

A photograph of the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS) building in Bengaluru, India. The building is a large, modern structure with a terracotta-tiled roof and arched windows. The NIAS logo, a stylized bird or wing shape, is visible on the right side of the building. The text "NIAS" is written vertically in large blue letters on the right wall. A paved walkway leads towards the building, flanked by lush greenery and trees.

NIAS Newsletter

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NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDIES, BENGALURU, INDIA 560012
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Featured Research Programme

NIAS has an integrated approach to the study of the intersections between science and technology, social issues, humanities and leadership. The philosophy underlying NIAS is given shape by its research through the Research Programmes housed by the Schools. In this issue of NIAS Newsletter we feature the Animal Behaviour and Cognition Programme.

"Following the time-honoured tradition of great ethologists, at the Animal Behaviour and Cognition Programme, we believe that science is the next step to natural history..."

*- Sindhu Radhakrishna
Head, Animal Behaviour and Cognition Programme*

Animal Behaviour and Cognition

The Animal Behaviour and Cognition Programme is interested in the behaviour, cognition, ecology, genetics and conservation status of different wildlife species across the country, chiefly primates, elephants and fish. Apart from the core three faculty members – Anindya Sinha, Sindhu Radhakrishna and VV Binoy – the Programme currently comprises five research scholars, several short-term research associates and a number of collaborators from the Schools of Social Sciences and Humanities in NIAS and from more than fifteen institutions across India, Japan, UK, USA and Australia. Earlier called the Ecology, Behaviour and Conservation Programme, it was established in 1996, when Anindya Sinha initiated investigations into the social behaviour and cognition of bonnet macaques in the wild and established a long-term study on the demography, behavioural ecology and life-history strategies of a macaque population in the Bandipur and Mudumalai Tiger Reserves of southern India, a project that continues till date. The research goals of the

From the Director, NIAS

"NIAS engages in eminent dialogues and debates on common and uncommon interdisciplinary topics of national interest. We respect difference and diversity in thinking. The multidisciplinary research, evidence based studies and the doctoral programme strengthens competence and capacity of this unique Institute which gives equal importance to core and frontiers of knowledge. We endeavour to perceive and find solutions with purpose and inspiration. The choice of the topics is reflected in the newsletter and other publications which are visible on the website of NIAS. These and other efforts at NIAS are aimed at nurturing domain specialists, knowledge integrators and thought leaders for the country".

- Baldev Raj

In This Issue...

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Programme were soon strengthened and complemented by the addition of two more faculty members – Sindhu Radhakrishna in 2001 and VV Binoy in 2013, and several doctoral students. The Animal Behaviour and Cognition Programme is the only research group in the country working in the area of social cognition, communication and culture in any animal species, the only group that has been monitoring a primate population and tracking the life-history strategies of more than 1,500 individually identified animals continuously over sixteen years, one of the few groups in the world working on the behavioral ecology of nocturnal primates in the wild, and the only group in India credited with the discovery of a new primate species.

A Detailed Report

The primary goals of the Programme are to understand the evolution of

social behaviour and communication, the cognitive foundations of behaviour and to study intraspecific variation in the ecology and behaviour of animals. These core areas of research are complemented by other research interests of the faculty members in the areas of environmental decision-making, animal personality, human-wildlife conflict, human-animal studies, environmental education and natural resource conservation. The Programme carries out research both at the fundamental as well as applied levels, and this work has not only produced tangible outcomes for government policies related to wildlife management and conservation but has also made significant contributions to the fields of community ecology, evolutionary biology and cognitive neuropsychology.

Under the category of fundamental research, the principal projects conducted by the Programme include:

- Behavioural plasticity in an indigenous freshwater fish, the climbing perch
- Behavioural ecology, communication and social cognition of wild bonnet macaques
- Cultural variation in environmental cognition
- Evolutionary biology and population genetics of the bonnet macaque and the Arunachal macaque species complex
- Distribution, ecology and conservation status of the threatened, nocturnal, prosimian primate, the slow loris
- Intra-specific variation in ecology and behaviour of the slender loris
- Community and behavioural ecology of primate communities in the lowland rainforests of the Brahmaputra valley
- Behavioural ecology of Asian elephants in human-dominated landscapes



Kalyan Varma

- Diversity, distribution and behaviour of subterranean fishes
- Impact of alien invasive species on the behaviour and cognition of indigenous fish
- Metamorphosis and its impact on personality traits in the common Asian toad
- Seed dispersal in tropical forests by rhesus macaques

In the category of applied research, the more important projects include:

- Human-primate conflict in states of Himachal Pradesh and Kerala
- Urban primate ecology and human-primate relationships in Delhi and Karnataka
- Human-wildlife conflict in the states of Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu
- Role of 'Student Networks' in creating awareness about environment, water, sanitation and hygiene in rural and socio-economically marginalised areas of Kerala and Karnataka states

Collaborative and Multidisciplinary Research

Work carried out under the aegis of the Programme is not only synergistic in nature, with collaborators from other disciplines both within the institute and outside, it is also essentially transdisciplinary, in its seamless incorporation of methodologies and theoretical frameworks from fields of research such as cognitive psychology, sociology, education, environmental philosophy, animal geography and science communication. Listed below are some examples of research areas that involve multidisciplinary and research collaborators outside the programme.

Ethnoprimateology

A holistic exploration of the myriad facets that represent the human-primate interface, this research area comprises projects that explore representation of monkeys in regional

literature, synurbization of macaques, cultural and religious views of macaques, and perceptions of people vis-à-vis problem primates.

Principal Collaborators:
Mike Huffman, Kyoto University
Maan Barua, Oxford University

Science, Culture, and Conservation

Our cultural upbringing deeply impacts the way we do science and this is especially true for the field of conservation biology. Projects under this research area investigate issues such as the diverse regional ways of practicing primatology, primatologists' view of human-primate conflict, and cultural divergence in environmental decision-making.

Principal Collaborators:
Dale Jamieson, New York University
Paula Pebsworth, University of Texas
Mary Baker, Rhode Island College

Programme Team





Ecological Literacy and Environmental Education

Increasingly, wildlife conservation is becoming dependent on the attitudes of people that live in contact with wildlife species and ecological literacy is an essential component of this. Projects in this area deal with questions such as, does a positive attitude toward the environment promote conservation actions? What is the best way to stimulate ecological awareness in children? Is free choice learning an appropriate tool to develop nature-centric attitudes in humans? Is it possible to successfully incorporate environmental education into biology curricula in schools?

Principal Collaborators:
Anitha Kurup, Education Programme, NIAS
Padma Sarangapani, Tata Institute of Social Sciences

Biogeography, Behaviour and Genetics of Indigenous Fish Species

Despite the long history of research into piscine ecology, we still know very little about the diversity and behavior of

indigenous fish in India. Projects under this theme cover topics such as diversity and behaviour of subterranean fishes, impact of anthropogenic activities on the survival status of indigenous fish, and intraspecific variation in the behavior of the climbing perch.

Principal Collaborators:
Rajeev Raghavan, Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies
Anvar Ali, Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies
MB Rajani, Heritage, Science and Society Programme, NIAS
Siby Philip, Nirmalagiri College

The academic success of the Programme can be measured both in terms of its extensive research output (over 200 publications and reports), as well as the research grants that faculty members have received for their work. Another measure of the academic output of the Programme is its success in terms of teaching and student guideship. Since the inception of the Programme, a total of seven doctoral students, guided and co-guided by its faculty, have graduated under the aegis of Manipal University and the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research. These graduates have gone on to obtain prestigious postdoctoral and faculty positions in the country and abroad, and have won accolades

in their chosen careers. Moreover, a total of 28 Master's degree students from other institutions have also conducted their dissertational research under the guidance of the Programme faculty. Apart from doctoral and Master's students, many research associates and research interns have also worked under the Programme.

Programme Members, including Students

Anindya Sinha, Professor
Sindhu Radhakrishna, Professor
VV Binoy, Assistant Professor
Samira Agnihotri, Postdoctoral Associate
Nishant M Srinivasaiah, Doctoral Student
Shaurabh Anand, Doctoral Student
Sreedhar Vijayakrishnan, Doctoral Student
Uddalak Tathagato Bindhani, Doctoral Student
Debanjan Mitra, NIAS-Exeter University Split-Site Doctoral Student



Research Programme Updates

from Narendar Pani

RBI Programme on Interdisciplinary Approaches to Economic Issues

The aim of the RBI programme is to tap multiple disciplines to enrich our understanding of what are normally seen as economic concerns. As a part of the programme, we embarked on a new project in the domain of Financial Inclusion with a specific focus on rural Karnataka. This project has been fully supported by Vijaya Bank with a budget of Rs.62 lakhs.

Although the positive impact of financial inclusion at the client and household levels – particularly in terms of reducing risks, smoothening consumption, lowering transactions costs and mitigating economic inequalities, has been well understood, the focus of most policy efforts has been primarily on the supply side. While these measures guarantee ‘access’ to financial services their usage by the target population remains questionable. Quite notably, the informal financial sector has remained resilient such that even with the provision of formal sector alternatives, there is a strong preference for the informal sector among the rural and the

urban poor. The project aims to delve into the demand side of financial inclusion and in particular address the issues of this duality and the persistence of informal finance in particular.

As a part the RBI programme, a half-day workshop was organized on September 7, 2016 to address the relevant issues pertaining to financial inclusion. The workshop which was well attended by the participants from the academia, banking sector and industry, covered specific issues related to the supply and demand sides of financial inclusion.

The RBI programme also organized a public lecture by Prof Amit Bhaduri (Emeritus Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi) on July 4, 2016, that was titled ‘Truths and Untruths about the Indian Economy in the Global Financial Setting’. In his lecture, Prof Bhaduri reviewed the challenge of jobless growth in India and how it has resulted in the creating of “two Indias within the same country”.

NIAS-UNDP Policy Research Initiative on Inequality and Human Development

The NIAS-UNDP Policy research initiative on Inequality and Human Development involves understanding the process of transformation of Indian economy from an agrarian one to a non-agrarian one and the costs and consequences of this transition in the form of farmers’ suicides.

The results from study on farmers’ suicides have been published as **NIAS working paper** titled ‘**Inequality and farmers’ suicides in India**’. The study has made an attempt to provide an understanding of relative vulnerabilities of different groups to suicide, the regional dimension of the problem, and the possibility of economic inequality being a contributing factor to this phenomenon. This study is based on secondary data analysis on suicides provided by National

Crime Record Bureau and population data from Census of India for the period 1995 to 2014. It has been found that farmers are not the most vulnerable group to commit suicides in the twenty year period. For the nation as a whole, housewives have a higher suicide rate than farmers. Thus any meaningful policy to address farmers’ suicides must take into account the regional variation in the phenomenon. There is a pattern to this variation which has been captured by the five-fold classification of the states according to the rates as chronic, very acute, acute, prone and less prone. Rural poverty and rural inequality are both observed to be contributing to farmer suicides but rural inequality seems to have a more significant impact when compared to rural poverty.

A major issue that emerges in the process of transformation of an agrarian economy to a non-agrarian one is that of availability of employment opportunities and availability of skillsets required for each of these sectors. In order to provide a locational dimension for setting up skill development centres district level, estimates of nature of the demand for skills in the rural economy over the period 2001 to 2011 have been generated. As part of on-going work, estimates of the extent and location of the demand for skills within agriculture, the extent and location of the demand for non-farm skills in the rural economy, and finally the estimates of the extent and location of the demand for skills from those moving out of the rural economy have been prepared.

As part of NIAS-UNDP Policy Research Initiative on Inequality and Human Development, public lecture by Dr Sudhakar Varanasi was organised on August 9, 2016. The lecture was titled "**Working with head and heart aligned: The story of the emergency services project 108 in India**" and talked about Emergency response services which were started in 2005 in Andhra Pradesh with modern systems and technology to reach even the remotest villages. This free service has scaled up remarkably and is now available in more than 20 states and reaches about 800 million people in India and has saved more than a million lives in the past one decade.

Recent Publications

Baldev Raj, "Directed and Systematic Approaches Towards Sustainability in the Twenty-first Century", *The Mind of an Engineer*, Purnendu Ghosh & Baldev Raj (ed.), Springer Singapore, 2016

S Settar and Gururaja Karajagi, "Shikshana Shilpa: Shikshanavannu Kuritha Lekhana Samputa", *Parama Pujya Jagadguru Dr. Sri Shivarathri Rajendra Mahaswamiji's Birth Centenary Special* (2016)

J Nampoothiri, RS Harini, SK Nayak, Baldev Raj, and KR Ravi, "Post in-situ reaction ultrasonic treatment for generation of Al₄.4 Cu/TiB₂ nanocomposite: A route to enhance the strength of metal matrix nanocomposites", *Journal of Alloys and Compounds* 683, 370-378, 2016

PA Manojkumar, VA Chirayath, AK Balamurugan, Nanda Gopala Krishna, S Ilango, M Kamruddin, G Amarendra, AK Tyagi and Baldev Raj, "Shallow nitrogen ion implantation: Evolution of chemical state and defect structure in titanium", *Nuclear Instruments and Methods in Physics Research Section B: Beam Interactions with Materials and Atoms*, Vol. 383, Pages 6-13, 2016

Yuichiro Nagai, Mukund Rao, Shiroyama Hideaki, KR Sridhara Murthi and Uchitomi Motoko, "Specifics of Space Cooperation Potential Between Japan and India" (IAC-16-E3.1.9) In: *67th International Astronautical Congress (IAC)*, 26-30 September 2016, Guadalajara, Mexico.

Mukund Rao, KR Sridhara Murthi and Baldev Raj, "Future Indian Space-Perspectives of Game Changers", (IAC-16-E3.3.12), *67th International Astronautical Congress (IAC)*, Guadalajara, Mexico (2016)

Baldev Raj, T S Gopi Rethinaraj, Hippu Salk Kristle Nathan, "Social Demension of Indias Energy Future", *RITES Journal*, January 2016

Asha Kuzhiparambil, "A Secondary Informal Circuit of Globalisation of Production: Home-based Cashew Workers

in Kerala, India", *Global Labour Journal*, Volume 7, Issue 3, p.279-296 (2016)

A Gangopadhyay, A Sampath, B Velury, DP Sen Gupta and Dilip R Ahuja, "Wind and Solar Energy for reducing Electricity Deficits in Karnataka", *Current Science*, Volume 111, Issue 5, p.796-807 (2016)

VV Binoy, Chidambaran G Iyer, Patnaik Lalith Mohan and Baldev Raj, "Science, Technology and Indian Society: An Anthology of Perspectives", *NIAS Report*, Report No. R38-2016, Bangalore (2016)

S Srinivasan, "From Temple to Mantelpiece: Changing Paradigms in the Art and Craft of South Indian Metal Icons", in *Traditional Arts of South Asia: Continuity in Contemporary Practice and Patronage*, C. Branfoot (ed.) Saffron Press, London, 124-148. 2015

TN Srinivasan, "Micro Foundations of Public Policy: Some Thoughts Inspired by Contributions of MN Srinivas", *NIAS Memorial Lecture report*, Number L9, Bangalore (2016)

Amit Gupta, "The US Elections: Trump, Hillary & India," *NIAS Strategic Forecast* No 9, September 2016

D. Suba Chandran, "J&K: Multiple Doors, but Delhi holds the Key," *The Book Review*, Vol XL, No.10, October 2016

"Hampi: Splendors of a World Heritage," *NIAS Report*, October 2016

MB Rajani, "Know about the study of past cultures", *Deccan Herald*, 20 October 2016

Narendar Pani, "Fear and Identity Politics in Urban Spaces", *The Hindu Business Line*, 26 September 2016

Sundar Sarukkai, "When a city dies", *The Hindu*, 21 September 2016

NIAS PhD Programme

Update from Anshuman Behera (Acting Academic Head)



A total of eight students spread across the four Schools joined the NIAS PhD Programme on August 1, 2016. The current batch, thirteenth since the beginning of the doctoral programme, includes Ms Aditi Kathpalia, Ms Ekta Gupta, Ms Kuili Suganya, Ms Vijayashree CS, Mr Uddalak J Bindhani, Mr Subroto Dey, Ms Sherin Jose and Mr Surya Sankar Sen. The Orientation Programme for this batch was held on August 1, 2016 with the Director's welcome address followed by briefings by the Academic Head, Deans of the four Schools, and other faculty members. Each student spoke for about three minutes on aspirations and their expectations from NIAS and how they would contribute to the intellectual life at the Institute.

NIAS faculty members are currently offering a wide range of interdisciplinary courses to the new batch, continuing students, and general public outside of NIAS. Among the courses the Foundation Course is mandatory for all first year PhD students at NIAS. This introduces students to the foundations and central ideas of various traditional academic disciplines and interdisciplinary streams of inquiry. Team-taught by NIAS faculty, the Foundations Course will look at historical and theoretical underpinnings of various traditional academic disciplines, and practical orientations of interdisciplinarity using interdisciplinary fields of inquiry.

Various courses in different disciplines are being offered by NIAS faculty members based on the research interests of the new batch of students. The courses taught in the current semester are: Scientific Theories of Consciousness-I; Mathematical Methods; Practices of Indian Democracy: Deficits, Dreams and Contentious Politics; Monument-

building Traditions in Ancient South India; Cultural Heritage Studies; Psychology of Learning and Personality; Security, Conflict and Strategy: Concepts and Issues; Perspective in Education Research; Conceptual Mathematics; Effective Research Writing; The Agrarian to Non-agrarian Transition in India; Basic Primatology; Cartography for Heritage Study: GIS and Its Antecedents; and Understanding Conflict. These courses began in the first week of August and will end by the first week of December.

Mr S Siddharth, a student from the School of Humanities from the 2015 batch, successfully presented his thesis proposal on the topic "A Study on the Metaphysics of Conscious Experience" at NIAS on August 16, 2016 to the NIAS Faculty and PhD Committee members.

Students from 2014 batch (Ms Krupa Rajangam, Ms Savitha Suresh Babu, Ms Keya Bardalai and Ms Anupama Mahajan) have completed two years and promoted from Junior Research Fellow to Senior Research Fellow.

Ms Nimisha Agarwal, Ms Rashmi M, Dr Shankar R, Ms Sumitra Sunder and Mr Sanket S Kulkarni, students of the 2012 batch presented their final year colloquium on July 18, 2016 at NIAS.

Ms Sanam Roohi, who joined NIAS doctoral programme in 2010 under the Provincial Globalization (WOTRO) programme and works under the supervision of Prof Carol Upadhyya, has completed her thesis writing on the title "Giving Back: Diaspora Philanthropy and the Transnationalisation of Caste in Guntur (India)" and gave final presentation at NIAS on August 29, 2016.

Recent News

NIAS Honorary Distinguished Fellowship for Mr Ratan N Tata

Mr Ratan N Tata was conferred Honorary Distinguished Fellowship of the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru, in recognition of his eminent, exemplary corporate leadership and service to society, on August 24, 2016. In a simple ceremony, marked by informality, at Mr Tata's residence overlooking the sea in south Mumbai, the Director of NIAS, Prof Baldev Raj, handed him scroll in the presence of Mr S Ramadorai, Chairman, NIAS Council of Management.



New Faces...



Dr Sundar Sarukkai joined NIAS as Professor on August 29, 2016.



Dr R Srikanth joined NIAS as Professor under the Energy and Environment Research Programme in the School of Natural Sciences and Engineering on August 22, 2016.



Dr Leya Mathew joined NIAS as Post Doctoral Associate under the Education Programme in the School of Social Sciences on August 8, 2016.



Dr Dilip R Ahuja, Professor and Head, Energy and Environment Research Programme retired on September 14, 2016.

During his tenure at NIAS he contributed significantly both to the Programme and the Institute.

He was the Dean, School of Social Sciences from 2004 to 2007; and Secretary, NIAS Council of Management and NIAS Society from 2005 to 2007. He coordinated

26th and 27th NIAS Course for Senior Executives in 2011 and 2012. Among the reports he has drafted are: NIAS Perspective Plan, November 2011; Evolving Visions for NIAS, September 2015; and, Recognizing Some NIAS Accomplishments, November 2015.

A farewell meeting was organised on September 14, 2016 where colleagues took the opportunity to share the experiences and impressions. The faculty recalled that Prof Ahuja was a person of great commitment to the Institute in very many ways, from the early years of the Institute.



Prof R Srikanth has been appointed **Head, Energy and Environment Research Programme** at the Institute with effect from September 15, 2016.

Dr Janaki Balakrishnan has been promoted to the position of **Professor** at the Institute with effect from September 1, 2016.

Meeting

3rd SPLANAP University of Tokyo-
NIAS Joint Regional Space Policy
Roundtable Meeting (August 16, 2016)
Coordinator: Dr Mukund K Rao

Annual Memorial Lecture

Sixteenth MN Srinivas Memorial Lecture

[Birth Centenary Year of Prof MN
Srinivas – 1916-2016]

Prof Sukhadeo Thorat

Chairman, ICSSR, New Delhi

*Why Discrimination Persists Despite
Law? Insights from Theories*

September 20, 2016



Public Programmes

Ambassador PS Raghavan

Former Indian Ambassador to Russia
Book Release *Not War, Not Peace?*

*Motivating Pakistan to Prevent Cross-
Border Terrorism*

Co-authored by George Perkovich and
Toby Dalton

September 28, 2016

(In collaboration with The Takshashila
Institution, Bengaluru)

NIAS Consciousness Studies

Programme - The Evening Philosophy Chat Series

Dr Deepti Navaratna, IGNC-SRC,
Bengaluru, **Dr Naren Rao**, NIMHANS,
Bengaluru and **Prof Sangeetha Menon**,
NIAS, Bengaluru

*Yoga, Music and Mind: Understanding
Health and Cognition*

September 22, 2016

Prof Mark Lindley

Washington DC

Exergy Costs of Mineral Commodities
August 31, 2016

Dr Soumyendu Raha

Department of Computational and Data
Sciences, Indian Institute of Science,
Bengaluru *Constrained Dynamics and Its
Application to Stick-Slip Problems*

Second FIRST (Forum for
Interdisciplinary Research and Studies)
Lecture

August 26, 2016

Prof TN Shorey

Adjunct Professor, NIAS

Fibonacci Sequence and Its Extensions

August 25, 2016

Prof K Krishnan

Head, Department of Archaeology and
Ancient History

Faculty of Arts, The Maharaja Sayajirao
University of Baroda
*Characterization of Archaeological
Ceramics*

August 24, 2016

Dr B Ravi

Adjunct Professor, NIAS and Institute
Chair Professor of Mechanical

Engineering, IIT Bombay

*The Golden Spiral: Connecting Education,
Innovation and Translation*

August 19, 2016

Mr Mohit Virmani

Research Fellow, NIAS

Let Us Measure Consciousness!

August 11, 2016

Prof Srinivasa Rao

Zakir Husain Centre for Educational
Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University,
New Delhi

*Right to Educate or Not to Educate?
Implications of Public School Closures
and Mergers in Post RTE Era*

August 10, 2016

Dr Sudhakar Varanasi

Chief Mentor, IISE/Emergent Institute,
Bengaluru

*Working with Head and Heart
Aligned: The Story of the Emergency
Services Project 108 in India*

August 9, 2016

Mr Tathagata Neogi

PhD Scholar, NIAS-Exeter

Technology, People and Landscape: Pre-Industrial Iron-Smelting in northern Telangana from an Ethnoarchaeological Perspective

August 8, 2016

Dr Andrew M Bauer

Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, Stanford University

The Maski Archaeological Research Project: Land Use, Settlement, and Social Differences in Neolithic through Medieval South India

August 5, 2016

NIAS Wednesday Discussions

Prof S Ranganathan

Honorary Visiting Professor, NIAS

The Steel, the Sword and the Soul: A Materials Guide to the Cultural Heritage of Japan

September 21, 2016

Prof Prem Shankar Goel

Raja Ramanna Chair Visiting Professor, NIAS

Mysteries of Ocean; Spaceman's Perspective

September 7, 2016

Dr Shivali Tukdeo

Assistant Professor, NIAS

Theorising Policy Mobility: Inter-Governmental Organisations (IGOs) and new Policy Regimes in Education

August 31, 2016

Dr Kshitija Joshi

Post-Doctoral Associate, NIAS

Financial Inclusion in India: An Exploration of Supply and Demand Side Issues

August 24, 2016

Prof Bishnu N Mohapatra

Sir Ashutosh Mukherjee Visiting Professor, NIAS

Poet's World and Poet's Knowledge

August 17, 2016

Mr Posina Venkata Rayudu

Research Fellow, NIAS

Truth through Nonviolence

August 10, 2016

Dr N Chandrasekaran

Adjunct Faculty, NIAS

Spatial Distribution of Big Data and Some Applications

August 3, 2016



Prof Carol Upadhy has been awarded a research grant by the Azim Premji Foundation for a three-year project entitled 'World-City Planning in Andhra Pradesh: A New Model for Urbanisation?'. She has been awarded a CEU/HESP Research Excellence Fellowship at the Central European University, Budapest, where she is in residence for the fall term 2016-17. The Fellowship is supported by the Higher Education Support Program of the Open Society Foundations. The title of her project is 'Provincial Capital, Transnational Networks, and Regional Resurgence in the Making of a World City'. Prof Carol Upadhy is a member of the International Steering Committee for the International, Interdisciplinary Conference 'Development in Question', to be held at Cornell University from October 6 to 8, 2016. Prof Upadhy will speak on the final Keynote Panel, 'Beyond Development'.



President's Award for NIAS Doctoral Scholar

Dr Shankar Rajaraman, Doctoral Scholar, Consciousness Studies Programme, has been chosen for the prestigious national award of the annual Maharshi Badrayan Vyas Samman 2016, for Sanskrit language and literature, as announced on August 15, 2016 from the office of the President of India.

The First Meeting of the BRICS Young Scientist Forum at NIAS

The National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), in collaboration with the Department of Science and Technology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India hosted the first meeting of the BRICS Young Scientist Forum in Bengaluru during 25 September – 01 October 2016. (Venue: JRD Tata Auditorium, NIAS). The programme was coordinated by Prof. D Suba Chandran. The Conclave aimed at engaging, connecting and networking bright and talented young scientists in the age group of 22-35 years of age. More than 45 young scientists from the five BRICS countries took part in the Conclave to discuss the three issues: Computational Intelligence, Energy Solutions and Affordable Healthcare. Two reports will be released during the Conclave. The first report titled "BRICS Science and Technology Enterprise Partnership" is prepared by a group of eminent scholars. The second report titled "Hampi: Splendours of a World Heritage Site" projects the historical significance of a heritage site to the Conclave participants.



Birds and Blooms

MB Rajani Presents



The Kadamba has a prominent role in Hindu mythology. Lord Krishna was very partial to this tree – he is often depicted playing with his flute or his friends under its boughs laden with distinctive globular flowers – which gives this tree its lovely alternate name: *Haripriya* (God's favourite). Goddess *Durga* is called *Kadamba Vana Vāsinī* as she is believed to reside in a Kadamb forest. The tree was traditionally planted near lakes and ponds, caressing passers-by with blossoms as soft as blessings. It shares its name with a royal dynasty which ruled parts of present Karnataka between the 4th and 6th centuries.

At NIAS, we are fortunate to have three Kadamba trees enhancing the beauty of our colourful campus. The largest of these specimens stands near the hostel, with a magnificent crown that has attracted praise from several botanists. This leafy umbrella embraces a diminutive set of offices, which are kept naturally air-conditioned for most of the year thanks to the shade provided by the Kaval Maram (Protector Tree).

Botanical name:

Anthocephalus Cadamba

Family: *Rubiaceae*

Origin: South and Southeast Asia

Common name: Bur Flower, Kadamba, Kadamb

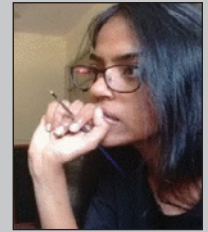
Photo Courtesy: MB Rajani



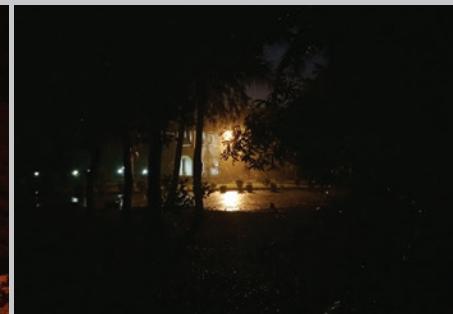
Through The Lens

Ekta Gupta Continues to Capture Nature's Beauties @ NIAS

When it goes, it spreads colours of joy
beautifully, elegantly it bids goodbye
disappears as if it is saying 'its your time
oh tiny stars on earth and sky!
night is yours, day is mine,
I have shone, turn is yours to shine'.
Gradually make their appearance
lighten up the street, cover up the sky,
you overwhelmed me oh glittering night...



Ekta Gupta
Doctoral Scholar, NIAS

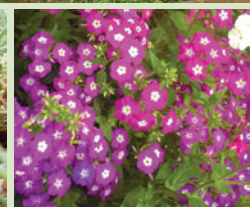
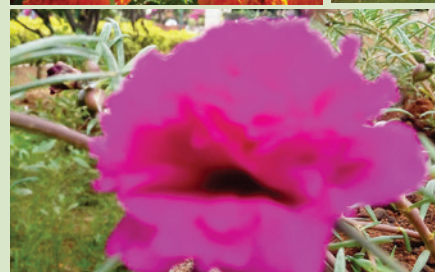


NIAS Gardens Turned Rajesh K into a Habitual Photographer

When people talk about NIAS, they are often reminded of it as a multidisciplinary institute. However when people visit the NIAS campus and take a walk around, they will also realise that NIAS reflects multidisciplinary both through its research activities and through its beautiful gardens. I come from a village which is in the Malnad region of Karnataka, amidst the beautiful creation of nature filled with flora and fauna. Despite being a local inhabitant of this region, the nature did not seem so special to me, as it was for a visitor or tourist. But after I moved to Bengaluru all of a sudden I was placed in the so called "concrete jungle" and gradually this made me realise that witnessing and enjoying nature was a missing part in my life. Later when I joined NIAS, I was able to find the missing piece in my life. I started enjoying and understanding the importance of being part of the Nature. NIAS is surrounded by trees, plants with beautiful flowers and fruits, and observing the flora in the NIAS campus has always had a soothing effect on me. Yes it is a great visual treat, indeed. While it has been a pleasant sight, the nature in and around NIAS has also tapped on the hidden photographer in me. I am grateful to NIAS for making me realise and direct me towards being a budding photographer. As long as I stay here, I will try to capture the beauty of NIAS's nature through my lens.



Rajesh K
Library Assistant, NIAS



About NIAS



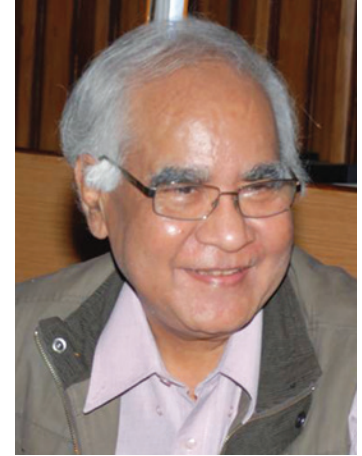
Founder Chairman
JRD TATA

The National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS) was conceived and established by the vision and initiative of the late Mr JRD Tata. Dr Raja Ramanna, as the Founder Director, immensely



Founder Director
RAJA RAMANNA

contributed to the growth and development of the Institute. In subsequent years, Prof Roddam Narasimha, Dr K Kasturirangan and Prof VS Ramamurthy became the Directors of NIAS.



Current Director
BALDEV RAJ

Presently Prof Baldev Raj is the Director.

NIAS celebrates its Foundation Day on June 20.

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