



## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

It has been an eventful ten months, the first year of existence of Indian Institute of Science Education and Research-Thiruvananthapuram (IISER-TVM). Sahadevan and I came from Bangalore to start it all. We quickly gathered like-minded people from different professions who had time to spare as consultants. Everything was new for everybody. The hectic few weeks when empty rooms in our temporary abode in the College of Engineering were converted to lecture rooms, computer centre, library and laboratory, and rented space to guest house and hostels remain in the minds of all of us who worked continuously. We had the help of faculty members who came forward to help in all subjects from friendly institutions. And then came the first batch of students, from ten different states. The first batch in any institution is unique for several reasons. Everything is new. There are no seniors to take advice from and the space is new for all members of the fraternity. Time waited for nobody; classes started. Some of you had to cope with biology after having left it two years ago and others had to get back to maths after a similar gap. Amidst all of this IISER took its first steps. You have managed to do many things beyond academics. Several of you got through KVPY while here. This first issue of IISER Magazine is a place where some of the creative talents have found expression.

The academic programmes have moved on well. Academic visitors have made an impact. The courses have kept a refreshingly informal and yet rigorous character. While we can be proud of what we have achieved in a short time, the task ahead is enormous. Permanent faculty and staff have begun to join. More space is to be made available in the temporary abode. More hostel space is needed. The pace of learning has to increase with each semester. The research component has to increase quickly. Establishment of functional research laboratories has to be accelerated with the PhD students expected to join in the coming semester. Parallely the new campus has to be developed quickly so that IISER could shift to its permanent campus.

Amidst all these we keep the primary aim of IISER, that of nurturing research and teaching in science utmost in our minds. Nothing short of academic excellence is good enough for us. The teachers, staff and students at IISER must make every effort so that this institution is second to none in this endeavour. Together, let us make it happen.

- Prof. E. D. Jemmis