

## Srinivasan Varadarajan



Professor Srinivasan Varadarajan delivering the 14th Convocation Address of the Institute held on April 29, 1980.

Srinivasan Varadarajan was born in Bangalore on 31 March 1928 as a son of Lotika. He completed his B. Sc. (honours) degree from the University of Madras in 1948. Srinivasan did M. Sc. From the Andhra University in 1949 and Ph. D. from Delhi University in 1952 and a second Ph. D. from University of Cambridge. Srinivasan started his academic career as Research Assistant in the Department of Chemistry, Delhi University and worked during 1949-1951. He was selected as Overseas scholar of the Royal Commission for 1851 exhibition during the period of 1953-1956. During the period of 1956-1957, Srinivasan was selected as Beit Memorial Fellow at MIT, USA. During 1958-1959, He worked as Head of the research unit of the U. K. office of Hindustan Lever Limited, Bombay. He then served as the Director and Head of research of the Hindustan Lever Limited, Bombay during 1960-1974. During the period of 1974-1981, Srinivasan was the Chairman and Managing Director of IPCL (Indian Petrochemical Corporation Limited), Baroda. He served twice (1975-1978 and 1981-1982) as Chairman and Managing Director of Engineers India Limited. He also served as Chairman of the Petrofiles Co-Operative Limited, Baroda and Bridge and Roof Company Limited, Calcutta during 1975-1980 and 1981-1983 respectively. Srinivasan then became the secretary of the Department of Science and technology, Govt. of India, New Delhi during 1982-1984. He then served as Director General of CSIR, New Delhi during the period of 1984-1986. Srinivasan worked as Chief consultant to the Planning Commission, Govt. of India, during 1988-1989. He then served as the Chairman of the Indian vaccines Corporation, New Delhi in 1990. Srinivasan was elected Fellow of the Royal Society of the Chemistry and INSA (Indian National Science Academy). Srinivasan was awarded honorary D. Sc. degree from IIT (Madras), Guru Nanak University, Andhra University. He served as presidents of Indian National Academy of Engineers, Nutrition society of India and Oil Technologists Association of India. Srinivasan obtained Om Prakash Bhasin Award, 'Padma Bhusan'

in 1985 for his lifetime contribution in organic chemistry, biological chemistry and chemical technology. Srinivasan worked extensively on chemistry of natural products, particularly flavonoids, rotenoids and benzopyrones of various kinds, structure of ribonucleic acids, on the synthesis of deoxy-nucleosides, biosynthesis of nucleic acids and on the differences in the nucleic acid metabolism in normal and malignant tissues. Srinivasan did extensive research on the biosynthesis of DNA using a bacteriophage system and was concerned with a variety of problems related to chemistry and biological chemistry. His broad research interests include chemistry and toxicology studies on oils and fats, essential oils and perfumes, surface analytical chemistry, biochemistry and industrial microbiology and bacteriology related to foods and enzymes.

Professor Varadarajan visited Indian Statistical Institute to deliver address in 14<sup>th</sup> Convocation held on April 25, 1980.

*Article by: Arunava Goswami, Professor, Agricultural and Ecological Research Unit, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, India.*