



**The NCL Journey  
January 1988- November 30, 2010  
Once upon a Time  
for  
The NCL Family**

**Farewell to You, NCL**

*Rama Sivaram  
30<sup>th</sup> November, 2010*

Once upon a Time

Eons and eons ago  
Say sometime in 1974

I Chanced to meet  
A man so neat

Bell-bots and long side burn  
Made my heart and head turn

We met at the hostel gate  
No it was not a date  
Simply, fate

Art s and Sciences are not foes  
They are jut alter egos

$R_a$  and  $S_i$  North and South - poles apart  
Like  $H_2$  and O exothermic reaction did start



Riding his vespa our first transport  
Those days it was the best way to court

When in love its not a bumpy ride  
I held on to my man with great pride

Our blue magic carpet took us everywhere  
In the seventies we got comments and stares



Those were BOR(E)ANE Days



Romance for a girl is a special he and she  
Romance for a scientist is about alchemy

At IPCL the good old days  
Courting was a chemical route, the only way

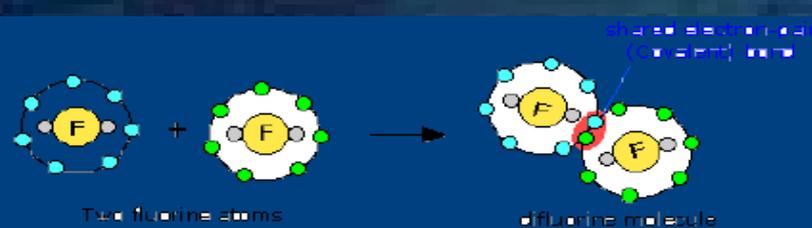
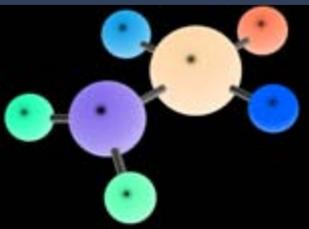
Laws of attraction and Pheromone Chemistry  
The classic inequations - Coffee, tea, or me

Naphtha cracking and polymer chain  
Were the only things in his brain

Courtship rules clashed with Octet Rules  
Both were like stubborn mules

Shared electron-pair bond theory  
Then exciting was not so weary

Hero worship and only stars in my eyes  
He had Cationic and Surfactant dyes





## There were Heroes in his Life

A diligent student a die hard chemist  
But love is blind and couldn't resist

He quoted *Spiritual humanism* at its best  
Is to train the mind and put it to test

*Focus, concentrate, practice ethical purity*  
For your soul to be yours in serene eternity

No girlfriends and no weekend distractions  
Life was only chemical reactions

But Cupids arrow has its own trajectory  
Like the role of a sinful apple in history

He spoke with passion of heroes in his life  
To a love struck girl , later his wife

Spiritual guides , teachers , mentors name them all  
Taught him passion for scholarship- the first call



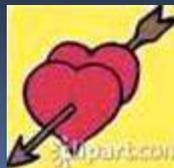
Waxy Einstein



Prof HC Brown and Sarah Brown



Prof. CNR Rao



Joseph Kennedy

And then we played the game of dice ( made of plastics)

To marry or not to marry *That is the question*  
Will R be > than C, or R= C a timeless equation

He added an  $R_a$  in the Periodic Table  
Forgetting element 80 could be unstable

Element  $R_a$  was a challenge he had to take  
Putting rest of the elements at stake

So we married on that fateful June  
And we have seen 440 full moons

No *au, pt* or *ag* from the periodic table to this day  
are but  $C_6$  he'd gently smile and say



No flowers nor wine , just wishing me  
with books on art and philosophy

And so I studied more and more  
Which I had never ever done before



R= Rama  
C= Chemistry



## From two to three



**Just being 2 we both agree  
Is not enough for life's journey**

**The best thing in our life we feel  
Is the birth of our dear son Sushil**

**Anxious moments a struggle for life  
Both for the son and a sinking wife**

**Holding Sushil deep in thought  
While both of us battled and fought**

**Those were days of thunder and heartache  
I wanted to live for both their sake**

**Life won -we are here for good to stay  
Life is for living not throw away**

**We enjoyed watching Sushil grow  
Love and romance was then still aglow**



## Baroda IPCL Days



He went to the lab and plant site  
I went to college everything was right

What I liked best was our car  
Which I drove near and far

What I liked better was the colony rule  
None could break the 5 in a car pool

The reason I think you should know  
Is that S was home at 5 every day in a row

Weekends were good we picnicked a lot  
We had great fun but we also fought

Carefree days and life was fun  
Me and he, father and son

Then came the pied-piper piping a dream  
He said NCL, Poona is crème de la crème

NCL sounded Shangrila on earth  
I prayed it was every bit its worth



## Guru Devo Bhava



Prof. CNR Rao



Prof. MV George



Dr. PG Menon

**Gurus and Visionaries life brought his way  
Have guided his do's and don't to this day**

**Learning he said begins when prejudice ends  
And you take the best both from foes and friends**

**Mentors who came with their unique mind  
Are not something that you easily find**

**Learning is like the eternal river  
A fount in the mind forever and ever**

**Not hard to believe for till this day  
His mentors are still hard at play**

**I learnt slowly – not with a start  
Love for work –till death do them part**



Dr. S Varadarajan



Dr. S Ganguli



Dr. Doraiswamy



Prof. MM Sharma



Dr. RA Mashelkar



## The Journey is more important than the Destination



He and his Chevrolet in another land  
Two in an Austin holding hand



Three in Premier Padmini, the Queen  
Happiness reflecting in her black sheen



The little blue car that we still drive  
Carrying us three in Poona arrive



A new phase had begun 22 years ago  
I saw a new man who was raring' to go

Happy to share S's dream come true  
Just observe the car in blue

We didn't realize we'd have to wait and wait  
For a husband and dad always late

The dents and bumps say it all  
Of agony and ecstasy that would befall

Our story is just half way through  
Guess? will he get me a retirement *i20-new*



## A New Life Begins

**NCL, Polymer Chemistry and CII/2  
Some things old and some things new**

**New dream and an unstoppable drive  
New friends for me to survive!**

**RA'M and S'AM built and followed their mind  
of building an institution one of its kind**

**Lucky to have leaders and mentors of yore  
Trained to move forward much much more**

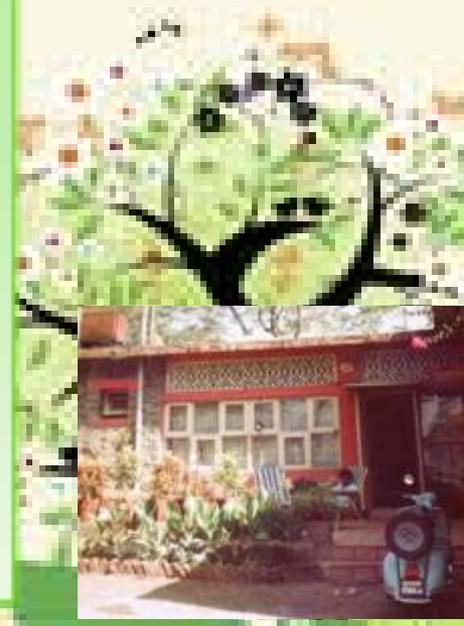
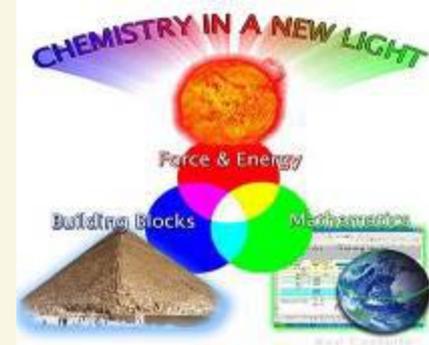
**Lucky to have scientist colleagues big and small  
Admin and Support staff they needed them all**

**The distance from home to work place  
Was covered in minutes with his pace**

**The distance between NCL gate to CII/2  
Is measured in light years let me tell you**

**The inertia to get back home for a while  
Was governed by students and every unread file**

**I would wait like Lady Haversham in hope  
Fed up of chores and watching the soap**



## Polymer Days

We made new friends and family  
We recall yearly picnics , ever so lovely



Blessed with the affection we got  
Simple folk and a decent lot

Neighborhood kids with moms around  
Played and chatted on the grounds.



Research students working late  
Sealed S's nocturnal fate

After six he met them one by one  
While we waited mother and son



42 was late in NCL , he had to strive  
If he had that place to arrive

Thanks to friends Sushil had  
For a kid it isn't too bad

Ginny our pet 's ever wagging tail  
Cheered us up with out fail

Lathika my friend was always there  
Giving her time and a lot of care



Biodegradable polymers



## The Tribe increased



Addicted to work, an unrelenting workaholic  
Mother would say be happy he is not an alcoholic

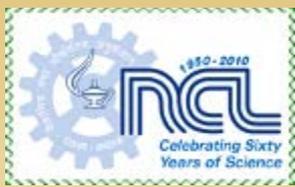
The nice thing about NCL 2 hours after four  
We could walk in freely through the door

Sushil would go for the Aldrich and white board  
I'd browse through literature meticulously stored

We'd walk back together late at night  
6 days of camaraderie and 1 kept to fight

I'd tell him even God rested once a week  
He'd just keep mum and never speak





# To Newer Heights

An eventful 1<sup>st</sup> July 2002, I'd say  
Because S took over as Director that Day

We moved into a lovely home called A1  
Maintaining it was crazy but great fun

I enjoyed every moment there  
But you know it isn't fair

When you are all alone with only the dog  
And have a man who went slog, slog, slog

I spoke of sunrise, sunset, and the blue bell  
He could only think of alternate fuel cell

I said lets review life, renew and renovate  
No way, he had to venture and innovate

If wives have to hear about bagasse and cane  
That's exactly how I look - really insane

To each his own, so I tried not to complain  
But we can't pretend it doesn't hurt or pain

And then the cancer came as big shock  
Making us sit up and take stock

But love is something that bonds us together  
So, its ok when it's a stormy weather

A husband makes a far better friend  
Given the time we have to spend

What we believe is the freedom to be  
Being ourselves by choice and happy





## Doing what he must Do

Adding to infrastructure and building blocks  
Its only to convince and persuade he talks and talks

His passion for Ethics in science and polemics  
Thinking ahead and survival economics

Where would you like to see yourselves 10 years thence  
You 've got to figure out , for the potential is immense

There are no barriers between sciences he firmly states  
Ultimate Truth comes from Knowledge's many gates

Many hearts , heads and hands have been lent  
In all those efforts at NCL he has spent

Willing Colleagues and many a willing friend  
Were always there to hold forte and defend

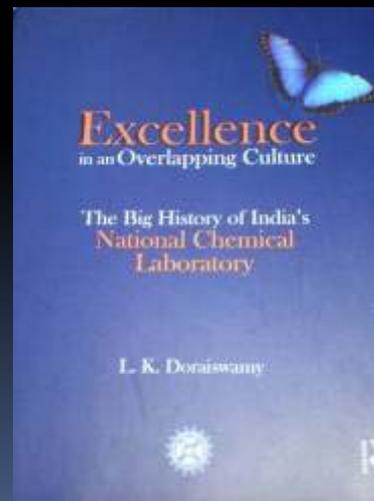
Every milestone in his 8 year term  
Is because of every colleague , our belief is firm



Pic Ajeet Singh

Moments that will always stay  
That time will never take away

His favorite stone he will forever treasure  
Love and commitment one can't measure



## Growing Up B .Sc to D. Sc



Life has been kind he says with humility  
I just work hard and with dignity

Thankful that things have come his way  
Working harder is the only way to repay

The national honor comes to few  
Or a D.Sc from alma mater, Purdue

Honored and humble for such award  
Yet knowing the transience of reward

More abiding is the inner voice  
And about making a choice



A moment to close his eyes and see  
Lessons in humbleness from Prof. Negishi

Our host in Purdue during our stay  
Was driving us around every day

Prof. Brown then was not one for a date  
S went punting with the Nobel Laureate



# A little about Dr. S



Goli soda his favorite drink  
Sheera and bajji as boy scout I think



Filter coffee is the ambrosia of life  
Forget everything even his wife



Knighthood for tasting Bordeaux wine  
From God's own vineyard so Divine



First prize for boy scout for rava he cooked  
Till this day is his favorite food

The only time he bought me a dress  
with a watch Dr. RAM just to impress



The only time he took a few weeks off at a go  
Was when he broke his cute little toe



To kill him you need no nuclear weapon  
only salt and garlic in the cooking pan



## His Strength and Weakness

Sushil is his strength and happiness  
Diya our new daughter his weakness

She is the girl child we never had  
This is Sushil's precious gift to dad

Chip of the old block is the son  
Both adamant and stubborn



Diya



Father and son when kids



## The Bosses at Home



The only bosses in his life  
Obviously is not his wife

Ginny, Leo and Kat were the boss  
His big position and all went for a toss

A dog's life is a big paradox  
Look at that black little fox



Kat pretends to read a book  
Lies on the couch with a melting look

She cuddles upon daddy's lap  
To take a little cosy nap

Ginny was a darling boss  
Leo is noisy and sometimes cross

They love to play and wag their tail  
But master prefers to tell them a tale



## Always There



Best friend Medal

**I cannot forget my friends so dear  
Who were always around and very near**

**In good times and bad we did and do share  
Laying our hearts open and bare**

**Lathika and M my very dear friend  
Truly , am lucky you both are godsend**

**Ravi my friend from NCL and Rotary  
With whom I am shamelessly free**

**Atul whose enthusiasm and youth  
Makes me feel young , that is the truth**

**Total friendship, warmth and care  
Thank you for always being there**



## Pulse of Director's Office



Dear Mr. Sheikh, efficient, strict and calm  
He is what Lakshman is to Ram

Ms Khare competent and her sweet piety  
Kept tabs of meetings and minutes, , big duty

Gracy graceful as her name suggests  
Complied with mails and travel requests

Not to forget Mr. Mohite , who drove the car  
For whom time and distances were near and far

Mr. Shinde and Kulkarni supplied the tea  
So sweet that I always thought it was coffee

They are extended family who are there  
Who we'll always love and care

They made life easy each day of the year  
Dr. S trusted them and had nothing to fear

Always ready to in our moments of distress  
Thank you all and God Bless



## Life Support- by wireless

How can I forget Mr. KD always there in my crisis  
I'd be dead without his life saving devices

Server problems , network failure , and all the rest  
Put my patience routinely to test.

Javed, Avinash, Mithilesh and all  
Sorry for being at my beck and call

But there is something nice I really must add  
I met such nice guys , because the computer was bad

I hope we stay connected through the wireless still  
When I shift to an apartment in Aundh from NCL

For keeping me, my computer and the net alive  
You are like cardiologists and you will thrive





**The Journey and passage has been long  
A child has grown into a man so strong**

**Trying to relax as time draws close  
To step down and make place for those**

**Who'll carry the torch to greater height  
Lead with vision and a far sight**

**Rules and caution an aspirant must know  
There will be banana peels everywhere you go**

**Leadership is a requisite for a chair  
It is within and not out there**

**No easy chair to test your ability  
Its about composure and responsibility**

**We thank the chair for all it taught  
Respect, responsibility and what not**





**Portals opened by a mighty man  
Forget the dream? One never can**

**So, its time to bid farewell goodbyes  
With choking voice and tears in our eyes**

**If you look deep into his heart  
NCL is in every part**

**When you eat and breathe NCL  
It is going to be there in every cell**



**Adieu dear friends there is still time to dream**

**I still have a dream**

**There will be a day  
When all my troubles will fly away**

**Sun bathe sipping my cup of tea  
And have Sivaram massaging me**



**As we step in the new twilight of our life  
The new Boss will be the wife.**

**So, Every story has a happy ending**

