As part of its centenary celebrations, the Indian Institute of Science conferred its Honorary Fellowship on him in 2011. He is also a distinguished alumnus of Caltech. Prof Narasimha has a keen interest in the history of classical Indic science and Indian rationalist philosophies. Among his works in this and related areas is an *Encyclopaedia of Classical Indian Sciences* (co-edited with H Selaine, Universities Press), a volume of edited essays on *Nature and Culture* (co-edited with S. Menon, (PHISPC. Vol.14 pt.4) Pearson Longman, Delhi.49, and a translation of selections from the Yoga Vasistha titled Verses for the Brave (NIAS).



## *Director*

(2004 – 2009)



**K Kasturirangan**

Dr K Kasturirangan took his Bachelor of Science with Honours and Master of Science degrees in Physics from Bombay University and received his Doctorate Degree in Experimental High Energy Astronomy in 1971 working at the Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad. He was the Director of the National Institute of Advanced Studies during 2004-2009, and is Honorary Professor of Physics, Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad and at the Jawarharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Research at Bangalore. He was also a Member of Upper House of Indian Parliament (2003-2009). He is presently Member (Science) with the Planning Commission of India. For over 9 years until 2003, Dr Kasturirangan steered the Indian Space programme as Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation. Under his leadership, the programme witnessed several major milestones including the successful launching and operationalisation of the India's prestigious launch vehicles, the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle and the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle, the development and launching of some of the world's best civilian remote sensing satellites, IRS-1C and 1D, new generation INSAT communication satellites, besides ocean observation satellites IRS-P3/P4. As an Astrophysicist, Dr Kasturirangan's interests include research in high energy X-ray and gamma ray astronomy as well as optical astronomy. He has made extensive and significant contributions to studies of cosmic x-ray and gamma ray sources and effect of cosmic x-rays in the lower atmosphere. Dr Kasturirangan is a Member of the International Academy of Astronautics and served as its Vice President. He is a Member of the International Astronomical Union and a Fellow of Third World Academy of Sciences (TWAS). He is a Fellow of Indian Academy of Sciences and served as its President during 2001-03. He is a Fellow of Indian National Academy of Engineering and was its President during 2005-06. He was also General President of the Indian Science Congress for the years 2002-2003. Besides, he is the Fellow of the Indian National Science Academy and the National Academy of Sciences of India. He is the Honorary Fellow of the Cardiff University, UK; and an Academician of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, Vatican City. He has won several awards including Brock Medal of International Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, (2004), Allan D Emil Memorial Award of the International Astronautical Federation (2004), Theodore Von Karman Award by International Academy of Astronautics (IAA), France (2007), Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award in Engineering, Aryabhata Award 2003 of Astronautical Society of India, Lifetime Achievement Award of Asia-Pacific Satellite communications Council, Singapore, Aryabhata Medal by Indian National Science Academy (2000), Asutosh Mookerjee Memorial Award by the Indian Science Congress, Award of Jewel of Ruia, Ruia College Alumni Association, 2007; Maharana Udai Singh Award 2007-08 by Maharana of Mewar Charitable Foundation, Udaipur, 2008; Rajayogindra Award, Maharaja of Mysore, Mysore, 2008; Vikram Sarabhai Memorial Gold Medal, Indian Science Congress, Shillong, 2009. He has been conferred with the highest civilian honours Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan and Padma Vibhushan by the President of India and Award of 'Officer of the Legion d'honneur' by the President of the French Republic, France.

*Director*

(2009 – 2014)



**VS Ramamurthy**

PhD (Bombay University, Mumbai)

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Prof VS Ramamurthy is a well known Indian nuclear scientist with a broad range of contributions from basic research to science administration. Prof Ramamurthy started his career in Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Mumbai in the year 1963. He has made important research contributions, both experimental and theoretical, in many areas of nuclear fission and heavy ion reaction mechanisms, statistical and thermodynamic properties of nuclei, physics of atomic and molecular clusters and low energy accelerator applications. During the period 1995-2006, Prof Ramamurthy was fully involved in science promotion in India as Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Science & Technology (DST), New Delhi. He was also the Chairman of the IAEA Standing Advisory Group on Nuclear Applications for nearly a decade. After retirement from government service, Prof Ramamurthy, in addition to continuing research in Nuclear Physics in the Inter-University Accelerator Centre, New Delhi has also been actively involved in human resource development in all aspects of nuclear research and applications. Prof Ramamurthy is also a Chairman, Recruitment and Assessment Board, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and Member, National Security Advisory Board. In recognition of his services to the growth of Science and Technology in the country, Prof Ramamurthy was awarded one of the top civilian awards of the country, the Padma Bhushan, by the Government of India in 2005.



## *Director*

(2014 – to date)



### **Baldev Raj**

PhD (Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore)

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Dr Baldev Raj has assumed responsibilities as the Director of the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore, one of India's leading multi-disciplinary institutions. A distinguished scientist and former Director of the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research in Kalapakkam, Dr Baldev Raj has helped advance several challenging technologies, especially those related to sodium cooled fast spectrum reactor with closed fuel cycle; a sustainable energy spectrum. He has also nurtured and grown excellent schools of global stature in nuclear materials and mechanics and nano science and technology. He has pursued his work in interdisciplinary domains of energy, cultural heritage, medical technologies, nano science and technology and education. He has been responsible for providing solutions to many unsolved challenges in Strategic, Security and Industry domains. He is known for overcoming the barriers of academic research and industry with acumens of leadership and experiences.

The author of more than 970 academic papers in peer reviewed journals along with 70 books and special journal volumes; He has h-index of 42; i10 of 273; substantial and arguably one of the unparalleled achievements considering his contributions to realise technologies and large mission programmes. It is quite natural that Dr Baldev Raj has been recognized by way of more than 100 awards, 380 honours, keynote, invited lectures and significant assignments in more than 30 countries. He is Editor in Chief of three series of books and Editor in several reputed national and international journals and publications. A recipient of the Padma Shri award; the other awards include Life Time Achievement Award of the Indian Nuclear Society, National Metallurgist Award by Ministry of Steel, the Homi Bhabha Gold Medal, Distinguished Materials Science Award, Materials Research Society of India, etc. He is a distinguished alumni of Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.

A member of the Circle of Advisors, Cambridge University, UK, and a member of the Search Group for the Queen Elizabeth prize in engineering, Selection Committee Global Energy Prize (both are being nurtured to stature of Nobel Prize in Sciences).

Dr Baldev Raj is also a Fellow of all the four Science and Engineering academies in India, German Academy of Sciences and the World Academy of Sciences, International Nuclear Science Academy, Academia NDT International, etc. He is the Chairman of the Board of Governors of IIT Gandhinagar & NIT, Puducherry, two new Nationally Important Institutes for higher education in engineering created through constitutional approval of the Indian Parliament. A member of the Court of Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi, and President of the International Council of Academies of Engineering and Technological Sciences (CAETS). He is Honorary Member, International Medical Sciences Academy and Honorary Consul General of Michigan State University. He is Honorary Member, IIM, ICNDT, British Institute of NDT, ISNT, etc. He has been the Past President, Indian Institute of Metals, International Committee on NDT, International Institute of Welding., Indian National Academy of Engineering, Indian Society of NDT, Indian Institute of Welding, etc. He has been alternate Chairman of Senior Advisory Group of Nuclear Energy (IAEA, Vienna) and Chairman of Apex Committee of Nuclear Energy Systems (Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB), India).

Dr Baldev Raj is known for mentoring hundreds of children, students, scientists and technologists, inspiring them to pursue high levels of professionalism in the pursuit of science and technology without losing sight of the need for exemplary ethical practices.

## Founding Faculty



**RL Kapur**

Prof RL Kapur had been associated with NIAS right from the beginning of this institution in 1988 along with Dr Raja Ramanna, the founder Director of NIAS, Prof Kapur played a crucial role in the formative years of NIAS and was directly responsible for organizing the first series of courses for the Senior Executives of the country as wished by JRD Tata -- the visionary who set up NIAS as a unique organization for this very purpose. Prof Kapur who was in charge of the library of the Institute in the early years was responsible for the unique collection of rare books on a variety of subjects that the NIAS library is proud of having. During the period 1990 – 1991 when Dr Ramanna was away in Delhi as Minister of State for Defense, Prof Kapur was appointed as Deputy Director of the Institute, a position he continued to hold till 1996. Prof Kapur was a psychiatrist and was internationally well known and had held visiting positions in several prestigious institutions in UK and USA. He was Head of the Department of Psychiatry at NIMHANS in Bangalore during 1974 – 1983. He used to visit almost every year in summer, high altitude stations in the Himalayas to interview *Sanyasis* and *Sadhus* to find out the real motivation behind their drastic decisions to change their life style to *Sanyas* from normal family living. Based on his findings he has written several articles on this subject. At NIAS, he pursued research on psychology of violence, nature of scientific creativity and a new look at spirituality and psychotherapy. He was also interested in classical music and theatre and had undergone systematic training in yoga. He pursued more seriously Indian philosophy and hoped to draw upon these philosophical and folk traditions to reflect on contemporary issues. He died on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2006 and he was 68.

## Founding Faculty



**MN Srinivas**

Prof MN Srinivas was the first JRD Tata Visiting Professor at NIAS. He was a world-renowned social anthropologist and an international authority on Indian society, in particular the caste system. He wrote several books on these and related subjects, including *The Remembered Village*, which has become a classic of sociological literature. His work includes a collection of essays entitled *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. Prof Srinivas held a variety of other distinguished positions in India and abroad; these included Joint Director at ISEC, Bangalore, Professor of Sociology at the Universities of Delhi and Baroda, and visiting positions at many famous overseas universities including Oxford, Cambridge, Stanford, Cornell and Canberra. He was widely honoured for his work within the country and abroad. He passed away on 30<sup>th</sup> November 1999 and he was 83.



## *Founding Faculty*



**CV Sundaram**

Prof CV Sundaram came to NIAS after his retirement from Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research, Kalpakkam. In the eleven years he was at NIAS after 1991, he was a great influence, especially to the younger faculty at that time. Although a metallurgist, he was very interested in the history of science and technology. This discipline and the area of science and society were his main interests while he was at NIAS. One of the important contributions he made was to increase the awareness towards ancient Indian contribution to technology. Over the years, his interest in the history of science moved from ancient Indian contributions to the history of Indian science organizations. This led him to write an account of the atomic energy programme which was published later as a book. One of the endearing traits of Prof Sundaram was his great interest to learn new ideas from other disciplines and other faculty in the Institute, however young they were. He thus played an important part in establishing the multi-disciplinary nature of the Institute in its formative years. He died on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2008 at the age of 78.

## *Founding Faculty*



**BV Sreekantan**

bvsreekantan@gmail.com

Prof BV Sreekantan is currently Honorary Visiting Professor at this Institute and also Chairman, Gandhi Centre of Science and Human Values of the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Bangalore. He was Dr Radhakrishnan Visiting Professor in 1992. He was the Director of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research during 1975-87 and the Indian National Science Academy Srinivasa Ramanujan Professor during 1987-92. He has specialised in cosmic rays, high-energy physics and high-energy astronomies and has published over 200 research papers. He has received a number of professional awards including the RD Birla Award of the Indian Physics Association and the Padma Bhushan. He has held a number of Visiting positions including in the US and Japan. After moving to NIAS, Prof Sreekantan shifted his interests from pure science to studies on scientific and philosophical studies on consciousness and exploration of commonalities and similarities in holistic approaches in modern science and ancient philosophies. Through two seminars organized by him at NIAS, the historical epistemological, mathematical, experimental and technological factors that laid the foundations of sciences and led to the growth of modern science over the last few decades were analyzed and these have been incorporated in a volume that is under publication by ICPR.

Prof Sreekantan joined the Institute on 6<sup>th</sup> August 1992, and inspired the Programme on consciousness Studies. He was the first occupant of S Radhakrishna Chair at NIAS. He is currently Honorary Visiting Professor, and continues to be a source of inspiration for all at NIAS.



### *School of Humanities*

School of Humanities is engaged in research in philosophy, literature and the fine arts. Faculty of this school work on the philosophical foundations of sciences including mathematics; scientific and philosophical studies of consciousness; history and philosophy of science; analysis of ancient metals; social implications of nanotechnology; and translations of Kannada literary classics into English. The School organises many national and international conferences, as well as supports visitors to the School for varying durations.

### *School of Natural and Engineering Sciences*

This School covers research in the fields of engineering, mathematics, agriculture, ecology and conservation biology. Current research interests of the faculty members include various aspects of signal processing; number theory; artificial intelligence; soft computing; language engineering; mathematical modelling of complex chaotic systems; studies on agro-ecology; natural resource conservation, particularly soil and water conservation; pesticide stewardship; conservation of wildlife; primate behaviour, cognition and energy studies.

### *School of Social Sciences*

With an eclectic mix of disciplines, School of Social Sciences is engaged in activities that include research, teaching, outreach, advocacy and consultancy. The faculty are drawn from sociology and social anthropology, gender studies, educational studies and economics, and have conducted several research-cum-outreach projects in the fields of education, gender, governance and development. Current areas of interest are in forging inter-disciplinary work to understand and address issues in the areas of water and education. The School also seeks to contribute to work on globalisation, organisations, development and economic sociology.





**Sangeetha Menon**

PhD (Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala)  
Professor

prajnana@yahoo.com; smenon@nias.iisc.ernet.in

Prof Sangeetha Menon's graduate studies was in biology, while her post-graduation was in philosophy (with a gold medal). Her doctoral thesis was on 'The concept of consciousness in the Bhagavad Gita'. She is a recipient of the Swami Pranavanada Philosophy Trust of India National Award (1989) and the Young Philosopher National Award (2002). Her research areas cover consciousness and mind studies, and topical issues pertaining to Indian philosophy, Indian aesthetics and Indian psychology. She is also engaged in initiating and networking 'Science-Spirituality-Art' dialogues. She has lectured extensively in several research and academic institutions in India and other countries. She was a Visiting Professor (Spring 2007) at the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies (Oxford University) and at the Nanzan Institute for Religion and Culture (Nagoya University, Japan) in Fall, 2007. Her website is [www.consciousnessshop.com](http://www.consciousnessshop.com)

*joined NIAS on 8<sup>th</sup> January 1996*

*most significant research contribution* Developed Indian transpersonal psychology, and initiated science-art-philosophy dialogues on consciousness particularly in the context of Indian aesthetics, dramaturgy and spiritual traditions.



**Sharada Srinivasan**

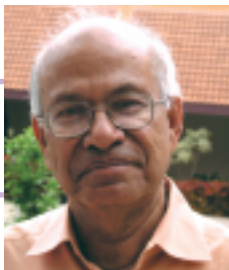
PhD (University College, London)  
Professor

sharasri@gmail.com; sharada@nias.iisc.ernet.in

Prof Sharada Srinivasan has research interests ranging from archaeological science, metallurgy and materials characterisations of ancient artifacts and the implications for history of arts and crafts to performing arts. She is a fellow of the Royal Asiatic society and World Academy of Art and Science, and her awards include the Indian Institute of Metals Certificate of Excellence (2007), Materials Research Society of India Medal (2006), Maiti Nagar Ethnoarchaeology Award (2005), Materials Research Society Graduate Student Award, USA, (1997), The Flinders Petrie Prize and Medal, London University (1989) and also the Homi Bhabha Fellowship (1996-8) and the Forbes Smithsonian Research Associateship (1999). She was Lead Investigator from the Indian side for a UK-India UKIERI Standard Research Award (2009-2011) on 'Pioneering Metallurgy: Origins of Steel Making in the Southern Indian Subcontinent', between NIAS and Exeter University. In 2012 she has been a Charles Wallace Trust Awardee and a co-recipient of a Royal Society-DST NIAS-Exeter scientific seminar grant for 2012. She is Principal Investigator on a project on Digital Modelling and Vijayanagara Bronzes under the IDH scheme. She is a Bharata Natyam dancer and has given lecture-performances linking aspects of science and culture such as recently at the Lyon planetarium and Santa Barbara Museum of Art.

*joined NIAS on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2001*

*most significant research contribution* Archaeometallurgical and lead isotope analysis of South Indian and Chola bronzes, identification of high-carbon steels and high-tin bronzes from Indian antiquity.

**S Ranganathan**

PhD (Cambridge University, UK)

Homi Bhabha Chair Visiting Professor

rangu2001@yahoo.com

Prof S Ranganathan obtained his BE degree from the Indian Institute of Science in 1962 and PhD from the University of Cambridge in 1965. He has spent over four decades in teaching and research in physical metallurgy. He has over 300 papers and coauthored a book on New Geometries for New Materials published by Cambridge University Press with several seminal contributions to our understanding of quasicrystals. Over the past two decades he has enlarged his interest to include archaeometallurgy. A theme is the link between modern science and ancient metals with emphasis on highly alloyed ultra high carbon wootz and ultra high tin bronzes. He was the co-chairperson for BUMA VII and is a member of the International Standing Committee for BUMA. His book coauthored with Sharada Srinivasan on India's Legendary Wootz Steel is much acclaimed. He is a member of the National Commission on the History of Science of the Indian National Science Academy and the Committee to explore Ancient literature and Science set up by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India. He is the core investigator for the UKIERI Project between Exeter University and NIAS, a landmark investigation on pioneering iron metallurgy in southern India.

*joined NIAS on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2004*

*most significant research contribution* Pioneered the study on the societal implications of nanotechnology, and development of an atlas of Indian science.

**Sisir Roy**

TV Raman Pai Chair Visiting Professor

sisir.sisirroy@gmail.com

Prof Sisir Roy joined NIAS as TV Raman Pai Chair Visiting Professor after his retirement as Professor, from Physics and Applied Mathematics Unit, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata. He was distinguished visiting professor at George Mason University, USA during 1998–1999, 2002–2004, and 2006–2007 and served as visiting professor in many US and European Universities. His field of expertization includes Foundations of Quantum Theory, Brain Function Modeling and Cognitive Activities, Theoretical Astrophysics and Quasar Astronomy. His current interest includes Quantum Tunneling for Dissipative Systems especially at Nano-scale, Quantum Theory and Consciousness Studies and Data Analysis in Quasar Redshift. He has published more than 150 papers in various international journals and 10 research monographs/edited books. His forthcoming book on “Decision Making and Modeling in Cognitive Science” will be published by Springer. His homepage is <https://sites.google.com/site/sisirroyphysics>

*joined NIAS on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2014*



**Malavika Kapur**  
PhD (Bangalore University)  
Visiting Professor

malavikakapur@yahoo.co.in

Prof Malavika Kapur was the Professor and Head of the Department of Clinical Psychology at the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences, Bangalore. She has a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Bangalore University and has eight books and over 100 publications to her credit. She is a Fellow of the British Psychological Society, the Indian Association of Clinical Psychologists, the Indian Association of Child and Adolescent Mental Health and the National Academy of Psychology. She has been a consultant for organizations such as the WHO, UGC, NCERT, NIPCCD, ICMR and ICSSR. She has been twice awarded the scholar in residency at the Study and Conference centre, at Bellagio in Italy, by the Rockefeller Foundation. Her areas of interest are Developmental Psychology, Community Mental Health Programmes for Children and Adolescents in Urban and Rural Schools, and Development of Assessment Tools and Intervention Packages for Children and Adolescents in the Indian Context. Her main contribution is her work of developing integrated models of mental health service delivery for children and adolescents. Her work is embedded in the cultural context as revealed in her Study of Child Care in Ancient India based on Ayurveda. Her other interests are fiction writing and trekking in the foothills of the Himalayas.

*joined NIAS on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2003*



**S Settar**  
PhD (Karnatak, India), PhD (Cambridge, England)  
Honorary Visiting Professor

settar@nias.iisc.ernet.in

Prof S Settar has been conducting research in the fields of Indian archaeology, art-history, history of religions and philosophy as well as classical literature during the last four decades. Works under his personal authorship comprise four volumes on history of art, two on religion and philosophy, one on human civilisation and four on historiography. He has been Professor of History and Archaeology (1970-96), Director of the Institute of Indian Art History (1978-96) at Karnatak University, Dharwad, and Chairman, Indian Council of Historical Research, New Delhi, (1996-1999).

*joined NIAS on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2002*

*most significant research contribution* Efforts to bridge the widening gap between linguistic and regional differences of community and culture.





**Rajesh Kasturirangan**  
PhD (MIT, USA)  
Associate Professor

rkasturi@nias.iisc.ernet.in

Dr Rajesh Kasturirangan's research interests are in cognitive science and philosophy of mind. His current work relates to applying a combination of philosophical argument, mathematical techniques and empirical observations to classical problems in cognitive science and the philosophy of mind such as the semantics of natural languages, the epistemology of beliefs and the structure of intentionality and consciousness.

*joined NIAS on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2006*

*most significant research contribution* Developed a computational theory of how language and concepts are grounded in the world.



**MB Rajani**  
PhD (NIAS - University of Mysore)  
Assistant Professor

mbrajani.nias@gmail.com

Dr MB Rajani's research interests are in the area of Landscape Archaeology. She uses space/air based remote sensing images to interpreting earth's surface and subsurface features in order to extract information that enhances our understanding of the archaeology of an area. She complements remote sensing study with ground truth and GPS survey, and integrates spatial information from multiple sources using Geographic Information System (GIS) technologies.

She did her doctoral research in the field of space-based archaeological investigations at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore, and was awarded a PhD by the University of Mysore in 2011. She received the Rachapudi Kamakshi Memorial Young Geospatial Scientist Award for this work. She conducted post-doctoral research for a year at NIAS, and then was an Assistant Professor in the M.Tech. GIS programme at NIIT University (NU), Neemrana from 2011 to 2013. Her recent work includes a study of the archaeological remains in the environs of Nalanda as a Fellow of Nalanda University (2013-2014). At present she has Homi Bhabha Fellowship for writing a manual on remote sensing and GIS applications to archaeology. She is a Guest Faculty in Archaeological Sciences Centre, IIT Gandhinagar, and Visiting Faculty, NU, Neemrana.

*joined NIAS on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015*

# School of NATURAL AND ENGINEERING SCIENCES



**Dilip R Ahuja**  
PhD (Virginia, USA)  
ISRO Professor of Science and Technology Policy

dahuja@nias.iisc.ernet.in, drahuja@gmail.com

Prof Dilip R Ahuja is the ISRO Professor of Science and Technology Policy. He has contributed to three Reports of the Inter Governmental Panel on Climate Change. In 2007-08, he was a Senior Policy Advisor to the Global Leadership for Climate Action at the UN Foundation in Washington, DC. He was a Special Advisor to the Inter Academy Council's study titled *Lighting the Way: Toward a Sustainable Energy Future*. Earlier, Dr Ahuja worked as a Senior Environmental Specialist at the Global Environment Facility Secretariat in Washington, DC. He has carried out research at USEPA, TERI, and the Harvard School of Public Health. He obtained a PhD from the University of Virginia at Charlottesville and a B.Tech. in Electrical Engineering from IIT, Bombay. His research has included estimating global warming potentials of greenhouse gases, energy savings from plausible changes in Indian Standard Time, emission factors from small-scale biomass burning and national inventories of greenhouse gases.

*joined NIAS on 13<sup>th</sup> December 1999*

*most significant research contribution* Proposed with his collaborators, most recently, advancing Indian Standard Time by half an hour. A recent publication estimates the energy savings and other benefits to be obtained from such a shift.



**PK Shetty**  
PhD (IARI, New Delhi)  
Professor

pks@nias.iisc.ernet.in, pkshetty17@gmail.com

Prof PK Shetty is Professor and former Dean of School of Natural Sciences and Engineering. He has worked mainly in the areas of Agro-ecology, Biosecurity, Energy and Sustainability, Environmental Stewardship and Science and Technology Policy Studies. He has co-edited three books, contributed a large numbers of book chapters and published several highly cited research papers in peer reviewed internationally reputed journals, and also contributed numerous reports and articles. He has successfully completed nine research projects of societal significance both at regional and national levels. He is a member of many committees, associations and editorial boards of both scientific and government concerns. He has visited a number of countries as part of his professional work. He was Vice-President of the Society of Pesticide Science, India. He has received several awards including the Karnataka State Rajyothsava Award (2007). Prof Shetty was an Independent Director, Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (A Government of India Enterprise). For further info see his website [www.pkshetty.org](http://www.pkshetty.org)

*joined NIAS on 6<sup>th</sup> August 1992*

*most significant research contribution* Studies on the societal significance in agriculture and environmental stewardship particularly ecological, social and economic implications of pesticide use; crop protection stewardship practices, agrarian distress, bioremediation, phytoremediation, agro-biodiversity, agro-climatology, plant biosecurity; and also initiation of programmes for the popularisation of science.

**Anindya Sinha**

PhD (TIFR, Mumbai)

Professor &amp; Dean (Academic Affairs)

asinha@nias.iisc.ernet.in

Prof Anindya Sinha's wide-ranging research interests are in the areas of behavioural ecology and cognitive psychology of primates, animal molecular genetics, evolutionary biology, conservation biology and the philosophy of biology. He has a master's degree in botany, a doctorate in molecular biology, and has earlier worked on the biochemical genetics of yeast, the social biology of wasps, and the classical genetics of human disease. He is also interested in biology education and popularisation of science, and has lectured extensively in a variety of educational and research institutions.

*joined NIAS on 15<sup>th</sup> November 1996*

*most significant research contribution* Was responsible for the discovery of a new species of primate, the Arunachal macaque, in northeastern India although principal contributions have been in understanding the structure and evolution of the primate mind.

**Sindhu Radhakrishna**

PhD (Mysore University)

Professor

sindhu@nias.iisc.ernet.in

Prof Sindhu Radhakrishna holds a master's degree in psychology and a doctorate in animal behaviour. Her research interests are in the fields of primatology, behavioral ecology and conservation biology, and her work has focused on gaining a better understanding of social behaviour and communication in nocturnal primates. She was awarded the INSA Young Scientist's Award in recognition of the significance of her doctoral research on the behavioural ecology of the Slender loris, a nocturnal primate found in southern India.

*joined NIAS on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2002*

*most significant research contribution* Study on non-human primates contributing to significant understanding of human sociality.



**S Chandrashekar**

BTech (IIT, Madras), PGDM (IIM, Calcutta)  
JRD Tata Chair Visiting Professor

[schandra@nias.iisc.ernet.in](mailto:schandra@nias.iisc.ernet.in)

Prof S Chandrashekar is currently a Professor in the Corporate Strategy and Policy Area at the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB). Prior to his joining IIMB he spent more than 20 years working at the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). His work at ISRO covered all parts of the programme - satellite, rockets as well as the applications of space technology especially remote sensing. He was also involved with activities related to international co-operation and has represented and led Indian delegations to the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. His research interests at IIMB include technology and competitive advantage, national technology priorities and national technology policy, studies on innovation, telecommunications in the Indian context, national innovation systems, modelling complex systems and national security issues. His recent work includes a study of sensitive installations using open source satellite imagery. He has also been involved with other members of the group on a micro-level comparative case study of Chinese capabilities in one domain of technology related to the development of turbo-fan aircraft engine technology.

*joined NIAS on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2004*

*most significant research contribution* Analysis of technical and organisational aspects of China's missile capability; assessment of Pakistan missiles; and assessing the Indo-US Civil nuclear deal.

**DP Sen Gupta**

PhD (Liverpool University)  
Visiting Professor

[sengupta.dp@gmail.com](mailto:sengupta.dp@gmail.com)

An Honours graduate in Physics from Calcutta Presidency College and in Electrical Engineering from I.I.T, Kharagpur, Prof DP Sen Gupta took his PhD from Liverpool University where he taught for five years before he joined the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore and carried out teaching and research for about three decades. He received awards for teaching excellence at both Liverpool University and IISc where he was awarded a special chair for Energy Studies. He had research links with a number of British Universities, particularly with the University of Liverpool and Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge, and the University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign. An Emeritus Fellow at the IISc he is presently a Visiting Professor at NIAS, Bangalore. He has co-authored books published by Butterworths, McMillan, Alpha International, London and recently by IISc Press and World Scientific. He has published a number of books for children.

*joined NIAS on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2009*



**Rajaram Nagappa**  
BSc DMIT (MIT, Chennai)  
Programme Head & Visiting Professor

r.nagappa@gmail.com

Prof Rajaram Nagappa has specialised in aerospace propulsion and has worked extensively in the design and development of solid propellant rockets. His interests are in missile technology and space weaponisation. He has served in the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, ISRO as its Associate Director, and later was Pandalai Memorial Chair Professor at Anna University, Chennai. He has also taught at Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, Israel. He is a recipient of the Astronautical Society of India Award, Distinguished Alumnus Award of the Madras Institute of Technology, DRDO's Agni Award for Excellence in Self Reliance, Certificate of Appreciation of the International Astronautical Federation and the Honorary Fellowship of the High Energy Materials Society of India. His recent work includes an assessment of the Pakistani cruise missiles and an assessment of the Iranian satellite launch vehicle Safir. He has also traced the development of fighter aircraft in China as a part of a study on China's Science & Technology capability.

*joined NIAS on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2007*

*most significant research contribution* Analysis of Pakistan's ballistic missile production capacity.



**N Ramani**  
PhD (IISc, Bangalore)  
Visiting Professor

narayan.ramani@gmail.com

Prof N Ramani worked at the ISRO Satellite Centre in the areas of software development for spacecraft mission operations and in the establishment and management of the central computing facility. Led the activities relating to the design, development, testing and implementation of software for real time health monitoring and control of satellites. Pioneered the transition from main frame world of Fortran and assembler codes to distributed computing based on off-the-shelf systems with the best of breed Engineering Application Software packages. Worked on computer related issues that have over all impact on the organization; such as information security, software reliability, man power attrition, open source, Y2K and HPC. With Prof R Narasimha, carried out the Indian Airlines AVRO HS748 fleet performance simulation for airworthiness assessment for the National Committee headed by Prof S Dhawan. Worked on several Government committees that enabled the computerization plans of ADA, CBDT, EPFO, IMD/MES and SBI. Awards: Distinguished Aero-Alumnus of the Department of Aerospace Engineering of the Indian Institute of Science (1992) and Astronautical Society of India AWARD (1999).

He has recently completed and validated a 3-D missile trajectory programme, which can provide the path of the missile from any launch location to any target. He has also carried out an analysis of the US Permissive Action Link system used to protect US nuclear weapons. Based on this he has conceptualized a scheme on how Pakistan could have implemented a system to protect its nuclear weapons from accidental or unauthorized use.

*joined NIAS on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2007*



**Lalitha Sundaresan**

PhD (Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata)

Visiting Professor

sundaresan.lalitha@gmail.com

Prof Lalitha Sundaresan has a doctorate from the Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata where her work was on digital processing of multi-satellite data. She was a scientist at the Indian Space Research Organization where she carried out studies to evaluate the usefulness of satellite remote sensing for monitoring natural resources, and natural disasters with special reference to India. She worked as a Principal Scientific Officer at the Department of Science and Technology, India. While at DST, she was involved with the setting up of Natural Resources Data Base centers in the districts of Karnataka. Together with IIT, Bombay, she was also involved in the development of the indigenous Geographical Information Software (GIS). Coordinated training programs given by DST on the use of NRDMS and GIS for development planning. She has also taught Mathematics and Statistics at secondary and tertiary levels.

Her recent works include the analysis of measurement errors in missile images obtained from open sources and the resulting impact of these errors on missile performance. She has also studied the Chinese university / research institution network and collaboration on superalloys, as a critical part of the micro-level case study of Chinese capabilities in turbofan engine technology.

*joined NIAS on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2008*



**Janaki Balakrishnan**

PhD (University of Delhi)

Associate Professor

janaki05@gmail.com

Dr Janaki Balakrishnan is a theoretical physicist. She obtained her PhD in theoretical high energy physics from the University of Delhi and subsequently worked and published in a wide range of areas covering many diverse areas of physics, ranging from quantum field theory in curved space and theoretical high energy physics to dynamical systems theory and biological physics. She was an Associate Professor of Physics at the Central University of Hyderabad until recently, before moving to Bangalore.

*Joined NIAS on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2012*

*most significant research contribution* Bubble dynamics and cavitation, nonlinear oscillations, generic nonlinear models of sensory processes, application of techniques of dynamical systems theory in modelling physical, biological and other complex phenomena.





**TS Gopi Rethinaraj**

PhD (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)

Associate Professor

rethinaraj72@gmail.com

Dr TS Gopi Rethinaraj is an Associate Professor in the Energy and Environment Policy Programme at NIAS. His research and teaching interests include energy and climate policy, civilian and military uses of nuclear energy, science communication, and international security. Before joining NIAS, he was a faculty member at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore for nine years from 2005 to 2014. He received his PhD in nuclear engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2005, and a master's degree in physics in 1995 from A.V.V.M. Sri Pushpam College, an autonomous institution affiliated to Bharathidasan University, Tamil Nadu. Dr Rethinaraj was a research associate at the University of Illinois Program in Arms Control, Disarmament and International Security (ACDIS) from 1999 to 2005, and also worked as a science correspondent for the Indian Express in Mumbai from 1995 to 1999. He has written on science, technology, and security issues for Indian and British publications and was a visiting fellow at the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, Chicago in 1999.

*joined NIAS on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2014*

*most significant research contribution* Data analytics work in support of energy-econometric modeling for projecting global and regional energy futures, and contribution to improving IAEA's nuclear fuel cycle simulation codes.



**M Mayilvaganan**

PhD (Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi)

Assistant Professor

mumayil@yahoo.com

Dr M Mayilvaganan is an Assistant Professor in International Strategic and Security Studies programme at NIAS. He earned a doctorate degree in International Studies from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India. Prior to joining NIAS, he was a Senior Lecturer at Department of International and Strategic Studies, University of Malaya, based at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia where he taught South Asia in International Relations, Modern Warfare and International Politics. His past positions include Associate Fellow at Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA), New Delhi (2006-2009) specializing Sri Lanka in particular and South Asia in general; Research Assistant in the Regional Centre for Strategic Studies (Colombo) project *Terrorism in India* at South Asian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi (2003-2004); Research Associate in the Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies (IPCS), New Delhi (Jan-Dec. 2003), specialized on Kashmir issues. His research interests include strategic and security issues of South Asia, China, US and Japan. He has published several articles and commentaries on a variety of topics related to South Asia. He has also participated in various international and national seminars and given lectures at various institutes, besides appearing for various print and visual media interviews.

*joined NIAS on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2010*



**Arun Vishwanathan**

PhD (Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi)

Assistant Professor

arun\_summerhill@yahoo.com

Dr Arun Vishwanathan's doctoral thesis was on exploring the Ambiguity in Indian nuclear decision making between 1962 and 1998. Prior to joining NIAS, he held the position of Assistant Director in the National Security Council Secretariat, Prime Minister's Office, Government of India between 2008 and 2011. Before his tenure in the government, he was Associate Fellow at the Indian Pugwash Society, IDSA Campus, New Delhi for three years (2005 to 2008). He has been selected to represent India as a Young Leader in the CSCAP Study Group on Countering the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction in the Asia Pacific meeting held in February 2007 at San Francisco. He has participated and presented papers in various international conferences including the Regional Centre for Strategic Studies (RCSS) Summer Workshop at Lahore and the Fourth Annual LSE-GWU-UCSB International Graduate Conference on the Cold War at the London School of Economics and Political Science. Dr Arun specialises on issues relating to nuclear deterrence and strategy, proliferation of nuclear weapons and technology, nuclear safeguards and export controls.

*joined NIAS on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2011*



**Hippu Salk Kristle Nathan**

PhD (Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai)

Assistant Professor

happyhippu@gmail.com

Dr Hippu Salk Kristle Nathan is an Engineer-turned Development Researcher. Prior to his PhD he worked as a software professional at Infosys Limited, Bangalore and Geometric Global, Mumbai. As a part of Civil Society Interventions through Peoples Foundation for Scientific Socio Economic Development, he has been involved in education, health, and livelihood issues in urban slums and remote villages of Maharashtra, Odisha, and Uttar Pradesh. Dr Nathan's research interests include economic measurement, energy, human development, disarmament, world peace, socio-political reform, and sustainable use of resources.

*joined NIAS on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2012*



**VV Binoy**  
PhD (University of Calicut, Kerala)  
Assistant Professor

[vvbinoy@gmail.com](mailto:vvbinoy@gmail.com)

Dr VV Binoy explores the biological and environmental basis of decision-making and personality traits (also referred to as individual variation in the behaviour or behavioural syndrome) in vertebrates using fish and amphibian model systems. His research also focuses on the formation of attitude towards biotic and abiotic natural resources and environmental decision making in school children from various cultures across India. He is interested in the popularization of science using non-conventional methodologies of communication and also studies the efficacy of 'citizen science' in data collection and dissemination of information to the grass root levels of society.

Dr Binoy has a master's degree and doctorate in Zoology and has been a recipient of the 'Cognitive Science Research Initiative Postdoctoral Fellowship' and 'Young Scientist' Start-up Research Grant from the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India. He is also passionate about Yoga and Asian Martial Arts and has been a keen practitioner. For further details see <https://sites.google.com/site/vvbinoy/>

*joined NIAS on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2014*

*most significant research contribution* Studied the cognitive building blocks of social decision-making and 'personality traits' in fishes and amphibians. Reported food-stocking behaviour in fishes for the first time.



**Shoibal Chakravarty**  
PhD (Princeton University)  
Assistant Professor

[shoibalc@gmail.com](mailto:shoibalc@gmail.com)

Dr Shoibal Chakravarty's research interests are in energy and climate policy and modeling. He is currently working on modeling risk and uncertainty in climate mitigation technologies like nuclear power and geoengineering. His past work has included estimating greenhouse gas emissions on an individual basis, and the role of equity in emissions and climate change.

*joined NIAS on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2014*





**Narendar Pani**  
PhD (ISEC, Bangalore)  
Professor

narendar@nias.iisc.ernet.in, narendar.pani@gmail.com

Prof Narendar Pani is an economist by training who has a deep interest in multidisciplinary research and teaching. He has over the last thirty-five years written extensively on a variety of subjects. He is the author of *Inclusive Economics: Gandhian Method and Contemporary Policy*; *Redefining Conservatism: An Essay on the Bias of India's Economic Reform*; and *Reforms to Pre-empt Change: Land Legislation in Karnataka*. He is the co-author of *Women at the Threshold of Globalization* and the co-editor of *Bengaluru, Bangalore, Bengaluru: Imaginations and Their Times*. He has published a number of academic articles in India and abroad. He is also the author of an explainer on the WTO, a monograph on people's theatre, and several hundred articles on the editorial pages of newspapers.

*joined NIAS on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2007*

*most significant research contribution* Reformulated the Gandhian method to make it an effective tool to understand contemporary policy making.



**Carol Upadhyia**  
PhD (Yale University, USA)  
Professor

carol.upadhyia@gmail.com, carol@nias.iisc.ernet.in

Prof Carol Upadhyia is a social anthropologist. Her research interests include economic development and social transformation in India; transnationalism and globalisation; economic anthropology and the anthropology of work; and the history and politics of anthropology. She has published extensively on the sociology of the Indian software industry, transnationalism, and the Indian middle class; land rights in Jharkhand; the history of anthropology in India; and agrarian development and social change in coastal Andhra Pradesh. She is co-editor (with A.R. Vasavi) of *In an Outpost of the Global Economy: Work and Workers in India's Information Technology Industry* (Routledge, New Delhi, 2008), and (with Mario Rutten) *Small Business Entrepreneurs in Asia and Europe*. Prof Upadhyia is Anchor of the NIAS Urban Research and Policy Programme, and Co-Director of the research programme 'Provincial Globalisation: The Impact of Reverse Transnational Flows in India's Regional Towns'. Before joining NIAS she taught sociology at SNDT Women's University in Mumbai.

*joined NIAS on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2003*

*most significant research contribution* Contributed new theoretical insights and ethnographic data to the anthropology of globalisation and work through research on Bangalore's software industry.



**Anitha Kurup**  
PhD (ISEC, Bangalore)  
Professor

akurup@ucdavis.edu, bkanitha@gmail.com

Prof Anitha Kurup is currently leading the National Gifted Education Program in India anchored at NIAS. Her research interests span the broad disciplines of education and gender. Her recent publications “Trained Scientific Women Power: How much are we Losing and Why?” <http://www.nias.res.in/docs/bkanitha-surveyreport.pdf> and “Trends Report: Creation and Analysis of Database of PhDs in India (1998-2007)” <http://www.nias.res.in/docs/bkanitha-trendsreport.pdf> has been widely appreciated. Her doctoral work on quality of primary education in rural India is one of the earliest often cited work on grounded research in class room processes and school-community relationship in rural India. Prof Anitha's expertise in the area of gender covers a wide spectrum, from examining conceptual and methodological strands of gender relations to political participation and decentralised governance as well as understanding violence against women in rural areas. She has several publications to her credit. Prof Anitha was awarded the Fulbright Nehru Senior Research Fellowship for the year 2011-2012 and was hosted at the University of California, Davis.

*joined NIAS on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1995*

*most significant research contribution* Contributed to the understanding of women's status adopting the framework of access to and control over resources.



**SS Meenakshisundaram**  
PhD (JMINU, New Delhi)  
Visiting Professor

meenakshi54@hotmail.com

Prof SS Meenakshisundaram is a Post Graduate in Mathematics from Loyola College, Madras and holds a Ph.D. in Development Economics from Jamia Milia Islamia National University, New Delhi. He joined the Karnataka cadre of the Indian Administrative Service in 1968. During his career he had held a number of assignments including Secretary, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj department when Karnataka launched its new system of panchayatiraj institutions. He was a Visiting Fellow at the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex, United Kingdom for one year. Besides several articles and papers on Panchayatiraj and Rural Development, he has also published a book on *Decentralization in Developing Countries* with special reference to Nigeria, China and India during 1994. After working as Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister of Karnataka and Joint Secretary to three Prime Ministers of India, he also served as Adviser in the Planning Commission and Secretary in the ministry of Rural Development. He was also the Dy. Chairman of the State Planning Board when Karnataka was under the President's Rule. Currently he is the Executive Vice Chairman of MYRADA, a voluntary organization in the field of building people's institutions for development and a Visiting Professor at Institute of Social and Economic Change, Bangalore. His research interests include rural development, poverty alleviation, voluntary action and decentralized governance.

*joined NIAS on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2004*



**Chidambaran G Iyer**  
PhD (IGIDR, Mumbai)  
Assistant Professor

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Dr Chidambaran Iyer's research interests cover policy oriented issues in Industrial Economics. He has worked on a Computable General Equilibrium model for the Indian Economy for a Planning Commission Project. His report on the Indian Organic chemical industry for a private firm details the market for seven organic chemicals in India. In a project with Infrastructure Development Finance Company Limited, he has also worked in the construction of Infrastructure index for India. Recently he has also worked on household demand functions using consumption data from various National Sample Survey rounds. Dr Chidambaran Iyer has obtained his PhD in Development Studies from the Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai.

He has also worked in the Indian Chemical Industry for a period of four years after completing his B.Tech. in Chemical Engineering from Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Technological University, Lonere, Maharashtra.

*joined NIAS on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2010*

*most significant research contribution* Co-author of the NIAS report "Evaluation of the Impact of Processes in the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in Karnataka", a study conducted for the Planning, Programme Monitoring and Statistics Department, Government of Karnataka.



**Shivali Tukdeo**  
PhD (University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign)  
Assistant Professor

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Dr Shivali Tukdeo's research focuses on education policy; critical social and political theory; globalization; and technology and education. She is currently working on a book manuscript tentatively titled '*India Goes to School: Education Policy and the Politics of Diasporic Action*'; Her other projects include: (a) Education among the Adivasis: A Perspective Paper (with A.R. Vasavi) (b) Engaging with Right to Education (RTE): Teachers, Administrators and Parents.

*joined NIAS on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2010*





**Anshuman Behera**  
PhD (University of Hyderabad)  
Assistant Professor

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Dr Anshuman Behera is an Assistant Professor in Conflict Resolution Programme at NIAS. He earned a Doctorate degree in Political Science from University of Hyderabad. Prior to joining NIAS, Dr Behera worked with Internal Security Centre at Institute of Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA), New Delhi. He is the co-author of *Militant Groups in South Asia*. His research interests include internal conflicts in India, Nepal and Bangladesh, left wing extremism, religious fundamentalism and terrorism in India. He has published several articles and commentaries on topics related to internal security in India, Nepal and Bangladesh.

*joined NIAS on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2014*



# PROGRAMMES

## Biosecurity

Biosecurity research aims to bring about the right practices evolved through scientific approaches for biosecurity. It also focuses on the stewardship in implementing the security options keeping in view of India's changing socio cultural setup as well as the lacunae in the system in order to support regulatory and policy decisions. The main objectives of the research include biosecurity and society, biosecurity and economy, legal and regulatory aspects of biosecurity and the science of practicing biosecurity.

*Contact :* **PK Shetty**

## Cognition

The Cognition Programme is based on the assumption that cognition and other mental phenomena are central to the functioning of all living beings. To put it another way, the fundamental principles governing cognition run from single cells to human societies. Further, we believe cognition should be studied comprehensively as opposed to bits and pieces (which is the usual scientific approach), with the larger view of life on the one hand and classical problems in the social sciences and the humanities on the other. Such a birds'-eye view of cognition inherently calls for an interdisciplinary approach, with crucial inputs from biology, philosophy, mathematics and cognitive science. The main projects that will constitute the research of the cognition programme over the next five years are: Fundamental Concepts in Cognition, Mathematical Modelling, Cross-species Cognition and Cognitive Approaches to the Social Sciences.

*Contact :* **Rajesh Kasturirangan**

## Conflict Resolution

The Conflict Resolution Programme was set up at NIAS in 2009 to address any knowledge deficit that may exist in the efforts to address conflicts that have had an effect on India or have the potential to do so. While the choice of conflicts to analyse is influenced by their effects on the country, the conflicts themselves may occur on the local, national or even international stage. The knowledge deficits are addressed both at the level of original research as well as in terms of dissemination of what is known about particular conflicts to those who are affected by them or are in a position to influence their course. The original research aims at generating empirical evidence of conflicts as well as the conceptualization that this evidence may demand. This approach has helped the programme develop alternative approaches to specific conflicts, like the one on sharing Cauvery waters, as well fresh conceptualization of conflict-laden issues like reservations. At the core of the dissemination process is the series of 'Backgrounders on Conflict' which aim to provide an authentic and yet accessible account of major conflicts. These backgrounders – the first in the series being one on Manipur – are expected to provide a useful first information report to those, like young bureaucrats or journalists, who require an overview of a specific conflict at short notice. The programme hopes, over time, to emerge as a respected source of information, analysis and insights into conflicts that are of interest to India. At that point it would be in a position to offer a course on this important area.

**Contact:** Narendar Pani







## Consciousness Studies

The interest in consciousness studies, at NIAS, commenced with two eminent scholars joining NIAS in the early nineties – RL Kapur, a psychiatrist retired from NIMHANS; and BV Sreekantan, a physicist and former Director of Tata Institute of Fundamental Research. They spearheaded a wide range of activities centered on topics and disciplines concerning philosophy of science, and, consciousness such as mental health, creativity, quantum mechanics, Indian philosophy and neuropsychiatry. Subsequently, Sangeetha Menon and Anindya Sinha joined NIAS and started their work on consciousness and animal cognition. Since the very first conference in 1998, NIAS Consciousness Programme has organised two national and two international conferences and published four books. A major international conference was organised by the Programme from 5-7 January 2012, titled "Looking Within: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Consciousness". The current research focus of the Programme include neurophysics, animal cognition and self. A study on the foundations of self in neuropsychiatric narratives with specific focus on emotions is also ongoing with support from the Indian Council of Philosophical Research.

*Contact:* Sangeetha Menon

## Ecology, Behaviour and Conservation

The Ecology, Behaviour and Conservation Programme has been largely exploring the ecology, behaviour, cognition, genetics and conservation status of several species and populations of primates across the country. Over the last year, the principal projects it has initiated or continued include long-term studies on the demography, behavioural ecology, population genetics and conservation of two macaque species, the bonnet macaque of southern India and the Arunachal macaque of Arunachal Pradesh, a short-term study on the behavioural ecology of mixed troops of rhesus and bonnet macaques in Maharashtra, the community ecology and conservation of primates in Assam, and the ecology and conservation status of the liontailed macaque and slender loris in southern India and the slow loris in northeastern India. We

have also initiated a new collaborative project on the behavioural genetics, exploring the serotonin uptake pathway, in three macaque species. Finally, the Programme has continued to explore the ecology and behaviour of several non-primate species including pygmy hogs, flying squirrels, shortwings and flying lizards!

*Contact:* **Anindya Sinha** and **Sindhu Radhakrishna**

## Education Portfolio

The Education Programme at NIAS is a consolidation of work in various projects and academic activities conducted at the institute over the past decade. Drawing on a range of experiences, the EDUCATION PORTFOLIO is premised on observations that the education system in India, at all levels, is entrapped in several contradictions. On the one hand, mass elementary education remains limited with problems of access, equity and quality, while on the other hand, select specialized institutions of higher education are celebrated for the generation of creative and global talent. Even as existing institutions face a crisis in management and quality, several new, private institutions are catering to differential financial capabilities of households. The challenges are multiple: how to provide equal and quality education to all? What models and practices of education are suitable for a diverse population? How can local and national priorities be matched with the pressures of global regimes? And, what linkages must education institutions have with the social, political and economic worlds of the people? Attempting to address these challenges and drawing on NIAS's mandate of being a multi-disciplinary institute that can generate new ideas and knowledge and act as a think-tank to government and private sectors and agencies, the EDUCATION PORTFOLIO will focus on linking research with policy-making and advocacy. The research findings will be disseminated in various forms to different stakeholders using multiple strategies of publications-academic, policy documents, organization of thematic conferences, workshops, facilitating exchange of experiences of education leaders, managers, teaching professionals and students.

*Contact:* **Anitha Kurup** and **Shivali Tukdeo**







## Heritage Science

The Heritage Studies at NIAS is a multi-disciplinary programme which seeks to locate the aspect of tangible and intangible heritage, materials heritage and surviving craft practices and related technological dimensions within the educational and academic discourses in social sciences and humanities. It also makes important linkages to science and technology and explores the ramifications for science and civilisation and science and society. Topics of research include archaeological sciences and the applications of scientific techniques in the study of archaeological artefacts, art objects and heritage and the study of materials heritage in particularly archaeometallurgy, the study of metal artefacts, metal working and production and extractive metallurgy and geo-archaeology. The heritage of iron and steel production and bronze casting are especially explored. Ethnographic, ethno-archaeological and social anthropological studies on traditional metal crafts are attempted keeping in mind also the broader issues of sustainability. An extension to conservation involving preservation and restoration of cultural heritage assets is new research theme. An India (DST)-Taiwan (NSC) bilateral Symposium on Technology for Preservation and Restoration of Heritage Artefacts and Architecture Design will be held in Taipei in June 2012. The use of space-based applications in the study and documentation of archaeological and heritage sites forms another significant theme. The implications of the use of digital technologies in heritage studies have been recently initiated. Material culture is studied from a range of contexts including Chola and Vijayanagara bronzes and sculpture, megalithic cultures and metal artefacts, Harappan archaeometallurgy, early historic sites such as the Indo-Roman trading port of Pattanam, pre-industrial iron and steel and high-carbon wootz steel from antiquity. Projects range from the UKIERI-I project in collaboration with Exeter University in archaeometallurgy which used multi-disciplinary approaches such as archaeometallurgical survey, GIS techniques in archaeology, materials characterisation and ethnoarchaeology, and UKIERI-II project for PhD in the area of Intangible histories (including topics in archaeology and drama) to the DST supported India Digital Heritage project which also has as its aim the setting up of a knowledge resource for Hampi. The NIAS Heritage Studies programme is working in partnership with numerous national and international institutions including Indian Institute of Science, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Exeter University, Kerala Council for Historical Research, Oxford Research Laboratory for History of Art and Archaeology, Archaeological Survey of India, British Museum, University of Chicago, Tokyo University of Arts, Toyoma University, University of Michigan and University of Chicago, USA.

**Contact:** Sharada Srinivasan and S Ranganathan



## *Interdisciplinary Economics*

The programme on interdisciplinary economics is supported by the Reserve Bank of India. While much of interdisciplinary economics, as a field, concentrates on using economic concepts to understand other social science disciplines, the focus of this programme is on using concepts from other social sciences to provide a more inclusive view of economic issues. By bringing into economic analysis elements of a situation that would normally be seen to be in the domain of other social sciences, the programme hopes to capture the critical role that social, political, technological and environmental issues play in the working of the economy. The programme includes an effort to use ethnography and other methods from social anthropology to provide a richer analysis of farmers' suicides. A project has also been undertaken on the garment industry in Bangalore which uses not just economic analysis but also concepts from urban sociology to provide greater, and more inclusive, insights into the process of globalisation. A study of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in Karnataka analysed the working of the scheme and came up with a set of recommendations to the Government of Karnataka.

*Contact:* **Narendar Pani**

## *International Strategic and Security Studies Programme*

The International Strategic and Security Studies Programme at NIAS promotes and conducts research that addresses the strategic and security concerns relevant to India. It has over the years carried out a number of studies in technology dominated areas of international security, with a special emphasis on nuclear weapons and missiles. NIAS has also facilitated exchange of knowledge and views between interested groups working around the globe on issues related to international security through meetings, conferences and invited talks. The continuing and ongoing dialogue with the Committee on International Security and Arms Control (CISAC) of the US National Academy of Sciences reflects the Programme's commitment to using knowledge to help improve understanding between countries. The major areas of interest include China, Pakistan, space weaponisation, techno-economics of nuclear power and nuclear weapons. The programme has also started work on terrorism.

*Contact:* **Rajaram Nagappa**







## *Energy and Environment Policy*

The Programme on Energy and Environment Policy will be devoted to exploring energy policies that simultaneously help mitigate climate change and ease India's vexing energy problems. The Programme would focus on policy-relevant research useful for decision-making. The objective of the Programme will be to recommend policies (and help facilitate their implementation) that not only mitigate the rise in emissions of greenhouse gases but are also aligned with the complementary goals of energy security, geopolitical risk reduction, and equitable development of society. To increase the odds of successful implementation, the Programme will seek to become a forum for coordination between industry, government, researchers and civil society. The initial thrust of the Programme will be on energy savings in the power sector through loss reductions, especially in transmission and distribution.

*Contact : Dilip R Ahuja and DP Sengupta*

## *Complex Systems*

In the Complex Systems Programme, we aim to understand the dynamics underlying complex phenomena observed in Nature and in daily life. Nonlinearities in a system give rise to complex behaviour – different kinds of nonlinearities produce different varieties of complex dynamics. How do individual elements constituting a system interact with each other via mutual interactions and couplings to produce collective behaviour exhibited by the whole system? Often, systems behave in a completely unpredictable and unexpected way. Is it possible to understand why systems behave the way they do and is it possible to gain control over their dynamics? In the Complex Systems Group, we seek to address these questions. We are currently studying theoretical problems having potential for immediate use in biomedical applications, industrial applications, technology development of useful gadgets, etc.

*Contact : Janaki Balakrishnan*

## *Provincial Globalisation: The Impact of Reverse Transnational Flows in India's Regional Towns*

'Provincial Globalisation' is a collaborative research programme of the Amsterdam Institute for Social Science Research, University of Amsterdam, and the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore, supported by a WOTRO Integrated Programme grant (the Netherlands). This five-year research programme, started in January 2010, will investigate processes of globalisation in provincial towns of India by tracing transnational reverse flows of resources transmitted by migrants to their home regions. These flows include economic resources such as remittances, investments and charitable donations, as well as 'social remittances' and cultural flows. The five doctoral and post-doctoral projects funded under the programme will examine the impacts of these reverse flows on social development in coastal Andhra Pradesh, central Gujarat, and coastal Karnataka, focusing on the major towns of these regions and their rural hinterlands.

*Contact:* **Carol Upadhy**







# NIAS PhD PROGRAMME



In collaboration with Manipal University and Mysore University, NIAS runs a doctoral programme in the areas in which it specialises. NIAS offers fellowships sponsored by the Department of Science and Technology and the Indian Space Research Organisation to a limited number of students pursuing PhD studies. Presently there are thirty five full-time doctoral students specialising in various areas under the respective schools.



# DOCTORAL STUDENTS



**HR Meera**

Meera's area of research interests are Indian Theory of Aesthetics, Indian Philosophy.

She has a M.A. in Sanskrit, KSOU, Mysore and 5th rank in B.E. Electrical and Electronics, in 1999 at BMS College, Bangalore. Also 9th rank in Carnatic Classical Music, Vocal Senior Grade Distinction.

meera.hr@gmail.com



**Namitha A Kumar**

Namitha's area of research interests are Urban Spaces, Disability Studies and Cultural Studies.

She has a M.A. 1st rank in English from Bangalore University. She has three gold medals for highest marks in English.

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**Samiksha Bajpai**

Samiksha's areas of research are Linguistics and Cognition.

She has a M.A. in Linguistics from Jawaharlal Nehru University and an M.Phil. in Linguistics from Annamalai University. She is currently working on Compound Verbs in Hindi.

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**Naresh Keerthi**

Naresh's area of research interests are Cognition, Linguistics and Behaviour.

He has a degree in M.Sc. from SRN Adarsh College, Bangalore University. He has B.Tech. degree from St. Joseph's College of Arts and Sciences, Bangalore University.

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**Shatarupa Bhattacharya**

Shatarupa is interested in working along the Eastern Coast of India, more specific along the Bengal, Bangladesh and Orissa Coast, and also covering part of the South East Coast in order to understand the functioning of the littoral societies and their analysis.

She has an M.Phil. from University of Hyderabad.

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**Nalini NS**

Nalini's area of research deals with tracing the changes in the landform using satellite images and GIS.

She has M.Tech. in Geoinformatics and Bachelor's degree in Architecture.

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**Shreejata Gupta**

Shreejata's area of research interests are Animal Behaviour, Cognitive Ethology, Primate Cognition, Evolutionary Biology and Evolution of Language.

She has a M.Sc. in European Forestry, University of Joensuu, Finland, University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, Vienna, Austria.

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**Asmitha Sengupta**

Asmitha's interest research areas are Behavioural Ecology, Plant-Animal Interactions and Conservation Biology.

She has a M.Sc. degree in Forestry, Forest Research Institute, Dehradun.

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**Neesha Dutt**

Neesha is interested in studying the interface between human activities and the environment. Her research interest lies in urban ecology, climate change and sustainable development.

She holds a M.Sc. in Environmental Science from Tezpur University.

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**Priyam Laxmi Borgohain**

Priyam's research interests are water security, sustainability and water policy issues, trans-boundary water conflicts, inter-state sharing of water resources and controversies surrounding the construction of big dams specially in the North-Eastern region of India.

She has a M.Sc. in Environmental Science (gold medallist) from Tezpur Central University.

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**Priya Gupta**

Priya's research interests are understanding the link between livelihood insecurity and drivers leading to change in livelihoods of forest dependent tribal communities and the role being played by agriculture in this change.

She has a Master's degree in Natural Resources Management, TERI University.

vowpriya@gmail.com



**Murali Murthi**

Murali's research interests are international trade, technology policy and development, and strategic analysis and management. He has over three decades of experience in the Indian software industry.

He holds a B.Tech. in Electrical Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay and a PGDM in Management from the Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta.

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**BR Guruprasad**

Guruprasad's areas of research interest include international cooperation in the domain of space, societal benefits from space as well as the history of Indian space programme.

He holds a Master's degree in Communications and Journalism.

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**Sanam Roohi**

Sanam Roohi's research project examines how and why these transnational migrants engage in philanthropy for development; how such resources are perceived and used by the receiving communities, families or individuals, and the local state; what ideas and practices of development are propagated through these activities; and what are the implications of such development for the existing caste and class structures in the region.

She earned a Master's degree in Political Science from University of Calcutta.

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**Sulagna Mustafi**

Sulagna's research project looks at the process of transnational connections build by the Muslim community of coastal Karnataka and the socio-economic changes that are affecting the local community through these transnational connections.

She has a Master's degree in International Relations from Jadavpur University.

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**Maithreyi R**

Maithreyi's areas of research interests are Psycho-social development in children, Education and its role in psycho-social development, and Development of resilience and Emotional well being.

She has a M.Sc. in Psychology (specialization Child Development and Guidance) from Bangalore University.

maithreyi.nias@gmail.com



**Soundarya Iyer**

Soundarya's research interests lie in the evolution of rural socio-economic structures.

She has a Master's degree in Molecular and Human Genetics from Banaras Hindu University and a Bachelor's degree in Life sciences and biochemistry from St. Xavier's College, University of Mumbai.

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**Chetan B Singai**

Chetan's research interests include education policy; globalization and education and comparative education.

He has a Master's degree in Political Science and M.Phil. in Law and Governance from Jawaharlal Nehru University. As an Erasmus Mundus Scholar (2008-2010) he has a master's in Lifelong Learning: Policy and Management.

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**Nimisha Agarwal**

Nimisha is working in the field of Climate Change and Agriculture. In her research she plans to understand Farmer's Perception of Climatic Changes in Rice-Wheat Cropping Systems in Indo Gangetic Plains in India. Her research would also look at importance of bottom-top approach in building the understanding climate policy in case of India.

She has a Master's Degree in Environmental Studies and Bachelors in Zoology from Delhi University. She was awarded of Golden Jubilee award of Excellence and Silver Jubilee award of Excellence at Miranda House, Delhi University.

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**Sanket Sudhir Kulkarni**

Sanket has completed his Masters' in Defence and Strategic Studies. Currently he is pursuing his PhD on 'Examining India's decision making towards Cross-border Energy Pipeline Projects - A Case Study of IPI, TAPI and MBI Natural Gas Pipeline Projects'. His other areas of interests are analyzing developments in Af-Pak region, Central Asia and studying issues related to Science, Technology and National Security.

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**Rashmi M**

Rashmi's research interests lie in media technologies, culture and practices. She has a Master's degree in English with Communication Studies from Christ University, Bangalore and an M.Phil. from English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad.

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**Nishant Seth**

Nishant's research interests include cognition, philosophy of mind, semiotics, cognitive science, artificial intelligence and cognitive linguistics.

He has a Master's degree in Biological Sciences and a B.E. in Electrical & Electronics Engineering from BITS-Pilani.

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**Shankar R**

Shankar's areas of research interest are Indian Psychology, Sanskrit Aesthetics and Sanskrit poetry. He has a 1st rank with gold medal in MA (Sanskrit) from KSOU, Mysore, a MBBS from MS Ramaiah Medical College, Bangalore and a Post-graduate Diploma in Psychiatry, DPM, from Bapuji Medical College, Davanagere. He is also an Ashtavadhani in Sanskrit.

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**Sumithra Sunder**

Sumithra's areas of interest include Contemporary Art, Art History and Theory, Curatorial Practices in Indian Contemporary Art and New Media Practice in Contemporary Art.

She has a Masters in Museology from the National Museum Institute for History of Art, Conservation and Museology. She has worked in the field of visual arts and museums, both during and after her studies. She also has a Bachelors degree in Art History.

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**Venkatesh KN**

Venkatesh's research interest lies in the area of history of art and the related domain.

He has an MVA in Art History from College of Fine Arts, Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, Bangalore.

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**Nishant Srinivasaiah**

Nishant's primary interest lies in the study of Asian elephant behaviour, both in the wild and in captivity, and their interaction with humans.

He has a Master's degree in Wildlife Biology and Conservation from Wildlife Conservation Society - India Program and National Centre for Biological Sciences, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Bangalore.

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**Mary Abraham**

Mary's research interests include Climate Change and Water Security, Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation.

She holds a Master's degree in Economics and has over 14 years of research experience in development and policy studies.

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**Shaurabh Anand**

Shaurabh's research interest is in the broad area of ecosystem services.

He has a Master's degree in Natural Resources Management from TERI University, New Delhi and Bachelor's degree in Biosciences from Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi.

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**Ankita Rathi**

Ankita's areas of research interests are Development Economics, Economics of Education and Health, Labour Economics.

She completed her Master's in Environmental Economics from TERI University..

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**Anamika Ajay**

Anamika's research interests include migration, urbanization and identity politics.

After completing her Masters degree in Human Rights from the Institute of Commonwealth Studies (London), Anamika spent three years working in the development sector on issues relating to urbanization and migration in Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh.

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**Ranjith V**

Ranjith works on topics in Dynamical Systems theory like Nonlinear Dynamics and Chaos, Noise and Stochastic Processes, Synchronization, Pattern Formation – especially for modelling biological and Ecological Systems. He is also interested in Foundations of Quantum Mechanics.

He holds a Master's degree in Physics from the University of Mysore.

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**Krupa Rajangam**

Krupa is a heritage conservation architect trained in the University of York, UK and has over a decade of experience in the heritage conservation sector. Her research interest is in the role of communities in conservation. She runs a number of initiatives to engage with and understand local peoples' perspective on heritage.

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**Savitha Suresh Babu**

Savitha's areas of interest revolve around questions of social marginalization and youth identities, with particular reference to higher education. She has a post graduate diploma in print journalism and a masters in Sociology.

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**Anupama Mahajan**

Anupama's research interests include examining societal perceptions of giftedness which is seen as a social construct, identifying the social and emotional characteristics of the gifted child from a psychological and developmental perspective, including twice-exceptional children and documenting the use of pedagogical approaches to improving teaching and learning in gifted education.

Anupama was a Psychology teacher at Mallya Aditi International School, Bangalore. She has a M.Sc. degree in Psychology (specialization Clinical Psychology) from Bangalore University.

anabi21@gmail.com



**Keya Bardalai**

Keya's research interests include understanding the links between migration, ethnicity and conflict, with particular focus on the North Eastern states of India, and how they lead to reconstruction of identities and impact gender-relations.

She holds an M.Phil. in Sociology from the Delhi School of Economics, Delhi University.

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## Other Faculty members of NIAS include

### Professor Emeritus

Dr K Kasturirangan  
Prof R Narasimha  
Prof VS Ramamurthy

### Adjunct Faculty

Dr B Ashok  
Dr Maan Barua  
Prof Bruce Alan Broadly  
Mr Amal K Chakrabarti  
Dr N Chandrasekaran  
Prof Nalini Dwarakanath  
Dr Ratnavalli Ellajosyula  
Vice Admiral RN Ganesh (Retd)  
Prof Subrata Ghoshroy  
Mr S Gopal  
Prof MV Srinivasa Gowda  
Dr Manabrata Guha  
Dr Viswesha Guttal  
Dr Smriti Haricharan  
Dr Kota Harinarayana

Dr MR Hegde  
Dr MB Hiremath  
Dr Stephen Hodge  
Dr S Jaikishan  
Prof Bhupendra Jasani  
Dr Gillian Juleff  
Dr Prathibha Karanth  
Dr B Narayan Karkera  
Dr LV Krishnan  
Mr VVR Sastry  
Ambassador Saurabh Kumar (Retd)  
Dr Bindu M Kutty  
Dr PA Suresh  
Dr K Manorama  
Prof N Shantha Mohan

Mr KR Sridhar Murthi  
Prof S Srinivasa Murthy  
Dr MG Narasimhan  
Ms Meera Natampally  
Prof LM Patnaik  
Dr Soumya Prasad  
Dr K Raghuraman  
Mr YS Rajan  
Dr Mukund K Rao  
Dr Veena Rao  
Prof Mario Rutten  
Prof Gautam Sen  
Vice Admiral Vijay Shankar (Retd)  
Dr Aneesha Sharma  
Dr V Siddhartha  
Dr Prakash Sinha  
Mr P Soma  
Dr Catharine Turner  
Prof KP Vijayalakshmi



Discussion over a cup of tea...



Observing a macaque in the field...



A snapshot from the District Quality Education Project



Still from *Coding Culture* film series made as part of NIAS-IDPAD project, 'Indian IT Professionals in India and Europe: Work, Culture and Transnationalism'.

### Project Researchers

Ms Kaveri Ashok  
Mr Fibin Baby  
Ms Suparna Banerjee  
Ms Chaya Bhagavathi  
Mr Ajay Chandra  
Ms Sadhavi Chauhan  
Ms Anju Christine  
Ms Anasuya Gangopadhyay  
Ms Aditi Malhotra  
Ms Rekha Raju  
Ms Ramya PS  
Ms Anitha Sampath  
Ms Sheela K  
Mr TR Kumara Swamy  
Ms Uma P  
Mr Vineet JP





# NIAS COURSES

NIAS conducts several residential courses every year. Their multidisciplinary character and an integrated approach to knowledge and information distinguish these courses. The faculty for these courses include faculty from NIAS and researchers, scholars, leaders and policy makers from different parts of the country and occasionally from outside the country as well.

## *Course for Senior Executives*

This residential annual one week course is conducted in the month of January for executives in senior positions from the public and private sectors and from the national science and technology agencies. The first course was organised in 1989 with twenty eight participants and with Prof RL Kapur as the course coordinator. In subsequent years the course coordinators were Profs Sundar Sarukkai, PK Shetty, Sangeetha Menon, Narendar Pani and Dilip R Ahuja. Prof Anindya Sinha is the present course coordinator. This flagship course of NIAS in recent years has been focusing on 'Excellence in Leadership' in order to respond to the challenges of decision-making and leadership from a lateral and multidisciplinary point of view. The modules for the course offer an understanding of a wide variety of issues such as governance, management and Indian culture, and are intended to provide the broad overview that leaders of tomorrow will need to possess. The faculty for the course



28<sup>th</sup> NIAS Programme for Senior Executives on  
*Leadership in Challenging Times*, January 2014

includes well-known public figures, eminent scientists and technologists, academicians and veteran administrators. The participants get to interact with some of the most important leaders and decision makers in the country.

## *Courses sponsored by the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India*

As an initiative under the 'National Programme', NIAS in collaboration with the DST has been organizing annual training programmes on 'Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Science, Technology and Society' for a duration of two weeks since 2004 with implications for social, economic, political, scientific and technological issues. The programme focused on various sub-themes titled 'Knowledge Management', 'Science and Technology Communication', 'Technology, Innovation and Development', 'The Road Taken and The Planned Path: Evolution of Science and Technology Policy Planning and Dilemmas of Contemporary India'. The past and current Course Coordinators include Prof Dilip R Ahuja, Dr MG Narasimhan and Dr TS Gopi Rethinaraj. Since 2006 NIAS has also been conducting one week programmes on different themes 'Dimensions of Nano-technology', 'Science and Society', 'Energy Security and Management', 'Impact of Globalisation', 'National Security and Strategic Issues', 'Paradigm Shift in Science and Technology', 'Technology Forecasting, Assessment and Management' and 'Policy for Science and Science for Policies'. The Course Coordinators include Prof S Ranganathan, Dr RV Krishnan, Prof Dilip R Ahuja, Prof DP Sengupta, Prof Narendar Pani, Dr Lalitha Sundaresan, Dr Nabeel A Mancheri and Dr MG Narasimhan. Senior Scientists, Technologists, Administrators and Directors of various organizations are being participated in both one week and two week programmes. Another one week course being organized since 2009 exclusively for Women Scientists-cum-Administrators. The themes covered are 'Dimensions of Nano-Science', 'Gender Issues in Science and Technology', 'New Technologies and Their Implications', 'Future Challenges to Society', 'Science for Progress in India' and 'Leadership and Career Development'. These courses were coordinated by Dr MG Narasimhan, Dr Shobhana Narasimhan, Prof N Shantha Mohan, Dr Durba Biswas, Prof Sangeetha Menon and Prof Anitha Kurup.



12<sup>th</sup> NIAS-DST Training Programme on  
*Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Science, Technology and Society*,  
November 2014

## *Course for All India Service (AIS) Officers*

A one week in-service training programme for AIS Officers for the year 2014-2015 on the theme 'Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Urban Development' was conducted between October 13 and 17, 2014 and was coordinated by Prof Narendar Pani.



# NIAS OUTREACH EVENTS

NIAS has emerged as a key public policy forum in India contributing to an informed national debate, and providing advice and consultancy on critical national issues. A wide spectrum of events is held, ranging from major international meetings to informal discussion groups. In the past, NIAS has been a venue for many public lectures, conferences, seminars, symposiums and workshops that are organised independently by the Institute or conjointly with other institutions. The areas cover topical areas of research in the institute and issues of social and national importance. These forums are open to students and citizens of Bangalore.

## *Wednesday Discussion Meetings*

NIAS Wednesday Discussion Meetings are among the outreach events that have continued since the inception of the Institute. The faculty of the Institute meets every Wednesday morning for academic discussions after a lecture usually delivered by one of its members. These Wednesday meetings also serve as a forum for invited guest speakers to deliver lectures on subjects of their choice.

Sangeetha Menon is the Coordinator of Wednesday Discussion Meetings.



## *NIAS Literary, Art and Heritage Forum*

NIAS Literary, Art and Heritage Forum aims to facilitate the appreciation, promotion and study of crucial cultural and artistic aspects. Apart from lectures and book readings, the Forum aims to hold screenings of films and to promote art appreciation related to exhibitions. Earlier events include a lecture by eminent writer and former IAS officer Achala Moulik-Moses, screening of the historical documentary film 'Curse of Talakad' by Sashi Sivaraman, a talk coinciding with the exhibition on the Indian miniatures of the Fontaine Fables at the Alliance Francaise, Bangalore, by Dr Jean-Marie Lafont, and a reading of translations of Sindhi Sufi poetry by Anju Makhija. The Forum held its first seminar in November 2007, sponsored by Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, entitled 'Sangam: Interactions of Poetry and Theatre'.

Sharada Srinivasan and Sangeetha Menon are the Coordinators of NIAS Literary, Art and Heritage Forum.

## Associates' Programmes

NIAS Associates include distinguished persons from widely different backgrounds in industry, government, media, the arts and academia. The Associates constitute a strong base of ongoing support and interaction. NIAS organises regular Associates meetings, which include lectures, plays, and performing arts events. NIAS Associates' Programme is overseen by a committee chaired by Prof S Settar. Members are Profs Dilip R Ahuja, PK Shetty and Anitha Kurup.

Since the inception of this Institute, NIAS has organised about 165 Associates' Programmes. These include talks by Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw MC; Sri Gilles Bibeau, University of Montreal, Canada; Sri Soli J Sorabjee, Former Attorney General of India; Prof Senake Bandaranayake, the Former Sri Lankan High Commissioner to India, New Delhi; Prof EC George Sudarshan, University of Texas, USA; Sir David King, Chief Scientific Advisor to the UK Government; Gen S Roychowdhury, Former Chief of Army Staff; Dr Kiran Bedi IPS; Prof Evandro Agazzi, University of Genoa, Italy; Ambassador Dennis Kux, USA; Dr Hilary Putnam, Harvard University, USA; and others. Some of the important performing arts and plays included a Violin Recital by Dr N Rajam, a Veena Duet by Dr V Doreswamy Iyengar and Sri D Balakrishna, a Hindustani Classical Music Recital on the Rudra Veena by Ustad Bahauddin Dagar, a Cello-Sitar Concert by Ms Saskia de Hass (Dutch cellist) and Sri Subhedra Rao (Indian Sitarist), a showing of the film Gajagamini followed by a talk by Sri MF Hussain, and a play, Copenhagen, by Sri Gerard Bayle and his team, Carnatic Classical Vocal by Vidushi Vani Sateesh, Hindustani Vocal by Pandit M Venkatesh Kumar, Bharatanatyam by Shree Ramana Maharishi Academy for the Blind, Kalari Payattu – A Martial Art Performance by CVN Kalari Marma Yoga Chikitsa Asramam.

PK Shetty is the Coordinator of the Associates' Programme

## NIAS Annual Memorial Lecture Series

NIAS organises annual memorial lectures: Dr Raja Ramanna Memorial Lecture, Prof MN Srinivas Memorial Lecture, Smt Lakshmi Nizamuddin Memorial Lecture, Mr K Subrahmanyam Memorial Lecture, Prof RL Kapur Oration and Prof CV Sundaram Memorial Lecture. Another series of memorial lectures in the past was JRD Tata Memorial Lectures. Eminent speakers for these lectures included Mr Shyam Saran, Mr Gopalkrishna Gandhi, Prof CV Sundaram, Mr NN Vohra, Prof T Scarlett Epstein, Mr Mammen Mathew, Mr Mani Shankar Aiyar, Dr Kiran Majumdar-Shaw, Prof



Arjun Appadurai, Mr Shivshankar Menon, Mr Jaswant Singh, Prof UR Ananthamurthy, Dr Onkar Marwah, Prof Ashutosh Varshney, Lord Meghnad Desai, Prof Sudhir Kakar, Dr Baldev Raj, Prof SP Sukhatme.





# NIAS LIBRARY

Ever since its inception in 1988, NIAS has accorded significant importance for Library collection development programme. Being the key information resource centre, the Library strives to meet all research and scholarship needs of its faculty and students. The collection is liberal in scope but selective in titles with an emphasis on acquisition relevant to interdisciplinary research, the Institute's doctoral programme as well as to courses conducted by the Institute.

The Library collection comprises of over 15,500 books, 280 books in Kannada language and 2270 bound volumes of journals. Journal subscriptions include 55 print journals and 1700 online journals. Digital collection includes census datasets and NSS data and reports. Other non-book materials include a small collection of CDs, DVDs and audiovisual resources. The Library participates in resource sharing activities with all major Libraries in the city of Bangalore and elsewhere.

The Library received a substantial grant in 2009 from the Jamsetji Tata Trust to expand its collection and for other development activities. The Trust has continued to support library activities in the subsequent years as well. This generous grant has helped the library enormously to develop itself and bolster the educational and research needs of the Institute. The Library became an associate member of the UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium, managed by INFLIBNET in 2009 and has access to a number of journals published by Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, Taylor and Francis and JSTOR as a participant in this consortium. Remote access to electronic subscriptions is provided to users via Athens portal.

The Library has been automated with LibSys software and the catalogue is available on the intranet. Other facilities include browsing terminals with printing, photocopying and scanning. An open access



institutional repository containing the research output of NIAS faculty and students has been developed and is accessible over the web <http://eprints.nias.res.in:8081>

It is an open reference Library with a pleasant ambience and adequate facilities for study and Library research. Therefore the Library has attracted a number of serious scholars in the recent years.

Ms Hamsa Kalyani is the Deputy Librarian and Ms R Vijayalakshmi is an Executive Assistant in the Library.



**Hamsa Kalyani**  
(MLISc, Bangalore)  
Deputy Librarian

Ms Hamsa Kalyani has a Masters Degree in Library and Information Science. In addition she has completed a course on Information Technology Applications at the National Centre for Science Information, IISc, Bangalore. She has been responsible for library management at NIAS since its inception. In addition to library collection development and automation, she is responsible for maintaining the website of NIAS. She has also developed an institutional repository of publications using the Eprints software.

*joined NIAS on 1<sup>st</sup> May 1992*

[hamsakalyani@yahoo.co.in](mailto:hamsakalyani@yahoo.co.in)



# ADMINISTRATION



**P Srinivasa Aithal**  
Head, Admin. & Finance

admin@nias.iisc.ernet.in, psraithal@hotmail.com

Mr Srinivasa Aithal has a master's degree in commerce from Karnataka University and a post graduate diploma in financial management from Pondicherry University. He has been overseeing the accounts of the Institute as well as its research projects. He has also successfully handled the financial administration of the Global Water Partnership Organisation South Asia Secretariat and coordinated with six South Asian Countries for a period of 2 ½ years, when its office was hosted at NIAS. In this context, he has also visited International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Sri Lanka during 2007. He has also visited University of Exeter, UK during September 2013, as part of the NIAS delegation. Before taking-up the role of Head of Administration and Finance of NIAS, with effect from February 2009, he had also held the position of Administration and Accounts officer at the Institute.

*joined NIAS on 1<sup>st</sup> November 1995*



**B Lalu**  
Office Manager

manager@nias.iisc.ernet.in

Lt B Lalu (Retd) has served in the Army (Corps of Engineers) for 26 years. He holds Bachelor of Arts degree from Kerala University. During his tenure in the Army, he served almost all parts of the country including Operational Areas in Jammu and Kashmir. In appreciation of his meritorious service, he was honoured with Lieutenant rank by the President of India on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2012. His responsibility at NIAS includes the office administration and finance.

*joined NIAS on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2012*

## Administrative Staff

The Administrative staff of NIAS provides support in organising various courses, programmes and other academic activities of NIAS. As occasions demand they also assist the faculty in event management and administrative work.

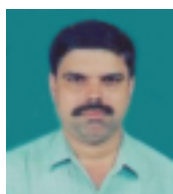


**A Deva Raju**  
Asst. Manager  
(Administration)

Mr A Deva Raju has a Bachelors Degree in Commerce from Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati and Post Graduate Diploma in Human Resource Management from Pondicherry University. He looks after matters concerning NIAS Guest House, apart from co-ordinating the arrangements at the Institute from time to time during NIAS programmes and meetings.

*joined NIAS on 27<sup>th</sup> March 1989*

[adevaraju@gmail.com](mailto:adevaraju@gmail.com)



**P Satish Bhat**  
Asst. Manager  
(Accounts & Finance)

Mr P Satish Bhat has a Bachelors Degree in Commerce from Bangalore University. He takes care of the day-to-day accounts of the Institute including the research projects.

*joined NIAS on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2009*

[satish@nias.iisc.ernet.in](mailto:satish@nias.iisc.ernet.in)



**KS Rama Krishna**  
Senior Executive Asst.

Mr KS Ramakrishna has a Bachelor of Arts degree with a Post Graduation Diploma in Business Administration. He is a computer and network expert and coordinates the computational needs of NIAS. He also provides support for organizing training programmes, seminars, etc.

*joined NIAS on 10<sup>th</sup> December 1990*

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**V Girija**  
Senior Executive Asst.

Ms V Girija holds Bachelor of Arts degree from Bangalore University. She is providing assistance in matters related to NIAS Council and Annual General Body Meeting, Senior Executives Course, Preparation of Annual Report, NIAS Brochure, and other meetings.

*joined NIAS on 26<sup>th</sup> March 1992*

[vg@nias.iisc.ernet.in](mailto:vg@nias.iisc.ernet.in)



**S Lalitha**  
Senior Executive Asst.

Ms S Lalitha has a Bachelors Degree in Commerce from Bangalore University and Diploma in Commercial Practice. Currently she is Secretary to the Director.

*joined NIAS on 1<sup>st</sup> October 1992*

[lalitha@nias.iisc.ernet.in](mailto:lalitha@nias.iisc.ernet.in)





**Gayathri N Lokhande**  
Senior Executive Asst.

Ms Gayathri N Lokhande holds a Masters Degree in Political Science from Bangalore University. Apart from providing support to Faculty members as and when required in organizing various national and international events, she is also providing assistance in organizing DST training programmes at the Institute.

*joined NIAS on 5<sup>th</sup> September 1994*

gayathri@nias.iisc.ernet.in



**C Shashidharan**  
Executive Assistant

Mr C Shashidharan is a trained technical staff at the Institute. He handles the arrangements at the Auditorium, Lecture Hall and Conference Halls for organising various training programmes, seminars, workshops etc. Apart from this, he helps the programme coordinator in bringing out the course reading materials.

*joined NIAS on 1<sup>st</sup> September 1989*

shashi@nias.iisc.ernet.in



**AS Mary Stella**  
Executive Assistant

Ms AS Mary Stella has done her Diploma in Secretarial Training from St Joseph's College of Business Administration, and Office Equipment Operation Course at Regional Vocational Training Institute, Bangalore. Apart from handling receptionist job, she assists the administration in various office matters, and also provides secretarial support to the Faculty members as and when required.

*joined NIAS on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 1994*

stella@nias.iisc.ernet.in



**R Vijayalakshmi**  
Executive Assistant

Ms R Vijayalakshmi has a Diploma in Library and Information Science from Women's Polytechnic, Bangalore. She takes care of acquisition, cataloguing, circulation of books, CDs, journals etc. and also reference.

*joined NIAS on 9<sup>th</sup> October 1996*

vlakshmi@nias.iisc.ernet.in



**JN Sandhya**  
Executive Assistant

Ms JN Sandhya has a Bachelors Degree in Arts from Bangalore University. She provides support to the NIAS Doctoral Programme, assists the faculty in the International Strategic and Security Studies Programme and provides support in organizing training programmes.

*joined NIAS on 11<sup>th</sup> February 1997*

sandhya@nias.iisc.ernet.in



**VB Mariyammal**  
Executive Assistant

Ms VB Mariyammal has a Bachelors Degree in Science from Bharathiar University, Coimbatore. Apart from serving in the Director's secretariat, she assists the Faculty in organizing workshops and meetings as and when required.

*joined NIAS on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2006*

nias\_mmu@yahoo.co.in



**MS Shivakumar**  
Junior Executive Assistant

Mr MS Shivakumar is a Commerce Graduate from the University of Mysore. He provides assistance in maintaining the accounts and finances of the Institute.

*joined NIAS on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2008*

shivakumar.2a@gmail.com



**VA Ramesh**  
Junior Executive Assistant

Mr VA Ramesh has a Diploma in Radio and Television Technology. He handles the arrangements at the Auditorium, Lecture Hall and Conference Halls for organizing various events and takes care of its maintenance.

*joined NIAS on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2011*

rameshnias@gmail.com

## Support Staff



**First row (from left to right)**

S Revanna, Mohammed Umar,  
N Rajesh, V Srinivasa, G Nagaraja,  
B Shivanandappa, N Ramesh,  
N Sathya Murthy

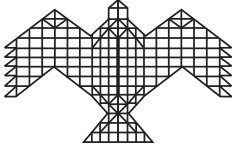
**Second row (from left to right)**

R Harish, S Sampath, Gajanana S Naik,  
Mujeeb Pasha, G Venugopal,  
SR Rathnam, Sukhdev Behra,  
MV Sudhakara





## NIAS EMBLEM



The NIAS emblem can be traced back to a remarkable Sanskrit work called the Sulva-sutras. Sulva-sutras are one of the four Kalpa-sutra texts concerned chiefly with Vedic ritual and display a deep knowledge of geometry from pre-Euclidean times. Scholars are not agreed on the precise date of the Sutras, but the text clearly pre-dates Panini and must have been composed before the 6th century B.C. The NIAS emblem displays an arrangement of bricks in the first layer of an altar called 'śyēna-cita'. The altar has the shape of an eagle or falcon and is described in the eleventh chapter of the Baudayana text.

The śyēna-cita represents imagination that inspires great mathematics and engineering – an apt symbol for the National Institute of Advanced Studies.

(Extracted from R Narasimha, *About the NIAS Emblem*, National Institute of Advanced Studies)

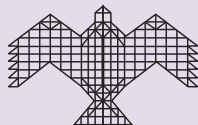
The NIAS Logo was designed by the renowned sculptor Mr Balan Nambiar.

*Pictures Courtesy*  
AS Shiv Kumar, Mayukh Chatterjee,  
Sangeetha Menon & NIAS Photo Archive

*Content and Design Concept*  
Sangeetha Menon & Aditi Enterprises

*Printed by*  
Aditi Enterprises, Bangalore  
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