

Summerhill

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EDITORIAL

With this issue we enter the second year of our life. It is gratifying that we have weathered the teething troubles and the identity problems of the first year with apparent success. This issue marks a significant transformation of *Summerhill* from a basically local-specific journal into a more broad-based journal devoted to reviews and comments on the most visible tokens of our intellectual life, books. Now we no longer restrict the books reviewed to those published by the Institute or those that interest our Fellows. The reviewers and the books reviewed have now been opened up. From this issue, we do not offer a list of new arrivals in our library but provide information regarding the contents of current issues of important periodicals available in our library for the benefit of scholars across the country. It is hoped that these moves will make the journal intellectually and culturally more vibrant and relevant, as also more readable for more people. Yet our original institutional moorings remain, and we continue features related to the activities of the Institute — news about the seminars, workshops, study weeks, symposia, special lectures, and the Inter-University Centre.

Since we last appeared the Institute has had to wage a struggle to preserve and protect its ecological resources. And we had to handle those rumours that are floated from time to time about the shifting of the Institute from its present appropriate and magnificent location. Fortunately the rumours have remained rumours, creating momentary ripples on the placid surface of our life. The Institute marches on as a premier national centre for generating creative scholarship and thought. It is already busy planning two very important events. There is a massive programme to provide theoretical and critical studies on Gandhiji's ideas and writings and to produce an annotated anthology of Gandhiji's essential writings, to mark the 125th birth anniversary of the Father of the Nation. The Institute is also planning an exciting seminar or a series of seminars on the theme of freedom to celebrate the fiftieth birth anniversary of our secular, democratic republic. This will focus critically on both our achievements and our failures as a nation in the last half century, not merely as an empirical exercise but also as a reflective and theoretical interpretation. Finally, we take this opportunity to bid farewell to Fellows who are leaving us and wish them well, and to welcome new Fellows, wishing them a fruitful tenure at the Institute.

K. Raghavendra Rao