

Summerhill

IAS REVIEW

Vol. 1, No. 1, February 1995

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EDITORIAL

A new venture is always launched with an unavoidable degree of anxiety and uncertainty as to its future. So it was but natural that when we put out the inaugural number of this journal we were both hopeful and anxious, sitting with our fingers crossed, as it were. It is a matter of gratification that the efforts made by our team to produce this as a journal attractive both in content and form seem to have paid off. We have received a few letters praising our humble effort, and some distinguished scholars have personally told the editor how much they appreciate the new venture. Some of them, for instance Professor Daya Krishna, gave us positive encouragement, backing it up with very creative suggestions. So we have reason to look up. And, of course, success breeds responsibility, not only to sustain whatever has been achieved but to strive to go ahead, to look ahead. In this issue we have made a few innovative departures, not to disrupt its core structure as a journal devoted primarily to reviews of our publications by outside experts and reviews of significant outside publications by our Fellows or Associates, but to give it an extra intellectual flavour by offering space to an interview with a writer-in-residence at the Institute. We have even dared to smuggle in an elegiac poem in memory of the late Professor K.J. Shah, who was associated with the Institute as a Fellow and was a keen well-wisher. We hope to learn as we go along, to digest criticism, and to pick up new ideas.

As the reports on our goings-on will testify, the Institute has been humming with lively intellectual events — seminars, symposia, colloquia, study weeks and special sessions with visiting creative writers. There was some anxiety over the question of preserving the ecological intactness of the environment. Then we had a Review Committee consisting of Professor U.R. Ananthamurthy, Professor M.N. Faruqui and Shri Durgadas Gupta, which was keen to examine the possibility of strengthening the Institute as a premier national centre for excellence in its theoretical, applied and creative contributions. In a lively session with the Fellows and Associates, the committee had the chance to receive a good feedback. Incidentally, we take this opportunity to congratulate Professor Ananthamurthy on his receiving the prestigious Jnanpeeth Award. We should like to felicitate our Director, Professor Mrinal Miri, on his having been chosen as the Chairman of the ICPR. He has completed the first year of his directorship, steering the ship of our state with tact and gentlemanly courtesy. Another notable institutional landmark is the appearance of the first number of the journal *Studies in Humanities and Social Sciences* under the auspices of the Inter-University Centre. All in all, the time between our last appearance and this one has been one of reasonable satisfaction for the Institute and its community. We wish our readers, contributors and well-wishers a happy 1995.

K. Raghavendra Rao