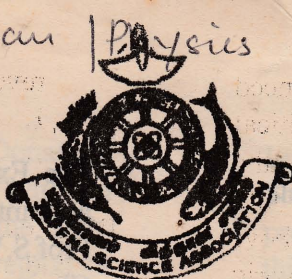


# NEWS LETTER

Jaffna Science Association



## செய்தி இதழ்

யாழ் விஞ்ஞான சங்கம்

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### Message from the President

I wish to extend my warm greetings to all members of the Jaffna Science Association which has just stepped into its fifth year of activities. I like to take this opportunity to thank all the members for giving me this privilege to serve them and also promote the objectives of the Association through its activities.

In the past four years, the Association has been actively promoting the advancement of science education and technology through the various exhibitions held for the benefit of the public and in particular to the advanced level students in science. These have been well received by both students and members of the public alike and indicated the general yearning amongst our people to know more about science and technology. The Association has also held various seminars on themes such as food and food habits, secondary educational curriculum, natural hazards and technology appropriate to our region, with a view of increasing the awareness of our people to these important aspects. The seminar papers have been published and are available to the public at a nominal cost.

One of the main objectives of the Association is the dissemination of scientific findings relevant to the region. Although this has been achieved at the higher level through the papers presented by research workers at the annual sessions, there seems to be a vacuum at the lower level. I am referring to the dearth in the availability of modern scientific knowledge to our students at the secondary and post-secondary levels. Students at these levels are limited to the knowledge presented to them through the prescribed books, namely one science book for each school year from years 6 to 11. The students do not have access to any other science books in Tamil to refer to and hence knowledge is very limited indeed in the various scientific subjects. Even the books provided to them have been written in 1986 and the material presented has not been up-dated for almost

ten years. Knowing that it takes at least ten years for new knowledge to be incorporated in books, it is evident that our students are almost 20 years behind current knowledge in science and technology. The only way to ameliorate the situation is for more of our scientists and science teachers to write books in Tamil for the benefit of our students. Our Association would be willing to cooperate in any project that may be launched to rectify the present situation. Besides increasing the available literature in science and technology in Tamil, our students should be encouraged to learn English so that they may be able to increase their knowledge by reading the numerous books and popular science journals that are available in English. In this respect, the schools have a duty to perform by promoting the availability of such popular journals in their libraries. The schools may be able to enlist the assistance of their old students who are now scattered in various parts of the English speaking world.

Prof. V. Navaratnarajah

### Jaffna Science Association

#### Executive Committee - 1995

President	: Prof. V. Navaratnarajah
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General Secretary	: Prof. K. Chitravadivelu
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Chairman Section B:	Dr. S. Mahesan
Chairman Section C:	Dr. N. Sivarajah
Chairman Section D:	Mr. N. Shanmugalingan



## From The Secretary's Desk

### Abstracts of papers:

The last day for receiving abstracts of papers for 1996 Annual Sessions is 30th October 1995. Copies of the guidelines for the preparation of abstracts could be obtained from the JSA office.

### Arrears:

Members who are in arrears are kindly requested to update their membership. A member will forfeit his membership if he/she is in arrears of more than two years.

### Membership:

Interested persons are invited to join the Association either as Ordinary or Life members and schools as Ordinary or Life Institutional members. Membership is open to students from any University in Sri Lanka who have successfully completed one year of study in the University, leading to a Bachelors Degree in Science or Science related discipline. The Annual subscription of a student member is Rs. 50/=. Application forms and copies of the constitution are available with the General Secretary, Department of Botany, University of Jaffna.

### Change of address:

Members are kindly requested to inform their change of addresses to the General Secretary without delay.

### Donations and Endowments:

Since the inception of the JSA offers have come from two individuals towards this fund of the JSA. Unfortunately the original constitution of JSA did not have any provisions for acceptance of any such donations or endowments. Subsequently an amendment was made to the constitution in 1992 incorporating the following:-

8.3 "Donations and endowments shall be accepted by JSA for its activities on the basis of a scheme drawn for the purpose by the Executive Committee".

The Executive Committee at its 52nd meeting appointed a sub-committee of three with Prof.S.V.Parameswaran, President-Elect as Chairman to draw up a scheme for the acceptance and operation of donations and endowments. The scheme submitted by the sub-committee has been accepted with amendments.

The scheme for Donations and Endowments - J.S.A. is as follows:

1. J.S.A. will accept donations and endowments. The amount for endowments shall not be less than Rs.25,000/= in any one case.
2. The donations and endowments accepted by the J.S.A. will be utilised for the furtherance of the objectives of the Association defined in section 1.2 of the constitution, as follows:
  - (a). Promotion of science and scientific research.
  - (b). Dissemination and application of scientific findings relevant to the region.
  - (c). Advancement of science education and technology
3. The donations and endowments may be used for any of the following purposes, chosen by the donor:
  - (a). Conducting annual sessions of the JSA
  - (b). Meeting cost of JSA publications
  - (c). Conducting research on specific fields / topics
  - (d). Conducting lectures on specific fields / topics
  - (e). Conducting Seminars / Workshops / Exhibitions.
  - (f). Granting Prizes / Awards, Scholarships, Bursaries for the best performance in science or science related discipline in Public / University examinations or Science competitions with a view of encouraging students to further their studies / research.
  - (g). Awarding prizes / awards for outstanding and /or innovative work for the furtherance of science.



4. The conditions of the award of the Donation/ Endowment has to be defined clearly with out any ambiguity and acceptable to the JSA. References to locality or school or region or religion should be avoided.
5. The bursaries could be named after the donor or his/her nominee. However, the prizes or scholarships or awards shall be named after a person who has made recognisable contribution towards furtherance of science.
6. Disbursements of the awards shall be on an annual basis.

**Prof.K.Chithravadivel**  
General Secretary / JSA

### Forthcoming Events for the next three months

#### Section A

##### I Lecture program

1. Dr.S.Srisatkunarajah, Senior Lecturer, Dept. of Mathematics & Statistics, University of Jaffna will deliver a lecture on **"In between Dimensions"** in August 1995.

In this talk the concept of the fractal dimension will be introduced and illustrated.

2. Dr(Mrs).P.Krishnarajah, Dept. of Zoology, University of Jaffna will deliver a lecture on **"Dorsal Bodies on Reproductive system in Molluscs"** in August 1995.

Dorsal Bodies in brain is an endocrine organ that take part in the male and female reproductory system in molluscs. This talk will deliver the rest of the subject.

#### Section B

##### I Poster Competition

It is decided to conduct poster competition among the final year students / Assistance

Lecturers / Demonstrators of the Faculty of Science in order to promote the ability of presenting a research work by posters. In this only the way of presentation will be tested irrespective of the research work. The successful winners could be awarded with cash prizes.

#### II Lecture program

Mrs.M.Jeyanathan, Lecturer, Dept. of Microbiology, University of Jaffna will deliver a lecture on **"Food poisoning and Food Hygiene"** in September 1995.

This talk is aimed to give an idea about the importance of food hygiene, the nature of various damages that may arise, how some of them can be prevented by enforcing food legislation and education.

#### Section C

##### Lecture program

- 1 Dr.C.S.Nachinarkinian, Lecturer, Dept. of Community Medicine, University of Jaffna will give a lecture on **"Ebola Infection"** in August 1995.

Ebola Infection is a "new" virus infection which is communicable. A recent epidemic in Zaire has been detected. This virus kills almost 90% of the infected people. This talk would give aware of the causes and control of such epidemic.

- 2 Dr.R.S.Navar, <sup>Prof</sup> Director, Artificial Insemination Center, Thirunelvely will deliver a lecture on **"Embryo transplant"** in September 1995.

3. Prof.C.Sivagnanasundaram, Dept. of Community Medicine, University of Jaffna will deliver lecture on **"How to give a lecture"** in September 1995.

#### Section D

##### I Lecture program

1. Prof.P.Balasundrampillai, Dean, Faculty of Arts, University of Jaffna will deliver a lecture on **"மக்களின் மின் இலாபம்-ஒரு மதிப்பீடு"** in August 1995.



After 1990, Europe has experienced several changes in Ethnic and Political fields. These changes has affected the domain of our community. This talk could be an evaluation of the above changes in the view of the third world countries.

2. Dr.R.Theivendran, M.O.H, Municipal Council, Jaffna will deliver a lecture on "நவீன வாழ்கை தரும் நோய்களும் குடும்ப நிறுவனத்தில் அவற்றின் தாக்கமும்" in August 1995.

This lecture will reveal the deceases and their damages made to the traditional family structure by the activity changes of modern life style through the study of the domain of our community.

3. Prof.N.Balakrishnan, Head, Dept. of Economics, University of Jaffna, will deliver a lecture on "அபிவிருத்தி - ஒரு மிளிர்ந்தனை" in July 95.

This lecture would be an evaluation of changes faced by the concept- "Development" in the past and an identification of thoughts related to developments prevailing today.

4. Mr.Soosai Ananthan, Lecturer, Dept. of Geography, University of Jaffna will deliver a lecture on "கடல்வளையத் தடைச் சட்டமும் மீனவர் மீதுள்ள அதன் தாக்கமும்" in August 1995.

In the present war situation, Effects on fisherman's life due to barriers on fishing area is magnificent. This talk would be an evaluation of social effects on these community through the experience of the field surveys.

5. Mr.R.Sivachandran, Senior Lecturer, Dept. of Geography, University of Jaffna will deliver a lecture on "இயற்கை வறு வேளாண்மை" in August, 1995.

This talk would be an reevaluation of modernism related to the green

revolution and explanation of Socio-Economic dimension in "Nature Based Agriculture".

III A one day workshop will be conducted on "Urban Poor" with the collaboration of UNICEF-UBST unit for the social workers of this area in August 1995.

### Jaffna Science Association Sectional Committees -1995

<b>Section A</b>	<b>Pure Science</b>
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<b>Secretary:</b>	Dr.M.Skandarajah
<b>Editor:</b>	Mrs.T.Thuraiarajah
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